



Office of the City Manager

02

WORKSESSION

April 7, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Christine Daniel, City Manager
Submitted by: Andrew Clough, Director, Department of Public Works
Subject: Prioritization of City Council Referrals to Public Works Transportation

INTRODUCTION

The Public Works Transportation Division FY 2015 budget and work plan were adopted by Council in June 2014.¹ Since that time, Council referrals have been assigned to the Division or the Transportation Commission, which demand additional resources, or the reduction or delay in existing work plan priorities. This Worksession is an opportunity for Council to review and provide feedback on staff's recommended prioritization of these Council referrals to Public Works Transportation and the Transportation Commission.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

According to the City Manager's Council Referrals tracking, there are 18 outstanding Council referrals assigned to Public Works Transportation and/or the Transportation Commission requesting information or action (see Attachment 1). These referrals were made between January 2012 and March 2015, and the FY 2015 work plan adopted in June 2014 can only include referrals made prior to submittal of that work plan. Referrals received since that time would need to replace other tasks on the original work plan, or be deferred to a subsequent work plan.

Transportation Division core services include, but are not limited to: traffic calming; managing on-street (meters) and off-street (garages/lots) parking; administering the RPP program; Safe Routes to School programs; supporting the Transportation Commission and Commission on Disability; implementing adopted plans such as the Pedestrian Master Plan and Bicycle Master Plan; and maintaining compliance with City and State required programs and permits. Other projects, including unanticipated activities, assignments, and Council referrals, are conducted in addition to these core services.

The Transportation Division has 17 full time equivalent positions, including vacancies that pose a temporary problem for delivery of core or baseline services. Transportation staff capacity is augmented through the use of consultants for preparation of plans and studies under staff supervision. Projects in this category include: residential preferential

¹ FY 2015 Budget and Citywide Work Plan:
www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2014/06_Jun/Documents/2014-06-24_Item_53_FY_2015_-_Budget_Adoption.aspx

parking (RPP) expansion; Downtown Berkeley Plaza and Transit Area; Hearst Complete Streets; Shattuck Reconfiguration; Center Street Garage replacement; Gilman Interchange; goBerkeley; Safe Routes to School projects; 4th Bore Mitigations on Tunnel and Ashby; Downtown Streets and Open Space Improvement Plan (SOSIP); parklet pilot; Bike Boulevard phase 2 implementation; curbside electric vehicle charging pilot; motorcycle parking policy; Berkeley High traffic safety plan; speed radar studies for enforcement; and AC Transit Line 51 coordination.

At its February 2015 meeting, the Transportation Commission discussed the Division work plan and Council referrals. They acknowledge that the volume of Council referrals exceeds staff capacity and funding levels, and that many referrals need to be put on hold, and support the staff prioritization plan for existing referrals, particularly with respect to deferred items. The Commission indicated the need for criteria, such as a safety goal, as the basis for prioritization of Council referrals and potential future work plan items. They recommended that the work plan provide for staff capacity to focus on collecting data and performing systematic analysis that can be used by Public Works and other departments to make informed decisions, rather than just responding to individual events in isolation and out of context with system-wide considerations. The Commission suggested that prioritization of work plan and referral items be linked to delivery of voter supported Measure BB and Measure M projects. This discussion led the Commission to adopt 3 motions:

1. Recommend that staff provide a prioritized list of referrals with clear prioritization criteria when reporting to Council on any referrals. The list should include estimated costs and staffing needs associated with each referral as well as active or inactive status of the referral. Recommend that Council consider prioritizing referrals and provide funding and staffing for high priority referrals based on information provided by staff. (M/S Roberts, Bruzzone; Ayes: Roberts, McCaughrin, Lathbury, Zander, Thomas, Gerhardstein, Bruzzone; Noes: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Humbert)
2. Authorize Commissioner Bruzzone to attend the April 7, 2015 City Council meeting and speak on behalf of the Transportation Commission. (M/S Zander/Gerhardstein; Ayes: Roberts, McCaughrin, Lathbury, Zander, Thomas, Gerhardstein, Bruzzone; Noes: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Humbert)
3. The Commission supports staff development of a Transportation Safety Goal, which will support equity in implementation and maintain or improve mode share for non automobile modes of travel. (M/S Zander, Bruzzone; Ayes: Roberts, McCaughrin, Lathbury, Zander, Thomas, Gerhardstein, Bruzzone; Noes: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Humbert)

BACKGROUND

The annual Transportation Division work plan assumes full utilization of staff resources and funding, including use of grants and consultants. The work plan is developed on the basis of Council adopted policies and plans such as the Pedestrian Master Plan and Bicycle Master Plan, as well as Council referrals from prior years. Adding Council

referrals or urgent projects to the work plan requires reprioritization of planned work by the Division. A clear understanding of Council preferences for prioritization and tracking of referrals by staff will assist staff in delivering the most important work products.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Transportation Division work plan is full of projects and programs intended to improve public safety and sustainable modes of transportation. Thoughtful prioritization and allocation of resources to Council referrals will help us meet our sustainability goals.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Public Works Transportation management's prioritization of Council referrals is intended to facilitate more effective use of limited Transportation staff resources. Council may wish to reprioritize the listed referrals, with consideration for available resources and relative cost of each referral. Future communication of the prioritized list and status of referrals will provide an additional decision making tool for the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Fiscal impacts will depend on the magnitude of revenue and/or expenditure impacts that changes in work plan priorities generate. Council confirmation of these referral priorities will inform the efficient use of staff resources and timely completion of high priority items, while selectively making feasible adjustments to the existing work plan.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:

- 1: Prioritized list of Council Referrals

Draft Prioritized Council Referral Tracking list for Transportation

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Item #	Meeting Date	Agenda Item #	Title	Recommendation	Referred by	Responsible Department	Status	Active/ On Hold/ Done	Priority Ranking
4	01/17/12	23	Temporary Enforcement of RPP Only Areas as Two Hour Parking Without Permit (PDF)	Direct the City Manager to temporarily enforce the previous restrictions of two hours parking without RPP permits in Residential Permit Parking (RPP) Only Areas until new signs are installed.	Councilmember Arreguin	Transportation	New signs installed	Done	
67	04/02/13	21	21. Fees: Residential Preferential Parking Permits	Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt a Resolution establishing a new rate schedule for the Residential Preferential Parking Program, increasing the permit fees effective July 1, 2013; and rescinding Resolution No. 64,888-N.S.	City Manager	PW / Transportation		Done	
151	01/21/14	19	19. Double Fines for Speeding in School Zones	Request that the City Manager evaluate the legal feasibility and expense of signage for the doubling of fines for speeding in school zones and report back to City Council with a recommendation.	Councilmember Wengraf	Transportation		Done	
176	04/29/14	32	32. Request that the City Manager Amend Section 14.72.030 of the Berkeley Municipal Code	Request that the City Manager draft an amendment to the BMC to better define the term "Motor Vehicle" with the goal of regulating the parking of large campers and trailers on residential streets in RPP zones.	Councilmember Wengraf	Transportation		Done	
10	05/06/14		Referral to City Manager/Transportation Commission: Pedestrian Safety on Sacramento Street between University and Dwight	Refer to the City Manager and Transportation Commission to study and implement appropriate traffic calming measures on Sacramento Street between University and Dwight Way to improve pedestrian safety particularly at non-signed crossings at Sacramento/Addison; Sacramento/Bancroft; and Sacramento/Channing.	Councilmembers Arreguin and Moore	Transportation Commission	April 7 Council Report	Active	1
194	07/01/14	25	25. Downtown Berkeley Plaza and Transit Area Improvement Project Update	2. Direct the City Manager to be responsive to the input received, and to return to Council as soon as feasible with the Final 35% Design Plan for conceptual approval. The Final 35% Design Plan will be used as the basis for final plans, specifications and estimates for improvements to City and BART facilities in the Downtown Plaza and Transit Area.	City Manager	PW	Project ongoing	Active	2
205	09/09/14	50	Expansion of Residential Preferential Parking Citywide, Adjacent to Commercial Areas		City Manager	PW/Transportation		Active	3
	12/16/14		Refer to budget \$50,000 for ped beacon as Sacramento/Bancroft				April 7 Council Report	Active	4
	12/16/14		Study and recommend Traffic Controls on University Avenue from Martin Luther King Jr. Way to California Street		Councilmember Maio			Active	5
180	05/06/14	22b	Incorporating Social Marketing Outlets in the Renovation Plan of Downtown BART	1. Direct the City Manager to work with the BART design staff to ensure that a designated share of message delivery time and/or space on any messaging component of the BART plaza renovation is made available for messaging from City public health. 2. Direct the Civic Arts Commission to consider including public health messaging as part of the Public Art Fund component of the BART plaza renovation plan.	City Manager	PW	Unclear what dynamic messaging opportunities may exist	Active	6
219	09/30/14	32	City Manager Referral: Implementing BigBelly Solar Compactor Bins	Refer to the City Manager to examine the feasibility of procuring BigBelly Solar Compactor Bins to save money, meet zero waste goals, and reduce Berkeley's greenhouse gas emissions.	Councilmember Worthington	PW/Transportation	Transportation leading pilot development	Active	7

Draft Prioritized Council Referral Tracking list for Transportation

Item #	Meeting Date	Agenda Item #	Title	Recommendation	Referred by	Responsible Department	Status	Active/ On Hold/ Done	Priority Ranking
223	10/07/14	5	Referral to City Manager: Tonnage Limit on Milvia Street	Refer to the City Manager and Transportation Commission the establishment of designating Milvia Street between University Avenue and Cedar Street as a restricted street for the movement of vehicles over 3 tons under Berkeley Municipal Code Section 14.56.070.	Councilmember Arreguin	PW/Transportation	June 30 Coucil Report	Active	8
202	09/09/14	39	Establish Pedicab Policy and Regulations	Refer to the City Manager and Transportation Commission the creation of an ordinance that would establish regulations for pedicab operators.	Councilmember Moore	PW/Transportation	May be delayed by loss of staff	Active	9
	11/19/13		Portable Sign Pilot			PW/Transportation	Reviewed by Transportation Commission. Council Report Pending	Active	10
	03/10/15	8	Addressing Pedestrian and Ccyclist Safety on Sacramento Street at the North Berkeley Bart Station		Councilmember Maio		Improvements for this location are already identified by Pedestrian and Bike Master Plans	On hold	11
	03/10/15	9	Budget Referral: Appropriate Traffic Controls on University Avenue from Martin Luther king Jr. Way to California Street	Refer to FY 2015/2016 budget process \$50,000 for appropriate traffic controls such as pedesrian crossing light	Councilmembers Maio and Arreguin		Pending results of prior referral	On hold	12
	10/28/14		Implement Pay by Cell for parking payments		Councilmembers Worthington and Wozniak		Need to resolve logistic issues. goBerkeley will address this.	On hold	13
244	12/16/14	28	Referral to Public Works Commission, Transportation Commission and Disaster and Fire Safety Commission to Develop a Comprehensive Plan for the Funding of the Underground of Utility Wires on All Major And Collector Streets in Berkeley	That the Public Works Commission, Transportation Commission and Disaster and Fire Safety Commission develop a comprehensive funding plan to underground utilities along all arterials and collectors in the City of Berkeley. New funding strategies need to be explored with this goal in mind.	Councilmembers Wengraf	Public Works	Transportation role needs clarification.	On Hold	14
228	10/21/14	23	Westbrae Traffic Plan	Refer to the Transportation Commission and City Manager the development of a traffic management plan for the Westbrae Area.	Councilmember Maio	PW/Transportation	May 12 Council Report - update	On Hold	15
249	01/27/15	14	Request that the City Manager work with Caltrans to upgrade the intersection at San Pablo and Cedar	Request the City Manager analyze the subject intersection and work with Caltrans to make improvements to prevent long back-ups at the intersection of San Pablo and Cedar, particularly focused on the need to create a left-turn lane onto San Pablo heading north.	Councilmember Maio	Transportation	Signal upgraded Jan 2014. Turn lane would have eliminated parking	On Hold	16
170	04/01/14	9	9. Conversion of Loading Zones on Telegraph Avenue between Bancroft Avenue and Dwight Way into Regular Metered Parking with Morning Commercial-Loading Hours	The City Manager should examine the costs and time associated with yellow-zone conversion and present to the City Council a cost and implementation plan including recommended hours for restricted commercial loading.	Mayor Bates	PW	Significant public process anticipated	On hold	17
9	01/31/12	12	Tow Away Zones on MLK JR Way between Berkeley Way and Hearst Avenue (PDF)	Request that the City Manager consider possible parking and traffic configurations on the MLK block between University and Hearst Avenues that eliminate the need for commute hour Tow Away Zones.	Councilmember Arreguin	Transportation	Cursory study shows significant impacts	On Hold	18

