



Councilmember Ben Bartlett

City of Berkeley, District
 2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor
 Berkeley, CA 94704
 PHONE: 510-981-7130
 EMAIL: bbartlett@cityofberkeley.info

CONSENT CALENDAR

May 28th, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett
 Subject: Budget Referral: Funding Stop Signs on Carleton Street and Fulton Street

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council refers to the budget process of funding a 4-way stop at the intersection of Carleton and Fulton Street in order to address inadequate traffic control and stopping, and reduce traffic accidents.

CURRENT SITUATION

The intersection at Carleton Street and Fulton Street only has two stop signs that cover Carleton while Fulton allows for the free flow of traffic. However, many drivers and pedestrians assume there are stop signs at all ends of the intersection of Carleton and Fulton, leading to many accidents and close-calls. Also, there are no funds available to construct stop signs in these neighborhoods. In order to cultivate a culture of traffic and pedestrian safety, the Council should refer to the budget process to fund a 4-way stop sign at Carleton and Fulton.

BACKGROUND

In this district, especially within streets that do not have a stop sign, cars tend to drive past the speed limit. This not only affects the safety of drivers, but children as well. Many elementary school students have to cross the intersection in order walk home from the elementary school bus stop on the corner. However, there are no crosswalks. In addition, the traffic from both ends of the intersection are nonstop as a result of the lack of stop signs. This leads to public safety issues, especially since many children are not completely aware of their surroundings and do not know when it is okay to cross.

Neighbors also constantly hear the screeching of brakes at the intersection of Carleton and Fulton where pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles cross. The traffic increases significantly during peak commute hours of the day as well. Because of the absence of a 4-way stop sign, this residential neighborhood, which is composed of families with young children and seniors, find themselves avoiding the unsafe intersection when possible. It is absolutely crucial to take the necessary steps in improving pedestrian safety and traffic conditions at this dangerous intersection by constructing and implementing a 4-way stop sign.

REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS, PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND LAWS

The Council adopted a Complete Streets Policy in 2013, which intends to create and sustain street designs and repairs. This policy is determined to create “comprehensive, integrated

transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows safe and convenient travel”¹ for all users. This includes pedestrians, persons with disabilities, motorists, bicyclists, users and operators of public transportation, seniors, children, youth, and families. This Complete Streets Policy, resolves to “provide safe, comfortable, and convenient travel along and across streets.”² If the City is dedicated to creating a community of traffic safety that protects all pedestrians from auto-related accidents, the Council should fund the installation of a 4-way stop sign at the intersection of Carleton and Fulton.

ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives include installing a yield sign to let oncoming traffic know that the cross street does not have a stop sign. However, this will still require additional funding.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

If the Council is truly dedicated to ensuring safety in the neighborhoods for all people, they should refer to the budget process to fund the necessary 4-way stop sign at the intersection of Carleton and Fulton. There have been many auto-related accidents or close-calls throughout the City of Berkeley, especially at the relevant intersection. The Council must keep their commitment to ensuring the safety of our drivers and pedestrians by preventing future accidents from occurring through the implementation of street signs.

IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The Council should refer to the Department of Public Works Transportation Division to create a plan for the installation of a stop sign.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time and cost associated with the stop sign installation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No adverse effects to the environment. Slower traffic and safer street crossings.

OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION

It is expected that the City of Berkeley will recognize the importance of funding a 4-way stop sign for the residents and children who live among these areas.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Ben Bartlett
Sarah Cziska
Katie Ly
James Chang

510-981-7130
510-981-7131
kly@cityofberkeley.info
jchang@cityofberkeley.info

¹ <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/completestreetspolicy/>

² https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/Berkeley%20Complete%20Street%20Resolution%202012%2011%2012.pdf