

Kriss Worthington

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ACTION CALENDAR
May 30, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington [and Councilmember Kate Harrison](#)

Subject: [Expedite the ~~planning application process and forward commit funding for Bridge/Berkeley Food and Housing Project to seek to meet Cap and Trade deadlines, permit process for the Berkeley Way development, and make it a top priority for the City of Berkeley Planning Department and a time sensitive referral to Housing Advisory Commission~~](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That the City [expedite the planning approval and permitting process for the Berkeley Way project, and make it a top priority for the City of Berkeley Planning Department this year; Send a time sensitive referral to the Housing Advisory Commission to make a recommendation on pre-development funding before the City Council goes on Summer Recess, and make a recommendation by September 8 to forward commit City funding to make this project eligible for Cap and Trade and other regional, state, and federal funding streams](#)~~forward commit its share of funding and expedite the planning application process, to make this project eligible for cap and trade and other regional, state and federal funding streams.~~

BACKGROUND

[Bridge/Berkeley Food and Housing Project](#)~~The Berkeley Way development is one project that could be shovel ready rapidly, and likely qualifies for cap and trade funding, if the city takes prompt action. a tremendous opportunity to address Berkeley's growing homeless problem and appears eligible for California's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, known as "Cap and Trade." But this state funding can only happen if the city takes prompt action to help project applicants submit it by deadline this Fall.~~

~~This is a unique opportunity to address the growing homelessness crisis. If the~~[Any delay on the part of the City of Berkeley delays taking action, project will likely result in applicants will likely have to having to wait another year, meaning that competition from other projects will likely reduce chances of available money before they can compete for Cap and Trade again and additional projects in other jurisdictions are likely to emerge and reduce chances of money coming to Berkeley.](#)

The Berkeley Way ~~Project development,~~ will address the need for housing for the homeless and extremely low income. ~~The development will include through 6032 shelter beds, 12 transitional beds for veterans, 30 units in permanent supportive housing~~[53 units of permanent supportive housing for households earning less than 30% of the Area Median Income, and 89 units of affordable housing for households earning 50% to 60% of the Area Median Income](#)~~94 new studios, one and two-bedroom apartments. The project also includes 24 hour support services staffing, medical and behavioral health care services, mental health support groups, life skills training and support, meals service, and connection to income through employment or mainstream benefits. This project will provide a total of 143 units of much-needed permanent affordable housing and creates a centralized homeless services center to address the short-term and long-term needs of this population. The project will also have an underground parking lot, replacing an existing above-ground lot, with specific spaces allocated for car shares, along with secure~~

[bike storage to encourage residents of the units and the surrounding area to use alternative modes of transportation.](#)

The project was created by BRIDGE and the Berkeley Food and Housing Project, two established and well-respected community partners who have years of experience working with the homeless population. Berkeley has never seen a project like this before -- not just in terms of scale, but also the comprehensive facility -- putting both permanent and temporary affordable housing, as well as transitional 6-month affordable housing, all together in one complex. Taken together, the comprehensive BRIDGE and the Berkeley Food and Housing Project will create the single largest combination of number of beds and units of affordable housing.

The project has already identified potential funding sources at the federal, state, private, and local levels, and will achieve a LEED Gold or equivalent sustainable building rate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

[Potential f](#)Forward commitment of millions of dollars from incoming HTF, [A1](#) and U1

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Consistent with Berkeley's environmental sustainability goals

CONTACT PERSON

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