



Office of the City Manager

INFORMATION CALENDAR

April 7, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager  
Submitted by: Andrew Clough, Director, Public Works  
Subject: Pedestrian Safety on Sacramento Street between University and Dwight

INTRODUCTION

This report responds to the Council referral from [May 6, 2014](#) for traffic calming measures on Sacramento Street between University Avenue and Dwight Way; and another from [December 16, 2014](#) for \$50,000 to the FY 2015/2016 budget process to improve pedestrian safety at Sacramento and Bancroft, the location of a senior and assisted living facility, by installing beacon lights at the cross walks.↓

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In addition to the Council referrals, there are other existing initiatives related to improving pedestrian safety along Sacramento Street. The first initiative focuses on long term capital improvements to enhance safety; and the second initiative looks at short term pedestrian safety improvements.

1. Long term: Berkeley's [Pedestrian Master Plan](#) was adopted by Council in June 2010 and prioritized pedestrian improvements based on a Citywide assessment of safety and pedestrian demand. While the intersections along Sacramento at Bancroft Way and at Channing Way did not rank in the Pedestrian Master Plan as key projects or High Priority Intersections needing improvement, the block of Sacramento between Addison Street and University Avenue did rank as Project #4 on the list. The project recommends bulbouts at all 4 corners of the Sacramento and Addison intersection to promote slowing vehicle traffic; and curb ramps at the corners with textured raised surfaces to alert pedestrians to the intersection. In addition, the Plan calls for high visibility crosswalks and red-painted curbs along Sacramento Street.
2. Short term: Public Works Transportation conducted a safety evaluation in July 2014 of the Sacramento Corridor between University Avenue and Dwight Way, which proposed pedestrian safety enhancement signs for the intersections of Sacramento with Addison, Bancroft and Channing (see Attachment 1: Proposed pedestrian signage on Sacramento Street). Signs at the intersection of Sacramento and Bancroft have already been installed (see Attachment 1, page 2).

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↓ See links on last page to previous reports and other related documents mentioned in this report.

At its September 2014 meeting, the Transportation Commission approved a motion that it concurs with the staff proposal to install Senior Facility/Zone signs and reduce the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph on both approaches to Bancroft, and install Pedestrian crossing signs in the median. (M/S/C Roberts/Thomas; Ayes: Gerhardstein, Humbert, Lathbury, McCaughrin, Roberts, Thomas, Zander; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Watson). Since then, signs have been installed at Sacramento and Bancroft.

There is presently no funding for planning or installation of rectangular rapid flashing beacon lights at the cross walks on Sacramento Street and Bancroft Way. Based on the Council referral to incorporate this improvement in the FY 2015/2016 budget process, Public Works and Budget Office staff will prioritize this project over other programs and projects for funding and delivery in FY 2015/2016.

### BACKGROUND

Staff has evaluated pedestrian safety throughout the City over many years, producing studies and the City's [Pedestrian Master Plan](#), which is the formal vehicle for prioritizing pedestrian safety improvements. In May 2014 Council referred 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-signalized crossings at Sacramento/Addison; Sacramento/Bancroft; and Sacramento/Channing."

In addition, in December 2014, following a fatal accident that involved a legally blind driver and a resident of the senior living facility, Council referred \$50,000 to the FY 2016 budget process "to improve the pedestrian safety at Sacramento and Bancroft by installing beacon lights at the cross walks." The FY 2016 – FY 2017 proposed City budget is scheduled to be presented to Council on May 12, 2015.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Rectangular rapid flashing beacon devices are expected to be solar powered.

### POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Staff has already implemented some enhanced signage along Sacramento Street, and pending the adopted Budget, additional pedestrian crossing beacons may be funded.

### FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Procurement, installation and maintenance of rectangular rapid flashing beacons at the intersection of Sacramento/Bancroft, and additional pedestrian warning signs along the Sacramento corridor are estimated to cost \$56,500.

### CONTACT PERSON

Hamid Mostowfi, Supervising Traffic Engineer, Public Works, 981-6403

### Attachments:

1: Proposed pedestrian signage on Sacramento Street

Related Links:

- 1: May 6, 2014 Council referral for traffic calming measures on Sacramento Street:  
[www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2014/05\\_May/Documents/2014-05-06\\_Item\\_10\\_Referral\\_to\\_City\\_Manager\\_Transportation\\_Comm.aspx](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2014/05_May/Documents/2014-05-06_Item_10_Referral_to_City_Manager_Transportation_Comm.aspx)
2. December 16, 2014 Council referral for \$50,000 to the FY 2015/2016 budget process to improve pedestrian safety at Sacramento and Bancroft:  
[www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2014/12\\_Dec/Documents/2014-12-09\\_Item\\_21\\_Refer\\_\\$50,000.aspx](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2014/12_Dec/Documents/2014-12-09_Item_21_Refer_$50,000.aspx)
3. Pedestrian Master Plan: [www.cityofberkeley.info/pedestrian/](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/pedestrian/)

**Figure 1. Proposed Signage at Addison Street**



**Figure 2. Proposed Signage at Bancroft Way**



**Figure 3. Proposed Signage at Channing Way**

