



Kriss Worthington

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ACTION CALENDAR

July 15, 2003

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: APPROVES A COMPROMISE MOTION TO DESIGNATE \$140,000 IN ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC CIRCLE FUNDING TO BE SPECIFIED FOR USE FOR TRAFFIC CIRCLES ON BICYCLE BOULEVARDS (AS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN USE OF FUNDS FOR UNSPECIFIED BICYCLING PROJECTS, VERSUS USE OF FUNDS FOR UNSPECIFIED CIRCLES).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council approves a compromise motion to designate \$140,000 in additional traffic circle funding to be specified for use for traffic circles on bicycle boulevards (as a compromise between use of funds for unspecified bicycling projects, versus use of funds for unspecified circles).

BACKGROUND:

Berkeley wants to provide positive improvements for the residents who live on Bicycle boulevards. Berkeley wants to make bicycling an attractive alternative to single occupancy vehicles, in order to reduce congestion and air pollution.

This funding was removed from bicycle funding, and allocated in the 2004 budget for traffic circles at unspecified locations.

Some bicycling advocates are concerned about the withdrawal of funding, especially without advance notice. This proposal shifting \$140,000 out of the \$170,000 previously approved by the City Council, was not noticed on the agenda, and was not listed in any of the five budgets proposed before the meeting.

The final comprehensive budget motion included all the sections that had been voted on separately in five separate "sense motions", but this particular item was not made in any of the five sense motions made. To be fair to all concerned it would be reasonable to allow the City Council to address this decision through a conscious and specific decision solely on the merits of the facts.

Other options considered:

One option could be to return the \$140,000 to the bicycle funding with no strings attached. This would give greater flexibility for the use of the funds but would not increase traffic circles funds.

Another option could be to spend the \$140,000 on non bike related traffic circles. This would increase funds available for that use but would risk leaving many folks questioning the fairness of this surprise.

The goal of this council item is to promote a compromise that will remove any questions about the legality or fairness of the action, while accomplishing the basic purpose of the motion.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

CONTACT PERSON:

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