



Office of the City Manager

December 8, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *Dee* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Re: Southside Complete Streets Project

Construction is expected to begin on Monday, December 11, 2023 for the Southside Complete Streets project, a transformative effort to increase safety for all modes of travel, improve transit reliability, and support economic vitality on the southside of campus.

Project Description

Construction will focus on three primary corridors: Bancroft Way, Fulton Street and Dana Street. These improvements will include pedestrian, bicycle, and transit improvements; roadway repaving; traffic signal modifications; and additional safety, accessibility, and green infrastructure components.

Once completed, the three project corridors will be configured as follows:

Bancroft Way (Piedmont Avenue to Milvia Street):

- A concrete curb-protected two-way cycle track on the south side of Bancroft.
- One westbound lane from Piedmont to Shattuck will be general purpose, allowing for use by cars, bikes or other modes all types of vehicles
- Two general purpose lanes (one westbound and one eastbound) from Shattuck to Milvia.
- A dedicated transit lane will extend from College Avenue to Shattuck Avenue.

On-street parking and loading zones vary from block to block and will generally consist of curbside parking on the north side of the street and/or “floating” parking spaces on the south side of the street, between the cycle track and the general-purpose lane.

The current cycletrack only extends from Dana to Fulton and is separated from the vehicle lanes via on-street parking spaces. This project will create a cycletrack from

Piedmont to Milvia (including the Dana to Fulton portion) that is protected by a combination of concrete curbs and off-street parking spaces.

Fulton Street (Bancroft Way to Dwight Way):

- A concrete curb-protected two-way cycle track for bicyclists on the east side of Fulton.
- Two general purpose lanes (one southbound and one northbound) from Bancroft to Durant
- One general purpose lane in the southbound direction from Durant to Dwight
- On-street parking on the west side where feasible.

The existing one-way cycle track on the west side of Fulton St. from Bancroft Way to Channing Way will be removed. Previously removed or relocated curbside parking and loading will be restored in this area. On-street parking and loading zones on the east side of the street will be converted into the new two-way cycle track. Work will preserve and improve access in and out of the gas station at the southeast corner of Durant Avenue and Fulton Street.

Dana Street (Bancroft Way to Dwight Way):

- A concrete curb-protected two-way cycle track for bicyclists on the west side of Dana
- one general purpose southbound lane from Bancroft to Dwight will maintain a bus boarding island and associated bus-only zone on Dana at Haste that AC Transit will install as part of its Dana Complete Street Pilot Project.
- From Bancroft to Dwight, on-street parking and loading areas will be moved from the west side of the street to the east side of the street, with the exception of Haste to Dwight, where the AC Transit bus boarding island requires removal of all on-street parking and loading on the northern half of the block.

The Council-approved concepts and final design documents were developed based on input from a robust stakeholder engagement process and operational factors regarding safety, parking and commercial loading, transit and traffic operations, accessibility, emergency and solid waste/recycling vehicle access, and maintenance.

While Telegraph Avenue was initially part of the Project scope, the street was removed prior to final design and construction after community input suggested further study of a curbsless street and operating restrictions on private automobiles from Channing Way to Bancroft Way. Council subsequently affirmed this proposed future study, which is not compatible with the Project's grant funding amount or deadlines, and would need to be pursued as a separate project.

Construction schedule and impacts will be regularly updated on the City of Berkeley's [Southside Complete Streets Project web page](#).

Background

Between 2013 and 2023, the City Council acted on numerous occasions to study and implement transportation improvements in the Southside neighborhood. Most recently on June 27, 2023, City Council approved the plans and specifications for the Southside Complete Streets Project, and awarded the construction contract in the amount of \$12,973,925 to Bay Cities Paving & Grading, Inc. A complete summary of the Council actions that have culminated in this project can be found in Consent Calendar Item 34 on the June 27, 2023 Berkeley City Council Report.

Department of Public Works staff has worked closely with other City departments, community members, transit agencies, businesses, UC Berkeley, and other stakeholders throughout the conceptual and detailed engineering design processes (see Attachment 2: Southside Complete Streets Stakeholder Engagement Summary). Public Works staff will continue to communicate with stakeholders during construction, mainly via updates posted to the project website. Residences and businesses located directly on the project corridors within the work zone of an upcoming phase will receive notifications via postcards, flyers, and “door hangers.”

Construction will occur on Bancroft Way between Milvia Street and Piedmont Avenue, Dana Street between Dwight Way and Bancroft Way, and Fulton Street between Dwight Way and Bancroft Way (see Attachment 1: Southside Complete Streets Project Area Map).

Construction will occur in phases in an effort to minimize effects on students, businesses, emergency services, solid waste/recycling operations, transit, events and large gatherings, and other ongoing City and UC Berkeley operations. Construction is anticipated to have a duration of approximately one year; however, if inclement weather impacts critical construction work, the overall duration would increase.

Southside Complete Streets Project was developed in response to continuing commercial and residential growth in the Southside. The goal is to address the impacts of increases in walking, biking, transit use, ride-hailing, and freight and small package delivery on safety, maintenance, transit system reliability, user comfort, and neighborhood business operations. This project also addresses street segments in the project area with low Pavement Condition Index in need of repaving identified by the City of Berkeley Five-Year Street Repair Plan.

Southside Complete Streets Project is one of Public Works Department’s Top Projects for FY 2023. This project is also a City of Berkeley Strategic Plan priority project and supports the Plan’s goals of being a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, protecting the environment, and creating a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared City.

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Funding for this approximately \$16.5 million project comes from an \$8.3 million Federal-aid grant award from Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Other project funding sources include University of California Settlement Fund, Alameda County Measure BB Local Streets & Roads, City of Berkeley General Fund, and City of Berkeley Capital Improvements Fund.

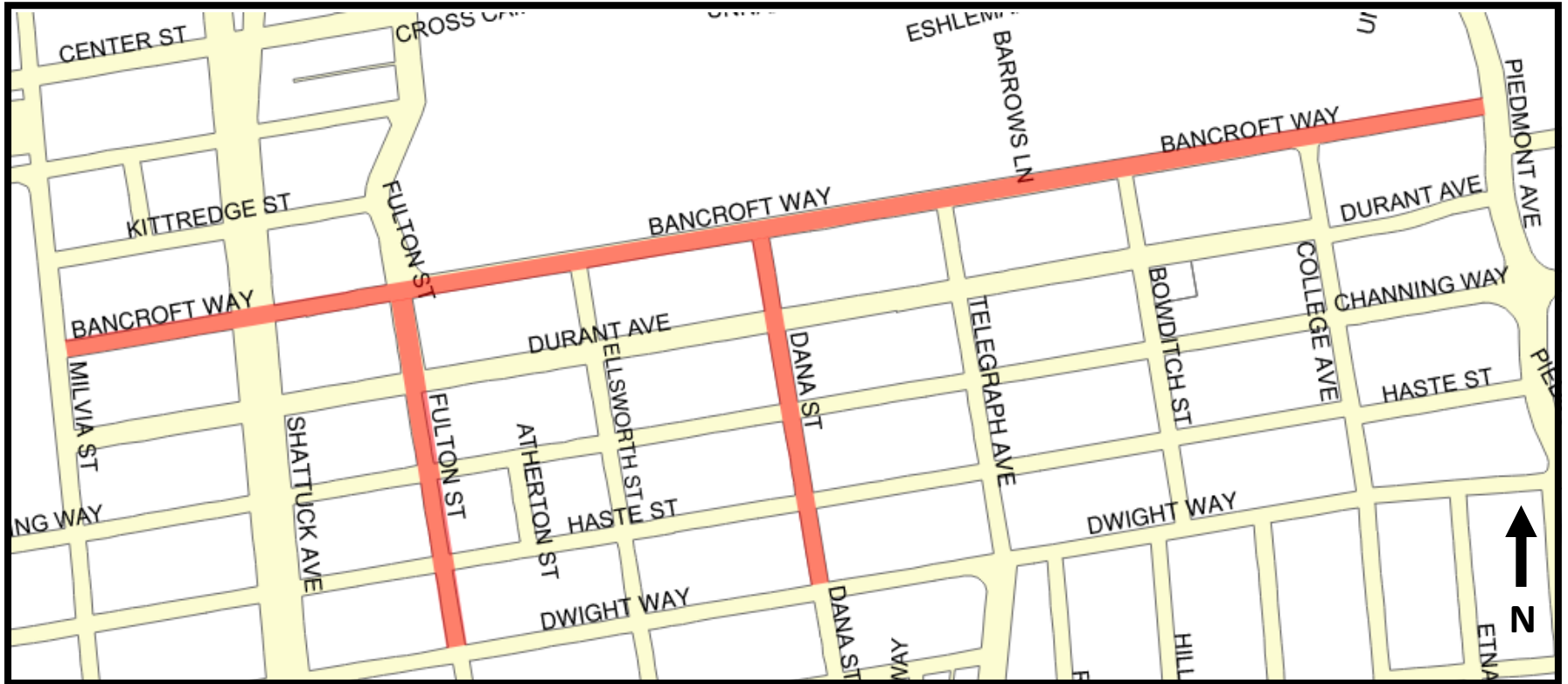
Attachments:

1. Southside Complete Streets Project Area Map
2. Berkeley Southside Complete Streets Stakeholder Engagement Summary

cc:

LaTanya Bellow, Deputy City Manager
Anne Cardwell, Deputy City Manager
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Farimah Brown, City Attorney

Attachment 1: Southside Complete Streets Project Area Map



KEY

 Project Area

ATTACHMENT 2:

BERKELEY SOUTHSIDE COMPLETE STREETS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Overview

Community engagement for this project was conducted by the City in order to meet the following goals:

- Inform Berkeley residents and stakeholders about the project, planning and design processes, and opportunities to get involved;
- Set context for the project by describing the planning and design history in the project area, including the City Council-approved Southside Area Plan, Bicycle Plan, Pedestrian Plan, and Vision Zero Action Plan; the Telegraph Public Realm Plan, AC Transit's Major Corridors planning, and other relevant plans and policies;
- Create opportunities for interested community members to participate in a meaningful way;
- Identify community needs and priorities in support of complete streets within the project area and solicit input on current issues, opportunities, and barriers to walking, biking, taking transit, and accessing and supporting local businesses within the project area;
- Communicate clearly and transparently with the public about trade-offs and potential impacts to traffic delay and parking availability that might result from the proposed transportation improvements; and
- Solicit input on proposed design options to refine the designs and ultimately identify a recommended conceptual design for each project corridor; and,
- Demonstrate the City's commitment to Vision Zero and the City's traffic safety initiatives through project advancement in the Southside area.

Community engagement activities conducted between October 2021 and February 2022 are listed in **Table 6-1**. Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor's Office, in order to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, all public outreach activities were held virtually. However, these activities were promoted and augmented both digitally and through the distribution of printed materials.

Please note that at the time of the public outreach activities described throughout this section, improvements to Telegraph Avenue were proposed but have since been removed from the project.

Table 6-1. Community Engagement Activities

Community Engagement Activity	Date
Berkeley Transportation Commission Meeting	October 21, 2021
Online Survey	Open from October 27, 2021 to November 28, 2021
Institutional Stakeholder Group Meeting #1 (a group including transit operators, UC Berkeley, police, fire, and other City departments)	October 29, 2021
Associated Students of the University of California Meeting	November 1, 2021
Berkeley Commission on Disability Meeting	November 3, 2021
Online Open House #1	November 10, 2021
Berkeley Transportation Commission Meeting	November 18, 2021
East Bay Transit Riders Union Meeting	December 5, 2021
Berkeley Commission on Disability Meeting	December 8, 2021
Telegraph Business Improvement District Merchant Community Meeting	December 14, 2021
Telegraph Business Improvement District Meeting	December 14, 2021
Institutional Stakeholder Group Meeting #2	January 7, 2022
Public Works Commission Meeting	January 13, 2022
Berkeley Transportation Commission Meeting	January 20, 2022
Online Open House #2	January 27, 2022
City Council 4x6 Committee Meeting (City-UC Berkeley relations)	January 28, 2022
Downtown Business Association Meeting	February 3, 2022
Berkeley City Council Meeting	February 22, 2022

Public Meetings

Online Open House #1

Online Open House #1 was held on November 10, 2021 from 6pm-8pm via Zoom. A total of 80 community members attended. Representatives from the City and the City’s consultants (project team) presented information to the public during the meeting, as well as in a PowerPoint presentation. Specific members of the project team included Eric Anderson (City Project Manager), Ken Jung (City Project Manager), and Cindy Zerger (Toole Design Group).

A PowerPoint presentation was displayed to attendees which included an overview of the project and presented existing conditions and draft design options for Bancroft Way, Dana Street, Fulton Street, and

Telegraph Avenue. For each draft design option, potential traffic and parking impacts were discussed in relation to locations where traffic and parking lanes were proposed to be removed. The improvements proposed on Telegraph Avenue have since been eliminated from the project. Attendees were then polled on their interest in each design option and split into breakout rooms for a small group discussion with other attendees. Feedback from the group discussions were captured using virtual post-it notes in Miro, a virtual whiteboard space. Those attending the meeting were invited to submit written comments and ask the project team for additional clarification.

Key feedback received from the community during Online Open House #1 included the following:

- Support for new and/or improved dedicated space in the public right of way for walking, biking, and riding transit.
- New corridor designs should connect to larger citywide bike and transit networks.
- Accommodate merchant access and pick-up and drop-off for deliveries and/or rideshare and prioritize pedestrian space throughout the project area, especially on Telegraph Avenue and portions of Bancroft Avenue.

Online Open House #2

Online Open House #2 was held on January 27, 2022 from 6pm-8pm via Zoom. The same project team from Online Open House #1 was present at Online Open House #2. A total of 56 community members attended. This meeting had the same format and project team attendees as Online Open House #1. The purpose of this meeting was to communicate the conceptual design option for each corridor which City staff had selected for recommendation for approval by the Berkeley City Council.

Key feedback received from the community during Online Open House #2 included the following:

- Support for the Southside Complete Streets Project.
- Support for the proposed bicycle and pedestrian improvements along all corridors, with suggestions on how to improve certain intersections and locations.
- Support for a car-free Telegraph Avenue.
- Concerns for merchant access and loading impacts.

Project Website

A comprehensive project website was maintained throughout the project. This website was updated continuously with meeting notifications, meeting presentations, and project deliverables, including conceptual design documents and analysis reports. The website served as a detailed online record of the project progress, including the public and conceptual design process.

Online Survey

An online survey was available to all Berkeley residents from October 27, 2021 through November 28, 2021, and received 1,358 responses (719 completed and 640 partially completed). Respondents were presented with the draft design options for each corridor and asked to respond to how much they agree with the statement “I like Option X” for each design option. The most popular design options were Option 1 and 2 for Bancroft Way, Option 1 for Fulton Street, and Option 1 and 4 for Telegraph Avenue.

Public Noticing

All public noticing materials were developed in alignment with a style guide developed by the project team that included a wordmark, fonts, and consistent color palette in order to create a recognizable look and feel that the community could associate with the project.

Printed Notifications

Flyers and posters were distributed on October 20, 2021 and January 9, 2022 at residences and in businesses throughout the project area to promote Online Open House #1, the online survey, and Online Open House #2. Postcard notices for Online Open House #2 were mailed on January 10, 2022 to over 3,000 residents within the project area. Sidewalk decals promoting Online Open House #1, the online survey, and Online Open House #2 were also installed at key locations, such as near AC Transit bus stops, on October 27, 2021 and January 17, 2022.

Additional Digital Notifications

Email blasts were sent to public and institutional stakeholder lists. The City posted multiple times on social media about public engagement activities. In addition to the City’s project web page, AC Transit and UC Berkeley also promoted community engagement efforts on their respective social media accounts and websites.
