



Homeless Commission

29a

ACTION CALENDAR

December 3, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Homeless Commission

Submitted by: Carole Marasovic, Chair, Homeless Commission

Subject: Taxi scripts to be provided to residents of Pathways/the STAIR Center

RECOMMENDATION

The Homeless Commission recommends that taxi scripts be provided to persons referred to Pathways/ the STAIR Center and that continued taxi scripts be provided to Pathways/STAIR residents, during their stay, in order to insure safe, accessible transport.

Alternatively, the Commission recommends that transportation arrangements be made with ride share services such as Lyft or Uber, or a public shuttle system coordinated by the City of Berkeley and Alameda County.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff would have to identify the costs of this recommendation. It should be easy to implement and far less costly than the potential loss of a life from an accident crossing the railroad tracks or injuries to persons walking the distance between the bus routes and Pathways/the STAIR Center.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Pathways STAIR Center is located in a remote area of West Berkeley. The two closest bus line stops, the 72 and the 51, stop eight streets and seven streets away, respectively.

Walking to Pathways also requires walking across railroad tracks, challenging for able-bodied persons, particularly in late hours, and even more challenging for persons with disabilities. Pathways has been identified as a low-barrier shelter so that persons residing there can enter and leave at all hours.

BACKGROUND

Approximately fifty persons reside at Pathways/the STAIR Center at any one time. Pathways is currently the primary navigation center for housing unhoused persons. Former and current Pathways residents often describe the challenge of walking from remote bus lines and the dangers of safely crossing the nearby railroad tracks. Many Pathway residents have serious physical disabilities, with and without equipment.

Transportation to and from Pathways is difficult for them. Residents staying at Pathways come and go freely and need to leave the navigation center to conduct everyday business and make appointments. Some return late in the evening.

At our September 11, 2019 regular meeting, the Homeless Commission approved the report, "Taxi scripts to be provided to residents of Pathways/the STAIR Center," with the following motion:

**Action:** M/S/C Hill/ Mulligan to approve the report to Council with the following amendments: (i) add "..., as well as public shuttle system coordinated by the City of Berkeley and Alameda County" to the last sentence under the Recommendation section, and (ii) remove the sentence under the Alternative Actions Considered section, and replace it with "We considered changes to the AC Transit bus routes."

**Vote:** Ayes: Hill, Mulligan, Marasovic, Hirpara, Kealoha-Blake, Hollyman, Behm-Steinberg.  
Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* None.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental impacts as the taxis or ride shares providing transportation services are already operative in Berkeley.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Homeless Commission believes that persons staying at Pathways, particularly given their disability and aging status, need accessible, safe transportation. Potential injuries or possible deaths from crossing the railroad tracks also need to be avoided.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

We considered changes to the AC Transit bus routes.

#### CITY MANAGER

See companion report.

#### CONTACT PERSON

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