



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 19, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Submitted by: Jennifer A. Louis, Chief of Police  
Subject: Revenue Grant: California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for the 2024  
"Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Chief of Police to accept the "Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)" grant and enter into the resultant grant agreement and any amendments, with the California Office of Traffic Safety. This OTS grant is for \$269,000 for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, which is Federal Fiscal Year 2024.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The total of this project will not exceed \$269,000. Grant revenues will be deposited into budget code 309-71-703-812-0000-000-000-431-110 to offset expenditures. Appropriation of the expenditures is being included in the First Amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance. This grant will fund overtime, benefits, equipment, training costs, and reduce additional General Fund expenditures.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Securing OTS grant funding is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.

Currently the Traffic Bureau at the Berkeley Police Department is staffed by one Motor Officer, one Traffic Data Analyst, a Provisional Sergeant, and a Provisional Lieutenant. Motor officers' responsibilities include injury-collision investigations and traffic enforcement; however, resources often deplete rapidly due to ancillary duties and personnel shortages in the operations/patrol division. OTS funding builds upon our current traffic safety efforts by allowing patrol and motor officers opportunities to address traffic safety issues-most significantly pedestrian and bicycle safety, distracted and impaired driving- in addition to and outside of their regularly scheduled duties. Additionally, the funds provide opportunities for leadership development and learning in traffic safety and DUI/impaired driving enforcement, and enhance the department's overall mission of public safety. This grant year's funding also provides for the replacement of the department's 2004 DUI Checkpoint Trailer.

## BACKGROUND

Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) rankings place the City of Berkeley number one for the past seven years in pedestrian and bicycle related injury collisions when compared to fifty-nine other cities with comparable populations. Each year hundreds of people are injured in traffic collisions that occur in the City of Berkeley. Berkeley maintains a high ranking in total fatal and injury collisions, hit and run injury collisions, speed related collisions, nighttime collisions, and motorcycle involved collisions. With assistance from the 2024 Office of Traffic Safety Grant, the department will continue our efforts to reduce the number of community members injured in collisions whether they choose to walk, drive, bike or ride a motorcycle in our city.

In 2020, the City of Berkeley was number three (3/61) for injury collisions involving pedestrians; number two (2/61) for collisions involving bicyclists; number four (4/61) for collisions involving pedestrians 65+, and twelfth (12/61) for collisions involving motorcyclists. Based on these statistics and OTS rankings, the City of Berkeley is one of the most dangerous cities in the State of California to be a pedestrian or bicyclist.

Between 2012-2022, there have been thirty-three fatal auto collisions in the City of Berkeley. Sixteen of those involved pedestrians, and four of those sixteen were pedestrians 65+. Five fatal collisions involved a bicyclist, three involved DUI, and two involved a motorcycle.

The OTS Grant and the City Council's Vision Zero Program have shared ideologies. BPD's participation directly supports two of three of Vision Zero's tenets. BPD's efforts directly support Public Awareness Education and Traffic Enforcement. Public Awareness through our social media, departmental messaging, and direct contact with the public (in the field and at community meetings) and data-driven enforcement of primary collision factor offenses in areas where they have the highest probability of occurring.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The City of Berkeley continues to have one of the highest bicycle and pedestrian usage rates in the County of Alameda and, as a result, there are a large number of bicyclists and pedestrians sharing the roadway with motorists. This grant will support the City of Berkeley's efforts to promote more sustainable forms of transportation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions-with the goal of reducing traffic injuries and fatalities related to all modes of transportation.

## RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Police Department requests this funding be approved to enhance our current mission of providing a safer environment for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and motorists on all City of Berkeley roadways and highways.

Revenue Grant: California Office of Traffic Safety Grant  
for the 2024 STEP Grant

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ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The California Office of Traffic Safety currently provides the only known grant funding specific to traffic enforcement and related education. Not accepting this OTS grant would require additional overtime expenditures from General Fund resources or could result in a decrease in the overall safety of the citizens of Berkeley.

CONTACT PERSON

Provisional Lieutenant Andrew Frankel, Police Traffic Bureau, (510) 981-5982

Attachment:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

REVENUE GRANT: SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP)  
GRANT FROM THE OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY TO FUND STRATEGIES TO  
REDUCE THE NUMBER OF INJURIES AND DEATHS RELATED TO TRAFFIC  
COLLISIONS IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

WHEREAS, the Police Department is committed to providing a safe and secure environment through law enforcement within the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has made grant funding available to the Police Department to assist them in their mission of increasing traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, this grant will provide funding to support efforts to reduce injury and fatal collisions involving pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and motorists on all City of Berkeley roadways and highways; and

WHEREAS, grant revenues will be deposited into budget code 309-71-703-812-0000-000-000-431110, in the DUI Enforcement Education Program Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Chief of Police is authorized to accept the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant and enter into the resultant grant agreement and any amendments, with the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to fund increased levels of impaired or distracted driving enforcement, nighttime seatbelt enforcement, motorcycle safety enforcement, and educational programs regarding bicycle and pedestrian collisions in the amount of \$269,000 for the period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024.