



## URGENT ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL

**THIS ITEM IS NOT YET AGENDIZED AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR THE AGENDA AS A LATE ITEM, SUBJECT TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S DISCRETION ACCORDING TO BROWN ACT RULES**

**Meeting Date:**        **October 10, 2023**

**Item Description:**   **Opening the Dwight Triangle**

This item is submitted pursuant to the provision checked below:

**Emergency Situation (54954.2(b)(1) - majority vote required)**  
*Determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.*

**Immediate Action Required (54954.2(b)(2) - two-thirds vote required)**  
*There is a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted.*

Once the item is added to the agenda (Consent or Action) it must be passed by the standard required vote threshold (majority, two-thirds, or 7/9).

### **Facts supporting the addition of the item to the agenda under Section 54954.2(b) and Chapter III.C.5 of the Rules of Procedure:**

The need for action came to the attention of the Council subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted. There is a shortage of public space available for recreation in the Telegraph Avenue commercial district, and significant interest in the expansion of public spaces for recreation was communicated by the public at the immediately preceding city council meeting. There is a need to take immediate action, so that the improvements described in this proposal can be considered in the imminent AAO #1 budget process.



CONSENT CALENDAR  
October 10, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Rigel Robinson (Author), Councilmember Mark Humbert (Co-sponsor)  
Subject: Opening the Dwight Triangle

RECOMMENDATION

- Refer to the City Manager to open the fence-enclosed space in the Dwight Triangle, at the intersection of Telegraph Avenue and Dwight Way, for public use and recreation. Additionally, refer to the City Manager to install permanent chess tables and benches and to consider any landscaping improvements deemed necessary by staff.
- Refer \$25,000 to the November AAO #1 budget process for improvements to the Dwight Triangle, including but not limited to permanent chess tables, benches, landscaping improvements, traffic calming, and signage associated with opening the Dwight Triangle for public use and recreation. City staff should consider if existing funds are able to be utilized to allow the space to be improved sooner.

BACKGROUND

The Telegraph Public Realm Plan, adopted May 2016, identifies the Dwight Triangle as a high-priority location to activate a vibrant public space.<sup>1</sup> In 2019, Councilmember Robinson introduced an item referring to the city manager to implement the street improvements enshrined in the Telegraph Public Realm Plan.<sup>2</sup> In the November 2020 AAO, the City allocated \$100,000 to begin rehabilitating the Triangle and implementing the vision of the Telegraph Public Realm Plan. In 2021, the city council approved and budgeted a subsequent budget referral "for placemaking improvements in the Telegraph District... and the closure of the right-turn slip lane at the Dwight Triangle to create a public plaza."<sup>3</sup>

There has been an ongoing effort from grassroots student organizations and the District 7 council office to eventually close the slip lane at the Dwight Triangle and turn the

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<sup>1</sup> [Telegraph Public Realm Plan, May 2016](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Referral: Telegraph Shared Streets, October 29, 2019](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Budget Referral: Durant Parklet and Telegraph Plaza Improvements, October 26, 2021](#)

space into a public plaza. Evaluating the feasibility of this slip lane closure is planned to be included in the scope of the Telegraph Multimodal Corridor Project study that staff plan to resume in 2024.

In the meantime, the space that currently serves as a closed median could be made available for individuals and groups to peacefully congregate and participate in recreation, such as chess.

Staff should consider what landscaping needs the Dwight Triangle would benefit from. For example, the Triangle may prove an appropriate location for a new pollinator garden.

Staff should consider providing outreach to neighboring residents and merchants to collect input on the best uses and future of the Dwight Triangle as the city plans to open the space. This input may be useful in planning for the near-term opening of the Triangle as well as the longer-term hardscape improvements and plaza contemplated for the intersection. Additionally, staff should assess signage needs for the newly opened Dwight Triangle, and ought to establish open hours for the space that align with the needs of regular users, such as from 6:00 AM to 12:00 AM.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This item refers an allocation of \$25,000 to the November AAO #1 budget process. Staff should consider if existing funds are available to fund these improvements, presumably from either Public Works or Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Opening the existing Dwight Triangle will provide new open space in a transit-rich and pedestrian-friendly area, fostering a more walkable and sustainable environment for community activities.

#### CONTACT PERSON

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