



Office of the City Manager

**RECESS ITEM**  
**CONSENT CALENDAR**  
September 15, 2020

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 Grants: California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for the 2021  
“Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)” and “Traffic Records  
Improvement Project (TRIP) Grants

**RECOMMENDATION**

Ratify the action taken by the City Manager, or designee, during recess to accept both the “Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)” and “Traffic Records Improvement Project (TRIP) grants and enter into the resultant grant agreements 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 safety along with traffic records improvement through automated collection and submission of collision data to the California Highway Patrol, Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) database. These tentative OTS grants are for \$205,000 and \$40,000 respectively for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 which is Federal Fiscal Year 2021.

**NEGATIVE EFFECT IF ACTION IS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER COUNCIL RECESS**

The OTS requires “Governing Body Approval” which in this case, is City Council Approval to award grants each year. The grants agreement dates correspond with the Federal Fiscal Year which starts October 1 of each calendar year. To ensure the grant agreements are able to be fully executed and commence on October 1, the OTS has requested the grant agreements be reviewed, processed, signed, and returned to them no later than September 16, 2020, to allow them time to process the numerous grant agreements throughout the state. In order for staff to meet the OTS timelines, ensure on-time processing of the grant agreements, and secure the earliest project initiation timelines, the City Manager’s recess approval was necessary. Furthermore, the OTS requirements stipulate that funding is not available to be spent and projects are not allowed to commence unless the grant agreements are fully executed.

### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Total cost of these two projects will not exceed \$245,000. Grant revenues will be deposited into budget code 017-7302-331-1067 to offset expenditures. Appropriation of the expenditures is being included in the First Amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance. These grants will fund overtime, benefits, equipment, training costs, and software and reduce additional General Fund expenditures.

### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Securing OTS grant funding is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.

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

### BACKGROUND

Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) rankings place the City of Berkeley number one for the past six years in pedestrian and bicycle related injury collisions when compared to fifty-eight other cities with comparable populations. Each year hundreds of people are injured in traffic collisions that occur in the City of Berkeley. Berkeley maintains a high ranking in total fatal and injury collisions, hit and run injury collisions, speed related collisions, nighttime collisions, and motorcycle involved collisions. With assistance from the 2021 Office of Traffic Safety Grants, 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 2017, the City of Berkeley was number one (1/58) for injury collisions involving pedestrians; number one (1/58) for collisions involving bicyclists; number three (3/58) for injury collisions involving bicyclists under 15 years of age; and number four (4/58) 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. The fault for the bicycle injury collisions rested equally between the bicyclist and the motor vehicle operator.

Between February 2009 and December 2019, there have been twenty-eight fatal auto collisions in the City of Berkeley. Fifteen of those resulted in a pedestrian being killed,

and five resulted in a bicyclist being killed. In 2019 alone, Berkeley Police investigated four fatal collisions.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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. This grant will support the City of Berkeley's efforts to promote more sustainable forms of transportation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions—with the goal of reducing traffic injuries and fatalities related to all modes of transportation.

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 would result in preserving the shrinking General Fund resources while increasing the safety of the citizens of Berkeley.

CONTACT PERSON

Lieutenant Randy Files, Police, Traffic Bureau Lieutenant, (510) 981-5983

Attachments:  
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

REVENUE GRANTS: CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY (OTS) FOR THE 2021 "SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP)" AND "TRAFFIC RECORDS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (TRIP) GRANTS

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, to offset both grants project expenditures.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council ratifies the action taken by the City Manager, or designee, to accept both the "Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)" and "Traffic Records Improvement Project (TRIP) grants and enter into the resultant grant agreements 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 safety along with traffic records improvement through automated collection and submission of collision data to the California Highway Patrol, Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) database. These OTS grants are for \$205,000 and \$40,000 respectively for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.