



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

June 16, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Henry Oyekanmi, Director, Finance Department
Wahid Amiri, Interim Director, Public Works Department

Subject: FY 2027 Tax Rate: Fund Sustainable and Accountable Funding for Equitable Street Transformation, Revitalization, Enhancements, and Essential Traffic Safety (SAFE STREETS) (Measure FF)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt first reading of an Ordinance setting the FY 2027 tax rate for funding Sustainable and Accountable Funding for Equitable Street Transformation, Revitalization, Enhancements, and Essential Traffic Safety (SAFE STREETS), otherwise known as Measure FF, at an annual rate of \$0.17842 per square foot of dwelling unit improvements and \$0.26238 per square foot for industrial, commercial, and institutional improvements.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The FY 2026 tax of \$0.1700 per square foot of dwelling unit improvements and \$0.2500 per square foot for non-dwelling unit improvements is being adjusted by the greater of the Personal Income Growth increase in California of 4.95% against the Consumer Price Index in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area of 3.7975%.

The annual tax rate of \$0.17842 per square foot of dwelling unit improvements and \$0.26238 per square foot for industrial, commercial, and institutional improvements (cited as "Non-Residential" in table below) is projected to yield \$16,651,651 in revenues. The overall tax rate for the current year is lower than the prior year; however, the prior year's rate was based on an 18-month revenue period from January 1, 2025, when the tax first became effective, through June 30, 2026, whereas the current year's rate is based on a standard 12-month period from July 1 through June 30. It is estimated that the tax will cost taxpayers the following amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027:

Square Feet	Dwellings			Non-Residential		
	FY 27	FY 26 (12 month basis)	FY 26 (18 month basis)	FY 27	FY 26 (12 month basis)	FY 26 (18 month basis)
1,200	214.10	\$204.00	\$306.00	314.86	\$300.00	\$450.00
1,500	267.63	\$255.00	\$382.50	393.57	\$375.00	\$562.50
1,900	339.00	\$323.00	\$484.50	498.52	\$475.00	\$712.50
3,000	535.26	\$510.00	\$765.00	787.14	\$750.00	\$1,125.00
3,900	695.84	\$663.00	\$994.50	1,023.28	\$975.00	\$1,462.50
10,000	1,784.20	\$1,700.00	\$2,550.00	2,623.80	\$2,500.00	\$3,750.00

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Through Measure FF, as approved by voters in November 2024, the Council is authorized to impose and allocate a special tax as follows:

- Residential Rate: For all dwelling units, the tax may be imposed at the rate of up to \$0.17842 per square foot of improvements.
- Non-Residential Rate: For all other property, the tax may be imposed at the rate of up to \$0.26238 per square foot of improvements.

This rate was initially adopted through the adoption of Ordinance 7,952-N.S., on December 10, 2024. The Council may impose the tax authorized by this Chapter up to the rate, and subject to inflation adjustments, set forth in Section 7.11.020 of the Berkeley Municipal Code.

BACKGROUND

Measure FF, the Sustainable and Accountable Funding for Equitable Street Transformation, Revitalization, Enhancements, and Essential Traffic Safety (SAFE STREETS) Initiative, was passed by voters on November 5, 2024, and adopted as Ordinance 7,952-N.S. on December 10, 2024.

The SAFE STREETS Initiative authorized an annual parcel tax for a 14-year period. This measure is projected to generate approximately \$15 million annually, dedicated to funding street and sidewalk repairs, safety improvements, and environmental infrastructure projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental opportunities or impacts associated with the administration of this tax.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Ordinance 7,952-N.S., as adopted on December 10, 2024, authorizes the tax rate as described therein, to remain in place from the effective date, unless extended by voters.

FY 2027 Tax Rate: Fund Sustainable Accountable
Funding for Equitable Street Transformation, Revitalization,
Enhancements, and Essential Traffic Safety (SAFE STREETS)

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ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

If Council does not adopt the tax rate, as proposed, the requirements of Ordinance 7,952-N.S., as adopted on December 10, 2024 will not be met.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:

1: Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. #,###-N.S.

SETTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 SPECIAL TAX RATE TO FUND THE SUSTAINABLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITABLE STREET TRANSFORMATION, REVITALIZATION, ENHANCEMENTS, AND ESSENTIAL TRAFFIC SAFETY (SAFE STREETS) INITIATIVE, MEASURE FF

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. The rate of tax for FY 2027 to provide for the costs incurred for the funding street and sidewalk repairs, safety improvements, and environmental infrastructure projects (Measure FF) is hereby fixed and apportioned upon the square feet of improvements as defined in the Ordinance as follows:

\$0.17842 per square foot of dwelling unit improvements and \$0.26238 per square foot for industrial, commercial, and institutional building improvements (Non-Residential).

Section 2. The cost to taxpayers during FY 2027 will be \$214.10 for a 1,200 square foot dwelling and \$535.26 for a 3,000 square foot dwelling. For other non-residential properties, during FY 2027, the cost will be \$314.86 for a 1,200 square foot dwelling and \$787.14 for a 3,000 square foot dwelling.

Section 3. This tax rate will result in estimated total collection of \$16,651,651.

Section 4. Copies of this Ordinance shall be posted for two days prior to adoption in the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Within 15 days of adoption, copies of this Ordinance shall be filed at each branch of the Berkeley Public Library and the title shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.