



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 21, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager
Submitted by: Andrew Clough, Director, Public Works
Subject: Donation for Pedestrian Beacons on Shattuck Avenue between Cedar and Vine Streets

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution:

1. Accepting a donation in the amount of \$47,000 from The Taubman Foundation for the purchase and installation of pedestrian activated rectangular rapid flashing beacons for the mid-block crosswalk on Shattuck Avenue between Cedar and Vine Streets; and
2. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into agreements necessary for the purchase and installation of pedestrian activated rectangular rapid flashing beacons for the mid-block crosswalk on Shattuck Avenue between Cedar and Vine Streets.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There are no fiscal impacts to the City for the planning, purchase, and installation of the beacons, as the donated funds cover these expenses. The revenue (donation) will be deposited into the Capital Improvement Fund (610-4950-360-0601) and requested for appropriation in the first adjustment to the FY 2014 Annual Appropriations Ordinance.

The beacons will be maintained and replaced, as needed, through the City's Traffic Calming device replacement and maintenance contract. Funding for the contract is allocated from the Special Gas Tax Improvement Fund (369-4950-431-3038) and is subject to appropriation in future fiscal years.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

There is an uncontrolled mid-block pedestrian crosswalk on Shattuck Avenue in North Berkeley, located between Cedar and Vine Streets. The crosswalk traverses the median that divides the traffic lanes in both directions, and is already painted and has ADA compliant curb ramps on both sides of the street. However, pedestrians crossing in this very active location often have difficulty getting cars to yield, and in 2009 a woman using the crosswalk was hit and seriously injured by a vehicle when the driver didn't see her. This person has now generously offered to donate the funds to improve pedestrian safety in this location.

Based on the donor's funding offer, City staff reviewed the location and determined that the most feasible enhancement to improve the rate of vehicles yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk would be pedestrian-activated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB). The City has limited funds available for such pedestrian crossing enhancements, and those at other City locations in recent years have been funded by outside sources, such as a Safe Routes to School grant, and most recently Wareham Development's donation for RRFB on 7th Street at Anthony Street.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Accepting the funds allows the City to deliver a pedestrian crossing enhancement that would otherwise be unlikely in the near future. Businesses, residents and visitors in this area will benefit from improved safety for pedestrian access, and a pedestrian crosswalk consistent with City goals to improve the pedestrian environment.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could decline to accept the donation, in which case the crosswalk enhancements would not be built. This is not a preferred alternative because the beacons are a public benefit, and their installation under the direction of City staff will assure compliance with City standards

CONTACT PERSON

Farid Javandel, Transportation Manager, Public Works, 981-7061
Hamid Mostowfi, Supervising Traffic Engineer, Public Works, 981-6403

Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

DONATION: THE TAUBMAN FOUNDATION FOR INSTALLATION OF PEDESTRIAN BEACONS IN NORTH BERKELEY ON SHATTUCK AVENUE AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF THE BEACONS

WHEREAS, there is an uncontrolled pedestrian crosswalk on Shattuck Avenue between Vine and Cedar Streets; and

WHEREAS, the rate of vehicles yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk would be improved by addition of pedestrian-activated rectangular rapid flashing beacons; and

WHEREAS, the City has no funds for purchase and installation of these beacons; and

WHEREAS, The Taubman Foundation has offered the City a \$47,000 donation for the purchase and installation of rectangular rapid flashing beacons at the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing on Shattuck Avenue between Vine and Cedar Streets; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City accepts the \$47,000 donation from The Taubman Foundation for the purchase and installation of pedestrian-activated rectangular rapid flashing beacons at the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing on Shattuck Avenue between Vine and Cedar Streets. The revenue (donation) will be deposited into the Capital Improvement Fund (610-4950-360-0601).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to enter into agreements necessary for the purchase and installation of pedestrian-activated rectangular rapid flashing beacons at the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing on Shattuck Avenue between Vine and Cedar Streets.

