

# TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Division

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## MILVIA STREET BIKEWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

### Project Status

The Milvia Bikeway project will improve safety and access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists on Milvia Street between Hearst Avenue and Blake Street. City Council approved the final project plans and specifications on January 26, 2021, and the construction contract was awarded to Sposeto Engineering, Inc. Construction will be performed as a component of the Central Berkeley Transportation & Infrastructure Improvements Project, which is estimated to begin in mid-May 2021 and be substantially complete in early 2022.

### Project Construction

The project will be constructed in discrete phases and will primarily progress from the south end of the site (Blake Street) to the north end (Hearst Avenue). In general, hours of construction will be 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding City of Berkeley holidays. The work will be performed with the intent to minimize disruptions to nearby residents, businesses, travelers, and others.

Notices of construction, which include depictions of open/closed vehicle lanes, bike lanes, and sidewalks, have been issued to nearby residents and businesses as follows:

- [Phase 1](#) - Haste to Blake, west side of street. Started week of May 17, 2021
- [Phase 2](#) – Allston to Channing, west side of street. Started week of June 7, 2021
- [Phase 3](#) – Allston to Channing, east side of street. Started week of August 2, 2021
- [Phase 4](#) – Channing to Blake, east side of street, & Channing to Haste, west side of street. Started week of August 16, 2021
- [Slurry Seal](#) – Allston to Blake, entire roadway. Occurred on Saturday, September 18, 2021.
- [Phase 5](#) – Allston to Hearst, east side of street. Started week of October 4, 2021
- [Phase 6](#) – Hearst to Allston, west side of street. Scheduled to start week of November 15, 2021.

### Project Overview

Objectives of the project are to:

- Improve safety for everyone traveling along Milvia Street
- Provide a more comfortable bicycling and walking experience for people of all ages and abilities



- Encourage trips made by bicycling and walking by improving connectivity and accessibility
- Maintain and support and the economic vitality of the corridor

The project plans include a Class IV protected bikeway with separation from motor traffic by way of a vertical element, intersection treatments and traffic calming features, and elimination of the slip lane at Milvia and Center Street. Initial funding for conceptual design and environmental review has been provided by a grant from the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC). Funding for detailed engineering design and construction has been provided by a grant from the State of California Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program.

Existing Conditions **Milvia Street at Center Street (facing south)**



Post-Construction Artist's Rendering



Existing Conditions **Milvia Street at Allston Way (facing south)**



Post-Construction Artist's Rendering



## Post-Construction Roadway Layout

Click [here](#) and [here](#) to view block-by-block layouts of the project area at the completion of construction



**MILVIA STREET BIKEWAY**  
Hearst Avenue to University Avenue

**Parisi**  
CITY ENGINEER

Note: These graphics are artistic representations of the final (post-construction) layout and are not actual construction contract documents. The actual layout may differ due to field conditions and/or unanticipated changes.

## Project Background

Berkeley has the highest rate of bicycling to work in the United States among cities with over 100,000 residents, and Milvia is the City's primary north-south bikeway. In recent years, there's been a significant rise in bicycle activity in Downtown Berkeley, particularly along Milvia Street. At last count, over 500 people on bicycles pass through the intersection of Milvia and Channing during the 2-hour PM peak period alone. During the same period, over 400 pass through the Intersection of Milvia and Hearst. While the high volume of use is encouraging, there has also been a high volume of collisions. According to analysis completed for the City Bicycle Plan 2017, Milvia Street had the highest number of total collisions between 2001 and 2012, which suggests that design changes should be evaluated to better accommodate the mix of roadway users along this downtown Bicycle Boulevard. The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) recommends vehicle volumes lower than 1,500 per day to provide a comfortable bicycling environment for children, families, and others who feel unsafe riding in traffic.

A number of City plans and policies have highlighted the stretch of Milvia Street in Downtown Berkeley as a high priority area for bicycle facility improvements. The Strategic Plan (2018), [Bicycle Plan](#) (2017), and [Strategic Transportation Plan](#) (2016) recommend replacing the existing segments of Class III bicycle shared-roadway markings and Class II bicycle lanes on Milvia between Hearst Avenue and Blake Street with a Class IV protected bikeway (also known as a cycle track). Similarly, the [Streets and Open Space Improvement Plan](#) (2012) and [Downtown Area Plan](#) (2012) recommend establishing a continuous bicycle lane and traffic calming on Milvia through downtown.

### **Previous Public Outreach and Meetings – Selected events (not a full listing)**

- January 26, 2021, 6:00 pm: Berkeley City Council Meeting
- December 3, 2019, 6:00 pm: Berkeley City Council Meeting
- October 17, 2019, 7:00 pm: Berkeley Transportation Commission
- October 2, 2019, 6:00 pm: Berkeley Commission on Disability
- October 1, 2019, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Open House #2 at Berkeley Public Library (Downtown) 2090 Kittredge St, Berkeley, CA 94704
- September 19, 2019, 7:00 pm: Berkeley Transportation Commission
- January 30th, 2019 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Open House #1 at the Berkeley High School Library
- September 27th, 2018 4:30-6pm: Milvia Street and Channing Way
- September 18th, 2018 4:30-6pm: Berkeley Central Library Courtyard
- September 15th, 2018 11am-3pm: Ride Electric Event at the Downtown Berkeley Farmer's Market

### **Stay Connected!**

For questions about the project or further information, please contact the project manager, Kenneth Jung, Associate Civil Engineer, [kjung@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:kjung@cityofberkeley.info).

### **Project Timeline**

- Conceptual Design, Public Outreach, and Environmental Review: June 2018 to December 2019
- Detailed Engineering Design: February 2020 to October 2020
- Bid, Award, and Construction Contract Execution: November 2020 to April 2021
- Construction: May 2021 to January 2022

## Funding

Project funded by Alameda CTC Measure B Sales Taxes and State of California Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program



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