



Susan Wengraf
Vice Mayor and Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 7, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Vice Mayor Wengraf (Author), Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Budget Referral: Crossing Guard for Cragmont School

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Process an annual allocation of \$22,000 to fund a Crossing Guard for Cragmont Elementary School at the intersection of Regal Rd. and Spruce Street.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Total of \$44,000 for one Crossing Guard for two academic years: 2024-2025 & 2025-2026. This is for a half-time position, 10-months a year.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Cragmont Elementary School can be accessed on either side of the school. One side, on Marin Avenue, where traffic is dangerous and fast moving, crossing guards at Spruce Street and at Cragmont Avenue help students and parents cross safely. The other side, at Regal Road and Spruce Street remains problematic.

The Alameda County *Safe Routes to Schools* Program conducted a School Safety Assessment of Cragmont Elementary in Fall 2022. Participants in the October 25, 2022 assessment included members of *Safe Routes to Schools*, Berkeley Public Works, BUSD, Cragmont Elementary staff and parents. Denise Turner, *Safe Routes to School* Program Manager, submitted the assessment report to Cragmont Principal Candy Cannon in September 2023.

Some of the problematic findings at the Regal Rd./Spruce St. intersection were as follows:

1. Southbound drivers on Spruce St. have a blind, downhill turn as they approach the crosswalk at Regal Rd.
 - a. Participants observed drivers crossing the double yellow centerline to pass stopped garbage and delivery trucks around this blind turn, with limited sightlines to the crosswalk across Spruce St.

- b. The crosswalk across Spruce St. ends in a driveway on the western side of the street.
2. The large curb radii and width of the Regal Rd. approach allow for faster vehicle turns and make it easier to block crosswalks at the corners.
3. Crosswalk across Regal Rd. at Spruce St. is extremely long (65 feet) & without pedestrian protection.
4. Bicyclists traveling in both directions add to the symphony of modes of transportation pedestrians must navigate to cross safely.

Additionally, Berkeley's [Vision Zero Action Plan](#) identifies Spruce St. and Marin Ave as High-Injury Streets for people walking and riding bikes.



*Left: Crosswalk across Spruce Street at Regal Rd looking uphill (north) at the blind turn.
Right: Crosswalk across Regal Rd at Spruce St is extremely long (65 feet) and without protection for pedestrians.*

Given the complexity of the traffic situation at this location, a crossing guard at this intersection would be a proactive step to ensuring safety for our children.

Ana Vasudeo, BUSD Board Member, strongly supports the position of a Crossing Guard at Spruce St. and Regal Rd. Sheila Collier, BUSD Transportation Manager, agrees that a Crossing Guard at Spruce and Regal would enhance safety for students and their families.

BACKGROUND

Situated in a dense residential neighborhood, adjacent to two of the City's *High Injury Streets* (Marin Ave & Spruce St), the daily weekday process of finding legal parking and crossing a busy and dangerous intersection to and from school in the morning and again in the afternoon is nerve-racking for parents, caregivers and students. A Crossing Guard positioned at the intersection of Regal and Spruce would ease this strain and create safe passages to Cragmont Elementary.

Half-time Crossing Guard Pay Rate for 12 months:

Pay Amounts		
FTE %	.4750	Recurring Pay
Hourly Rate	26.6762	26.6762
Daily Rate	101.3700	101.3700
Period Pay	1,013.70	1,013.70
Annual Pay	26,356.20	26,356.20
Remaining	.00	
Reference	26,356.20	

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Providing safe, enjoyable paths for young people to walk to their destination inspires a lifelong use of pedestrian modes of transportation.

CONTACT PERSON

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Council District 6

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