



CONSENT CALENDAR
June 17, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Adena Ishii (Author), Councilmember Lunaparra (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Taplin (Co-Sponsor), Council Humbert (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Resolution Reaffirming Our Commitment to Vision Zero and Transportation-Related Plans and Policies

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution reaffirming the City of Berkeley's Commitment to Vision Zero and Transportation-related plans and policies.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City of Berkeley has a history of advancing transportation safety measures to benefit its residents and visitors across the city. Ongoing attention and work is needed to continue Berkeley's commitment to advance its Vision Zero initiative and broader transportation policies, focusing on enhancing safety, sustainability, and equity. Maintaining priority of existing and future transportation safety work is paramount to ensuring the City moves forward in protecting its constituents and visitors when they travel throughout Berkeley, whether it is by public transit, walking, motor vehicle, bicycle, assisted mobility devices, and other manners of transit.

In 2021, the city recorded eight traffic-related deaths – the highest since at least 1984¹ – including five pedestrians, two vehicle occupants, and one solo driver. Following a fatal death of a 66-year-old pedestrian fatally struck at Ada and California streets, councilmembers moved forward with a referral to the City Manager to consider additional safety measures at similar intersections. This referral² requested staff to prioritize a study of intersections that include traffic diverters but do not feature stop signs and return with recommendations for potential safety enhancements, as well as a review past Council referrals for Adoption of National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) street design standards.

Background

As outlined in its 2018-2019 Strategic Plan, the City expressed a priority for building a transportation system that is safe, connected, sustainable, and equitable, aligning with the City's mission and core values. In this same period, Berkeley committed to a Vision Zero initiative³, aiming to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and severe injuries by 2028.

¹ See: <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2022/02/25/berkeley-traffic-collisions-fatalities-up-2021-police-data>

² See: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-02-11%20Item%207%20Study%20of%20Intersections%20with%20Traffic%20Diverters%20CM%20Humbert%20.pdf>

³ See: <https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/adopted-plans/vision-zero-action-plan>



Resolution Reaffirming Our Commitment to Vision Zero and
Transportation-Related Plans and Policies

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 17, 2025

This commitment was solidified with the adoption of the Vision Zero Action Plan in March 2020. The plan emphasizes creating safer transportation options for all, particularly for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users, through equitable, accountable, and data-driven strategies. A key component of the initiative is the establishment of the Vision Zero Coordinating Committee. This ad-hoc group comprised of city staff, public agency representatives, and community members who collaborated to guide the implementation of the action plan. This initiative represents the culmination of a multi-year, cross-departmental citywide effort in collaboration with a broad array of community partners to develop and prioritize a list of actions to achieve Berkeley's Vision Zero goal.

The City's commitment to expanding smart and equitable transportation plans and policies includes Berkeley's Transit-First Policy⁴. Passed in 2023, this policy underscores the City's commitment to prioritizing public transit over single-occupant vehicles. The implementation plan focuses on enhancing transit efficiency, reliability, and accessibility, with the goal of increasing ridership and developing robust transit corridors. The plan is designed to integrate into future updates of Berkeley's Strategic Transportation (BeST) Plan⁵, a comprehensive framework for transportation planning.

In 2024, the Berkeley Fire Department established an innovative Street Trauma Prevention (STP) Program, broadening the department's focus from crash response to also include crash prevention, a key component to improving traffic and transportation safety. It pioneers initiative by the City of Berkeley, aiming to reduce traffic-related injuries and fatalities through a collaborative approach that integrates emergency response insights into street design.

Through a community-wide process in response to Measure G⁶, the City developed its Climate Action Plan in 2009. It focused on improving energy efficiency, expanding renewable energy, promoting sustainable transportation, reducing waste, supporting local food systems, and enhancing community resilience to climate impacts.

In 2022, Council adopted the Equitable Safe Streets and Climate Justice Resolution⁷ that committed the City maintaining roads, sidewalks, and bike lanes to accelerate safety improvements aligned with City, State, and Federal street safety, equity, accessibility, and climate change policies, while also giving City departments direction for limiting their incorporation of Federal/State regulations that have been proven to lead

⁴ See: <https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/adopted-plans/berkeley-transit-first-policy-implementation-plan>

⁵ See: <https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/adopted-plans/berkeley-strategic-transportation-best-plan>

⁶ A 2006 voter initiative that set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 2000 levels by 2050.

⁷ See: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-09-13%20Item%2034%20Equitable%20Safe%20Streets%20and%20Climate.pdf>



Resolution Reaffirming Our Commitment to Vision Zero and
Transportation-Related Plans and Policies

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 17, 2025

to unsafe street designs. These steps further reinforce the City's commitment to evaluating the best practices that build traffic safety standards into our systems that match how we seek to protect our residents and visitors based on research-backed recommendations.

Through these initiatives, Berkeley demonstrates a proactive approach to creating a safer, more sustainable, and equitable transportation system for all its travelers.

FISCAL IMPACTS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

N/A

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Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF BERKELEY'S COMMITMENT TO
VISION ZERO AND TO IMPLEMENTING ADOPTED TRANSPORTATION PLANS AND
POLICIES

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley has expressed its desire to build a transportation system that is safe, sustainable, and equitable, consistent with the City's mission and core values as outlined in its 2018-2019 Strategic Plan.

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley committed through its 2020 Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries on city streets by 2028, primarily through engineering strategies; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Vision Zero Action Plan represented the culmination of a multi-year, cross-departmental citywide effort in collaboration with a broad array of community partners to develop and prioritize a list of actions to achieve Berkeley's Vision Zero goal; and

WHEREAS, despite its Vision Zero commitment, the City of Berkeley continues to suffer multiple traffic fatalities and serious injuries each year, and these collisions disproportionately affect people walking and biking, demonstrating that many Berkeley streets must still be redesigned with a safety focus; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council adopted the Berkeley Transit-First Policy Implementation Plan in 2023 to support Berkeley's goal of prioritizing public transit over single-occupant vehicles by improving transit efficiency, reliability, and accessibility, increasing ridership, and advancing the development of transit corridors; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Fire Department has established an innovative Street Trauma Prevention Program, broadening the Department's focus from crash response to also include crash prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council adopted the Climate Action Plan in 2009 that envisions transit, walking, cycling and other sustainable mobility modes as the primary means of transportation in Berkeley, and declared a Climate Emergency in 2018, yet the transportation sector continues to emit 58% of Berkeley's greenhouse gas emissions, limiting the City's progress; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has committed to building nearly 9,000 residential units by 2031, underscoring the need to ensure residents have access to safe, convenient multimodal transportation options; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council adopted a Pedestrian Plan in 2020, committing to making Berkeley a model walkable city where traveling on foot or with an assistive

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Resolution Reaffirming Our Commitment to Vision Zero and
Transportation-Related Plans and Policies

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 17, 2025

device is safe, comfortable, and convenient for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes, ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council adopted the Berkeley Bicycle Plan in 2017, committing to making make Berkeley a model bicycle-friendly city where bicycling is a safe, attractive, easy, and convenient form of transportation and recreation for people of all ages and bicycling abilities riding a bike in Berkeley safe for people of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley voters passed Measure FF in November 2024, authorizing a parcel tax to repair Berkeley's roads and sidewalks and requiring the City to complete safety projects recommended in adopted transportation plans when streets are resurfaced with FF funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley City Council reaffirms its commitment to fully implementing previously adopted transportation plans and policies, including the Vision Zero Action Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Berkeley Bicycle Plan, Berkeley Transit-First Policy Implementation Plan, Complete Streets Policy, Vision 2050 Framework, Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Policy, Repaving Plan, and Streets and Open Space Improvement Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley City Council reaffirms its commitment to fully implementing previously adopted transportation plans and policies, including the Vision Zero Action Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Berkeley Bicycle Plan, Berkeley Transit-First Policy Implementation Plan, Complete Streets Policy, Equitable Safe Streets and Climate Justice Resolution, Vision 2050 Framework, Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Policy, Repaving Plan, and Streets and Open Space Improvement Plan; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Berkeley City Council supports City staff efforts to streamline transportation project planning and delivery processes so as to more quickly implement the aforementioned plans and transform Berkeley's streets into safe, sustainable, accessible, and equitable public spaces.

