



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
JULY 24, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Andrew R. Greenwood, Chief of Police

Subject: Revenue Grant: California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for the 2019
"Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)" Grant

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager 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 (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. The approved OTS grant is for \$250,000 for the period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019 which is Federal Fiscal Year 2019.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Total cost of the program will not exceed \$250,000. Grant revenues will be deposited into budget code 017-7302-331-1067. Appropriation of the expenditures is being included in the First Amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance. The grant will fund overtime, benefits and travel.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Police Department has managed numerous grants over the past five years, including several OTS traffic safety grants.

Currently, our Traffic Bureau is not staffed to the levels seen in previous years. It is our intention that some of the traffic enforcement goals outlined herein will be accomplished, in part, with overtime funds provided by the OTS grant. Further, with more officers trained and/or certified in Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and as Drug Recognition Experts (DRE), there will be more personnel on patrol who actively engage in and seek out assignments in both our driving under the influence (DUI) detection and apprehension efforts during the course of their current work assignments.

BACKGROUND

Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) rankings place the City of Berkeley number one for the past five years in pedestrian and bicycle related injury collisions when compared to fifty-seven other cities with comparable populations. Each year hundreds of people are injured in traffic collisions that occur in the City of Berkeley. In 2017, there were six-hundred and seventy-five (675) people injured in vehicle collisions. Of those injured, one hundred and eighteen (118) were pedestrians, and one hundred and thirty-seven (137) were bicyclists. Berkeley maintains a high ranking in total fatal and injury collisions, alcohol related collisions, speed related collisions, and motorcycle involved collisions. With assistance from the 2019 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 2015, the City of Berkeley was number one (1/57) for injury collisions involving pedestrians; number one (1/57) for collisions involving bicyclists; and number two (2/57) for collisions involving pedestrians sixty-five years of age and older. 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—particularly for the sixty-five and over age group which is a growing demographic in the City of Berkeley.

In 2017, forty-four percent of all injury collisions occurring in the City of Berkeley involved either a pedestrian or a bicyclist. In collisions involving a bicyclist, the bicyclist was found at fault approximately fifty percent of the time. In pedestrian related collisions, the pedestrian was found at fault approximately sixteen percent of the time.

Over the past three years, one hundred-ten (110) injuries occurred in collisions where alcohol was a factor. In 2017 there was a thirty-five percent increase in alcohol related injury collisions from 2016. Continued, proactive enforcement through DUI Saturation patrols and DUI Checkpoints funded through the OTS grant assist our efforts for taking dangerously impaired drivers off the road and also serve to educate the community as to the dangers of drug and alcohol impaired driving.

Unsafe speed (22350 VC) was the most prevalent primary collision factor in 2017. One hundred and seventy-six (176) people were injured as a result of unsafe speed. Drivers travelling in the City of Berkeley at unsafe speeds continue to be an enforcement priority for the Berkeley Police Department. OTS funds will greatly assist the department and allow us to expand our enforcement efforts.

Funds from and resources provided by the 2019 Office of Traffic Safety grant will serve the entire diverse Berkeley community and assist members of the Berkeley Police Department in its mission to reduce the overall number of injury collisions, bicycle and pedestrian related collisions, alcohol related collisions, speed related collisions, motorcycle related collisions, and collisions involving distracted driving.

Currently the Traffic Bureau at the Berkeley Police Department is staffed by four motor officers, one traffic data analyst, one sergeant, and one 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—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.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Berkeley continually strives to promote more sustainable forms of transportation—with the goal of reducing traffic and parking demands, transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and single occupancy vehicle trips. As such, citizens, visitors, and students in the City of Berkeley rely heavily on mobility modes such as mass transit, cycling, and walking. 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.

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.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No other alternatives have been considered.

CONTACT PERSON

Sergeant Emily Murphy, S28, Traffic Bureau Sergeant, 981-5982

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

REVENUE GRANT: "SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP)" GRANT FROM OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY (OTS) 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 vigorous 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 providing a safer environment for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and motorists on all City of Berkeley roadways and highways; and

WHEREAS, grant revenues will be deposited into budget code 017-7302-331-1067, in the DUI Enforcement Education Program Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager 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 \$250,000 for the period of October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.