



Councilmember Ben Bartlett

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CONSENT CALENDAR
May 28th, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett, Mayor Jesse Arreguin, and Councilmembers Kate Harrison and Susan Wengraf

Subject: Budget Referral: Funding for Street Lights Development at Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Stuart Street

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council refers to the budget process to fund traffic lights on Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Stuart Street in order to prevent auto-related accidents and traffic deaths and injuries.

CURRENT SITUATION

There are currently no traffic lights at the intersection of MLK and Stuart. In addition, there are no funds allocated for improving street lighting and signs on the streets in our neighborhoods. Without street lights and visible walkways, auto-related accidents are more likely to occur throughout the City of Berkeley.

BACKGROUND

In February 2019, the District 3 Office released a street lights survey, which sought feedback from community members in the neighborhood on how to improve and where to install street lights and signs. We specifically asked survey respondents to list specific names of the cross streets that needed improvement and/or development. Out of all survey responses, the intersection at MLK and Stuart were repeated the most because of its severe lack of lighting which makes it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians at night.

REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS, PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND LAWS

On December 11, 2013, the Council adopted a Complete Streets Policy, which aims to create and sustain "comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all

users.”¹ These users include pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, seniors, youth, families, and more.

In the resolution of the policy, it states that “the City of Berkeley expresses its commitment to creating and maintaining Complete Streets that provide safe, comfortable, and convenient travel along and across streets.”² If the City is committed to cultivating a culture of traffic safety that protects pedestrians from auto-related accidents, the Council should fund the installation of street lights at the intersection of MLK and Stuart.

ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Other alternatives include the installation of different types of street lights and signs. Instead of a generic traffic light, we can install hawk beacons or blinking pedestrian lights which will alert motorists. However, these other alternative street lights will still require a budget referral and the funding required may vary.

OUTREACH OVERVIEW AND RESULTS

Councilmember Bartlett has reached out to District 3 constituents in efforts to figure out where to install and improve street lights and signs through a community survey.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Since December 11, 2012, the Council has committed to ensuring safe and convenient travel throughout the streets for all users. However, there have been many auto-related accidents within the City of Berkeley, especially intersections, like MLK and Stuart, that lack the necessary lighting and signs needed to create safer streets for pedestrians and drivers. The Council must uphold its commitment of cultivating a culture of traffic and pedestrian safety by referring to the budget process to fund the construction and implementation of street lights at the intersection of MLK and Stuart in order to prevent auto-related accidents from further occurring. By funding and constructing these lights (Same sentence as earlier)

IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The Council should refer to the Transportation Division to create a plan for the enforcement and implementation of traffic lights.

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

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

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time and costs associated with the traffic lights and its association. Estimate ____.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No environmental sustainability impact. Slower traffic.

OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION

It is expected that the Council will stay committed to cultivating a culture of traffic and pedestrian safety by reducing traffic deaths and injuries through the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of MLK and Stuart.

CONTACT PERSON

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City Council Complete Streets Policy Resolution

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3 -
_Transportation/Berkeley%20Complete%20Street%20Resolution%2012%2011%2012.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/Berkeley%20Complete%20Street%20Resolution%2012%2011%2012.pdf)

Berkeley Complete Streets Policy Website

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

