

CONSENT CALENDAR

October 26, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin

Subject: Budget Referral: Sidewalk Repair on Arterial Streets

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council refers to the FY2023 budget process an allocation of \$600,000 from the General Fund for the purpose of funding sidewalk repairs on major West and South Berkeley arterial streets including Sacramento Street, Alcatraz Avenue, and Dwight Avenue.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

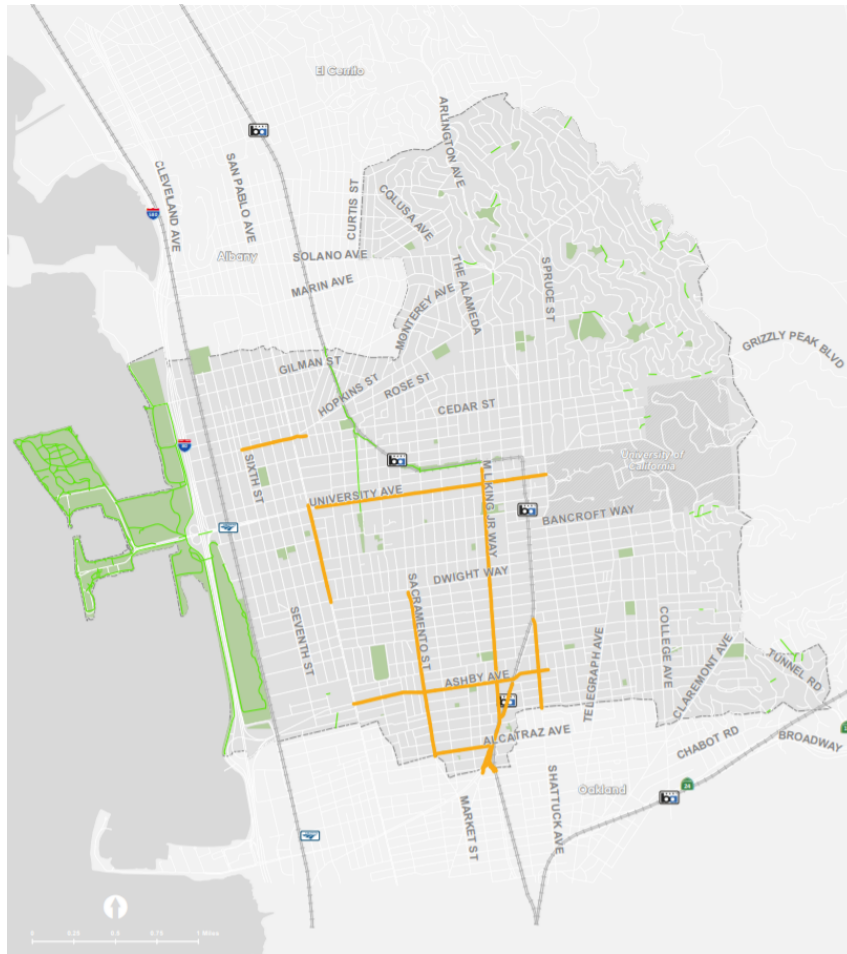
Berkeley's streets, from road pavement to sidewalks, are in chronic disrepair. According to Berkeley's 2018-2019 Capital Improvement Plan, an estimated 20-25 miles of the City's sidewalks need to be replaced, at a total cost of \$7 million.¹ Meanwhile, Berkeley's street pavement had a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) rating of 59 out of 100 in 2018 and will require an estimated \$27.3 million annual investment if the City wants to raise its PCI score in the coming years.² While recent Capital Improvement Plans and City audits have demonstrated the widespread degradation of the streets and sidewalks in Berkeley, the deterioration is not felt equally across the entire city.

Following decades of disinvestment and inattention from City officials, the neighborhoods of West and South Berkeley are the home to more eroded streets and sidewalks than the more historically white and affluent areas of Berkeley. With this in mind, Berkeley's Pedestrian Plan identified much of West and South Berkeley as "Historically Underserved Areas" in need of outsized future investment by the City.³ Furthermore, West and South Berkeley are home to an outsized number of "Prioritized High Injury Streets", where traffic injuries have been highly concentrated and require prioritized infrastructural interventions:

¹ <https://www.berkeleyside.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/FY-2018-2019-Adopted-CIP-Budget-Book.pdf>

² <https://www.berkeleyside.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Berkeley-Streets-Audit-Nov.-2020.pdf>

³ https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/2020%20Pedestrian%20Plan%20FULL%20adopted.pdf



Map of Prioritized High Injury Streets from the Berkeley Pedestrian Plan.⁴

Through its 5-Year Paving Plan, the Pedestrian Plan, and Vision Zero Action Plan, the City has acknowledged and taken steps to rectify the historical disinvestment and notable street and sidewalk deterioration in West Berkeley by considering “equity” in its improvement plans. Despite these efforts, however, the state of West Berkeley’s streets and the regular stream of traffic injuries that occur in West Berkeley require escalated prioritization.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Staff time and an estimated \$600,000 from the General Fund for repairs.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

No environmental sustainability impact.

CONTACT

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⁴https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/2020%20Pedestrian%20Plan%20FULL%20adopted.pdf