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PEDESTRIAN PLAN

VISION & GOALS



The vision, goals, and performance measures described in this section led the Plan's development and will guide how it is implemented. The core principles of the vision, goals, and performance measures reach beyond this Plan, building collectively on the City's goals and priorities to improve mobility in Berkeley.

- The **vision** provides an overarching direction and long-term vision for walking within the City of Berkeley.
- The **goals** provide guidance on how to reach the vision and make clear connections to other City goals.
- Each goal includes **performance measures** to assess progress toward achieving the goals.

Developing the vision, goals, and performance measures in this section required aligning the Plan with existing goals and priorities in other City documents. The documents listed below inform the Plan's vision, goals, and performance measures:

- [General Plan \(2003\)](#)
- [Pedestrian Charter Principles \(2004\)](#)
- [Climate Action Plan \(2009\)](#)
- [Pedestrian Plan \(2010\)](#)
- [Resilience Strategy \(2016\)](#)
- [Berkeley Strategic Transportation Plan \(BeST\) \(2016\)](#)
- [Berkeley Bicycle Plan \(2017\)](#)
- [2018-19 Strategic Plan \(2018\)](#)
- [Vision Zero Action Plan \(2020\)](#)

VISION

The Berkeley Pedestrian Plan Update's vision provides the foundation for improving walking in Berkeley:

Berkeley is a model walkable city where traveling on foot or with an assistive device is safe, comfortable, and convenient for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes, ages and abilities.

The Plan envisions Berkeley as a walkable city where all people choose to walk to school, to shop, to the bus stop, to work, and just for the sheer pleasure of it. This vision sets the framework for the Plan's goals and performance measures. It also guides the development of the policies, actions, and prioritization criteria, which are described in [Chapter 3](#).

VISION ZERO

Vision Zero is a data-driven strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. Berkeley Vision Zero is, first and foremost, an engineering strategy that aims to design and build our streets to eliminate all severe and fatal traffic injuries. City Council approved Berkeley's Vision Zero Action Plan in March 2020.

GOALS

The Plan’s goals provide direction for achieving the vision. These goals are:

- Increase **safety and comfort** for people walking
- Increase **equity** and transportation choices for all
- Improve **public health and environmental sustainability**

Like the vision, the goals are aligned with other City goals and efforts, such as the goals established in the Berkeley Strategic Transportation Plan (BeST). For example, the first goal of BeST is to increase mobility and access for all mode choices. This Plan is specifically focused on achieving this goal for people walking.

The Plan’s goals are described in greater detail on the following pages.



Goal: Increase **SAFETY & COMFORT** for People Walking

Berkeley is one of the more walkable cities in the state of California, and indeed, many residents, workers, and visitors do feel comfortable walking in the City. While Berkeley has the highest number of pedestrian collisions compared to cities in California with similar population sizes, it has a low number compared to these cities when the high amount of walking in Berkeley is taken into account. In fact, Berkeley has the highest rate of commute trips by walking of any city in California with a population of at least 20,000, and the second highest rate among medium sized cities in the country, according to the US Census American Community Survey.

Increasing safety means lowering the number of pedestrian collisions and decreasing collision risk for pedestrians. Increasing comfort will naturally occur as a result of increasing safety, since areas with lower collision risk typically feel more comfortable. Streets with high numbers of injuries and fatalities reported on them, known as high-injury streets, are targeted in this goal.

Meeting this goal will protect the City’s most vulnerable users, move toward the City’s Vision Zero Policy goal of zero traffic deaths and severe injuries by 2028 and encourage other people to consider walking for transportation or recreation.

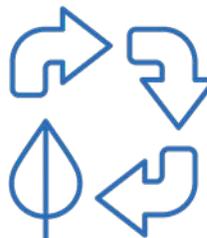


Goal: Increase **EQUITY** and Transportation Choices for All

Equity means ensuring that residents of historically underserved neighborhoods of Berkeley have input in the development of the Plan, and proposing a distribution of benefits that recognizes and addresses underinvestment in these historically underserved areas of the City.

To achieve this goal, the Plan sought broad and diverse feedback from a wide array of voices through an inclusive public engagement process. In terms of outcomes, walking is the most accessible and affordable form of transportation and recreation and is at the core of an equitable transportation system.

Achieving equity means Berkeley will be walkable and accessible for everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, class, income, age, ability, sexual orientation, and/or gender expression/identity.



Goal: Improve **PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Walking has a positive impact on individuals’ health and the environment. Increased walking is linked to reduced obesity and decreased mortality from various chronic diseases.

Additionally, increasing the number of people choosing to walk for transportation has the potential to: replace vehicle trips, reduce consumption of fossil fuels, and contribute to environmental sustainability goals.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Within each goal in the Plan is a set of performance measures and strategies to track the progress of reaching the goal. In this Plan, performance measures set a benchmark and track progress towards goals over time. The performance measures in the Plan will be used with three purposes:

- Assess walking conditions
- Align decisions with community goals
- Track progress toward the goals

Improvements and project recommendations to advance progress toward achieving this Plan's goals are described in [Chapter 3](#).

Goal: Increase SAFETY & COMFORT for People Walking

Goal	Performance Measures	Strategy
 Safety & Comfort	Reducing pedestrian fatalities and severe injuries to zero by 2028	Safety treatments implemented on high-injury streets
	Speed reduction on high-injury streets	100 percent of high-injury streets subjected to speed studies by 2025 Traffic calming measures installed on 100 percent of high-injury streets by 2028

Goal: Increase EQUITY and Transportation Choices for All

Goal	Performance Measures	Strategy
 Equity	Pedestrian improvements completed in Berkeley's historically underserved areas (as shown in Figure 13)	70 percent of pedestrian-related investments made within historically underserved areas by 2028
	ADA improvements completed citywide	Implementation of ADA Transition Plan by 2040

Goal: Improve PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Goal	Performance Measures	Strategy
 Health & Environmental Sustainability	Increase in amount of walking	Maintain Berkeley's position as California's top-ranked city for walking commute rate