



LINDA MAIO
Councilmember
District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 11, 2007

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmembers Linda Maio and Darryl Moore

SUBJECT: Santa Rosa Lights, Priority Intersections, University Avenue

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer to staff the identification of priority intersections on University Avenue for the installation of Santa Rosa Lights and the retiming and synchronization of the traffic lights, these would be folded into the traffic-calming program, brought before the Transportation Commission, and referred to the mid-year budget cycle for Council consideration.

BACKGROUND:

There is a great deal of concern on the part of residents and businesses about the difficulty in crossing University Avenue as a pedestrian on those sections of the Avenue that have no traffic controls for a number of blocks. Cars see a straight shot and pick up speed. Both speed and volume probably present the most hazardous street in Berkeley to a pedestrian, especially given the width of University. Ashby would be a close second. The only possible approach to calming this situation, that is remotely affordable and still maintaining a reasonable traffic flow, would be the installation of Santa Rosa lights. The cost has been represented at being \$25,000 on average, per intersection/location, final cost depending on the width of the road. Streetlights, by comparison, cost about \$125,000 to \$175,000.

An additional low-cost mitigation for pedestrian safety concerns that should be explored is the retiming of traffic lights along University Avenue. Synchronizing the traffic lights will pose a minimal cost, strictly the staff time to retime the lights, and will significantly reduce congestion and help to reduce pedestrian safety concerns by making vehicle traffic more predictable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None at this time save staff time.

CONTACT PERSONS:

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