



Councilmember Ben Bartlett

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CONSENT CALENDAR

September 10, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett
 Subject: Funding for Pedestrian Crossing Signal at the intersection of Shattuck and Prince

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council refers to the November Budget Annual Appropriations Ordinance to fund pedestrian crossing signals on all directions of the Shattuck Avenue and Prince Street intersection in order to address inadequate traffic control and ensure the safety of travelers along these streets.

CURRENT SITUATION

The intersection currently has only an unlit crosswalk in all directions, making crossing during darker hours of the day dangerous for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. This danger can be ameliorated through the installation of pedestrian crossing signals. These signals, consisting of bright flashing lights, will be activated by a button pressed by the pedestrian. This will ensure that the risk of pedestrian-involved accidents will be decreased, but will also enable traffic to flow smoothly when no pedestrians are in the vicinity.

BACKGROUND

This intersection has experienced a number of accidents involving pedestrians and motorists alike in the past, with the latest occurring on June 3, 2019, at 9:20 PM. In this incident, a 75-year-old man was crossing Shattuck Avenue when he was struck by a Toyota Highlander. Despite suffering serious injuries, the man survived the accident. Unfortunately, not all pedestrians survive these preventable collisions and thus, it is the responsibility of the City of Berkeley to mitigate the dangers of simply crossing the street at night by installing pedestrian crossing signals.

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 a “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.

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

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.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time and cost associated with the installation of pedestrian crossing signals.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This high-traffic intersection is frequently by used by motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians alike, and thus is at a relatively higher risk of collisions between these groups. Due to a lack of any form of signage or traffic controls, this risk is even higher. Installation of a pedestrian crossing signal will lower this risk.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No adverse effects to the environment.

OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION

It is expected that the City of Berkeley will recognize the importance of installing a pedestrian crossing signal at the intersection of Shattuck and Prince in order to ensure the safety of its citizens.

CONTACT PERSON

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