

INFORMATION CALENDAR
December 11, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: () Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Andrew Clough, Director, Public Works

Subject: Update: Traffic Impacts Study for West Campus/Old Adult School Site

INTRODUCTION

At its meeting on November 15, 2011, Council requested the City Manager to prioritize a traffic impacts study related to Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) administration and Realm Charter High School use of the West Campus site starting in fall 2012. At full utilization levels, there are anticipated to be 100 staff in the administration building and 400 students, plus instructors and staff, in the Realm Charter High School. This resurgence of activity, following 8 years of vacancy at the site, is expected to increase vehicular and pedestrian traffic and parking demand in the area – and neighbors are concerned. This will be the first time a high school population will use the West Campus building, and the Realm School staff projects it would reach its capacity by 2014. Any additional uses at the facility would add incrementally to the transportation demands on the neighborhood.

As a result of this change, City Traffic Engineers have requested BUSD to undertake a before-and-after study to ascertain the level of increases in motor vehicle traffic and parking demand in the area with these and any future projects. After an exchange of correspondence in recent months, BUSD staff has indicated that it doesn't plan to undertake any traffic monitoring. Therefore City staff directed our own traffic data contractor to collect the relevant data, and following is a brief summary of the data collection efforts that were recently undertaken.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Conditions Before Occupancy

It's difficult to anticipate what the impacts would be, and whether additional traffic controls and/or traffic calming measures will be needed, without a monitoring (before and after) study. The City recently undertook a "before" study to establish a base case of existing conditions, which consisted of counting motor vehicles driving and parking (on-street) on several surrounding streets. Counts were taken on August 23, 2012 about one week before school actually started and approximately three weeks or so after the Administration Building was open and occupied.

Update: Traffic Study for West Campus/Old Adult School Site

Turning movement counts (counts of all through and turning vehicles entering and exiting an intersection) were undertaken or already existed from BUSD's traffic consultant. Counts were undertaken in the morning peak (7:00am to 9:00 am) and during the school's peak afternoon condition (2:30pm to 4:30pm). Locations include:

- 1. University Avenue and Curtis Street
- 2. University Avenue and Bonar Street
- 3. Addison and Bonar Streets
- 4. Allston Way and Browning Street

In addition to the above intersections, on-street parking occupancy and inventory counts (an inventory of existing parking spaces to record how many spaces there are) were conducted on streets surrounding the West Campus site. Observations were made at 8:00am, 10:00am, 2:00pm, 4:00pm, and 6:00pm. These streets were:

- 1. University Avenue between Curtis and Bonar Streets
- 2. Bonar Street between University Avenue and Addison Street
- 3. Addison Street between Bonar and Browning Streets
- 4. Browning Street adjacent to the school
- 5. Curtis Street adjacent to the school

Monitoring Results

The turn movement counts showed that traffic condition (congestion, queuing, and delays) were acceptable at all four locations. Both the University Avenue intersections, signalized and un-signalized, operated acceptably.

The parking observations are summarized in Attachment A. Parking is at capacity, (defined as occupancies greater than 85%) on streets that front the school. This includes Addison Street (between Browning and Bonar), Curtis Street (between University and Addison), and Bonar Street (between University and Addison). As a reminder, these peak occupancies occurred when the BUSD administration offices were occupied but the Realm Charter High School was not in session.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

City staff, since BUSD does not appear willing to undertake any traffic or parking monitoring studies, will update the current observations in spring 2013. This new data point would provide information on the impact of both the administration building and the high school. After this data collection, City staff will monitor the school activities and student population and possibly undertake a new study in spring 2014. This decision would be based on when the high school reaches its estimated maximum student enrollment of 400.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF CURRENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE STUDIES

The financial impact of current efforts was \$1,160. This included consultant-conducted data collection activities, along with staff time to prepare the work scope and paperwork for the consultant, and to review and summarize the data.

Update: Traffic Study for West Campus/Old Adult School Site

Future data collection efforts are anticipated to increase by approximately 50% (totaling \$1,750) per effort, as new data would need to be collected at all four intersections (turn counts) and on all streets (for parking occupancy data). The data collection efforts would be paid out of the existing on-call traffic survey consultant contract, reducing the traffic survey budget by approximately \$3,500 for two rounds of data collection – this is in addition to the \$1,160 already spent. City staff time to prepare contracts, work scopes, review the data, and prepare reports is estimated at \$4,000 for two more rounds of data collection and could be absorbed within the current review functions of the Public Works Transportation staff. Again, this cost is in addition to the \$2,000 already absorbed for this first round of data collection.

CONTACT PERSONS

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Attachments:

1: On-Street Parking Occupancy Survey

Realm High School On-street Parking Occupancy Survey Wednesday, 8-22-2012

-	University Av.	Addison St.	Alston Way		Cartis St.		Browing St.	Bonar St.		
	Curtis to Bonar (south side)	Browning to Bonar	Curtis to Browning	Browning to Bonar	University to Addison	Addison to Allston	Addison te Allston	University to Addison	Addison to Aliston	TOTAL
Supply	20	16	23	23	28	48	48	16	56	278
8:00 AW	5%	100%	13%	43%	82%	35%	38%	56%	63%	47%
10:00 AW	0%	94%	30%	70%	89%	33%	46%	94%	84%	45%
2:00 PM	0%	94%	17%	70%	€8%	31%	6 0%	100%	79%	57%
4:00 PM	Ú%	94%	13%	70%	79%	35%	58%	69%	79%	56%
5:00 PM	0%	69%	9%	39%	79%	35%	48%	38%	48%	42%
Worst Case Occupancy (%)	5%	100%	30%	70%	39%	35%	60%	100%	84%	57%