



Sophie Hahn
Councilmember
District 5

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 16, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Sophie Hahn (Author) and Councilmember Harrison (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Prioritizing Berkeley Unified School District Public Works Service Requests

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager to:

1. Work with the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) to create a system to better document, communicate, and prioritize Public Works service requests from BUSD schools and facilities; and
2. Establish protocols with BUSD for school principals to coordinate directly with Public Works staff to address school site-related concerns that fall under the City's jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND

Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) is responsible for educating more than 9,800 students in 11 public elementary schools, 3 middle schools, one comprehensive high school, and an alternative high school. In addition, the district has 3 preschool facilities and an Adult School serving several thousand students each year. While BUSD is responsible for the maintenance of their own properties, the City of Berkeley is responsible for sidewalks, streets, parks and other areas that surround BUSD schools. Thus, BUSD and Berkeley both have important roles to ensure that students, teachers, families, and staff have access to safe and well maintained facilities, whether on or adjacent to BUSD campuses.

In addition, Berkeley has established a Vision Zero Program to eliminate traffic fatalities and injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. A key demographic to prioritize is our school-children, teachers, families, and staff as they travel to and from school campuses.

BUSD is a key partner for the City of Berkeley and the wellbeing of every student is of paramount concern for both the City and BUSD. In addition, students are legally mandated to attend school. They are thus required by law to enter and exit school facilities on a daily basis regardless of the conditions of the streets, sidewalks, and other nearby public facilities. For all of these reasons the City of Berkeley should prioritize requests from BUSD for service and maintenance of City property in the immediate and close vicinity of BUSD campuses.

At the October 13, 2021 2x2 Committee Meeting between Berkeley Unified School District and the City of Berkeley, members discussed the importance of prioritizing the needs of BUSD, and the lack of opportunities for BUSD to access Public Works directly. Currently, service requests for areas around school sites are routed through the City's universal 311 system and may not be identified as school-related, and therefore may not receive appropriate priority. After discussion, the 2x2 recommended creating a dedicated system to communicate and prioritize BUSD requests separate from the 311 system. The Committee further recommended that school Principals be the designated point of contact for such requests and that a form and other protocols be developed to formalize the ability to liaise directly with Public Works.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Maintenance of safe sidewalks, streets and other facilities surrounding BUSD school sites will encourage students and families to walk and bike to school.

FISCAL IMPACTS

None.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ATTACHMENTS

1. San Francisco Unified/MUNI Safe Routes to Schools program incident report



Request For Street Evaluation

**** To report damages to existing infrastructure (such as a broken traffic signal or a sign that has been knocked over), please call 311****

School Name: _____

Requestor Name: _____

Relationship to School (Parent, Principal, Staff, Student, etc.): _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Location to be Evaluated (Street & Cross Street): _____

Day(s) of Week & Time(s) when you are seeing concerning behavior near your school:

Describe Traffic Safety Concern (What is the unsafe behavior you are seeing, such as, speeding, not stopping/yielding at the crosswalk, traffic congestion, etc. For a transit concern, please add the 5- digit Muni Stop ID if applicable, the location of the stop, and the number on the back of the bus. If the bus is passing up students, please indicate if the bus was full or empty.):

SF Safe Routes to School staff name: _____ Date of Request: _____

Submit to: saferoutestoschool@sfmta.com