

July 15, 2003

TO: Berkeley City Council

FROM: Councilmember Linda Maio

SUBJECT: Suggested Amendment to Item #59, Traffic Circle Funding

RECOMMENDATION: Council approve a motion to:

- a. not approve an expenditure of the \$140,000 that Council moved from Bicycle implementation to traffic circles;
- b. convey Council's support for utilizing these funds for traffic calming, including traffic circles, along bicycle boulevards;
- c. refer the utilization of these funds to the Transportation Commission for their input;
- d. after the Commission has developed its response, and in consideration of the staff work load, schedule a 5 p.m. briefing for the Council, by the staff and a Commission representative, on the City's traffic calming challenge, the panoply of tools available, and a proposal for a citywide strategy including an implementation framework.

Background: The proposed item by Councilmember Worthington recognizes that little process occurred in moving funds from bicycle priorities to traffic calming priorities (which are, admittedly, similar). What is proposed here, in a. – d., recognizes that the Council clearly has traffic calming as a major priority; that input from the Transportation Commission is important to our decisionmaking; and that we need a much larger approach and strategy in dealing with our traffic calming challenges citywide to ensure that the problems of all neighborhoods and areas of the city are recognized and treated equitably. We cannot do that in the absence of knowing what the array of traffic calming needs are that exist in the City (taking a comprehensive view), and developing a strategy for addressing these needs within available funding.