



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
October 28, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager  
Submitted by: Jennifer A. Louis, Chief of Police  
Subject: Revenue Grant: California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for the 2025-2026  
"Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Chief of Police to accept the "Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)" grant and enter into the resultant grant agreement and any amendments, with the California Office of Traffic Safety. This OTS grant is for \$240,000 for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, which is Federal Fiscal Year 2026.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The total of this project will not exceed \$240,000. Grant revenues will be deposited into budget code 309-71-703-812-0000-000-000-431110 to offset expenditures. Appropriation of the expenditures is being included in the First Amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance. This grant will fund overtime, benefits, equipment, training costs, and reduce additional General Fund expenditures.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Securing OTS grant funding is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.

Currently the Traffic Bureau at the Berkeley Police Department is staffed by two Motor Officers, one Traffic Data Analyst, a Sergeant, and a Lieutenant. Motor officers' responsibilities include injury-collision investigations and traffic enforcement; however, resources often deplete rapidly due to ancillary duties and personnel shortages in the operations/patrol division. OTS funding builds upon our current traffic safety efforts by allowing patrol and motor officers opportunities to address traffic safety issues-most significantly pedestrian and bicycle safety, distracted and impaired driving- in addition to and outside of their regularly scheduled duties. Additionally, the funds provide opportunities for leadership development and learning in traffic safety and DUI/impaired driving enforcement, and enhance the department's overall mission of public safety. This grant year's funding will allow for the purchase of Lidars for speed enforcement,

preliminary alcohol screening devices (PAS) for DUI investigations, and bicycle helmets for juvenile bicycle safety and education.

### BACKGROUND

Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has ranked the City of Berkeley in the top three for the past several years in pedestrian and bicycle related injury collisions when compared to sixty-one other cities with comparable populations. Each year hundreds of people are injured in traffic collisions that occur in the City of Berkeley. Berkeley maintains a high ranking in total fatal and injury collisions, hit and run injury collisions, motorcycle involved collisions, nighttime collisions, and speed related collisions. With assistance from the 2025-2026 Office of Traffic Safety STEP Grant we will continue our efforts to reduce the number of people injured in collisions whether they choose to walk, drive, bike or ride a motorcycle in our city.

In 2021, the City of Berkeley was ranked number 1 (1/60) for collisions involving bicyclists, number 2 (2/60) pedestrians, and 12 (12/61) for pedestrians over 65 years old and. Based on these statistics and OTS rankings, the City of Berkeley is one of the most dangerous cities in the State of California to walk or ride a bicycle.

Between January 1, 2015 and January 1, 2025 there have been twenty-nine fatal collisions in the City of Berkeley. Seventeen of those resulted in a pedestrian being killed, three resulted in a bicyclist being killed, and three involved drugs or alcohol. In 2024 alone, the Berkeley Police Department (BPD) investigated 4 fatal collisions, an increase from 2023.

The OTS Grant and the City Council's Vision Zero Program have shared ideologies. BPD's participation directly supports two of three of Vision Zero's tenets. BPD's efforts directly support Public Awareness Education and Traffic Enforcement. Public Awareness through our social media, departmental messaging, and direct contact with the public (in the field and at community meetings) and data-driven enforcement of primary collision factor offenses in areas where they have the highest probability of occurring.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The City of Berkeley continues to have one of the highest bicycle and pedestrian usage rates in the County of Alameda and, as a result, there are many bicyclists and pedestrians sharing the roadway with motorists. This grant will support the City of Berkeley's efforts to promote more sustainable forms of transportation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions-with the goal of reducing traffic injuries and fatalities related to all modes of transportation.

Revenue Grant: Fiscal Years 2025/2026 Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC)  
Alcohol Policing Partnership (APP) Grant

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**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Police Department requests this funding be approved to enhance our current mission of providing a safer environment for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and motorists on all City of Berkeley roadways and highways.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED**

The California Office of Traffic Safety currently provides the only known grant funding specific to traffic enforcement and related education. Not accepting this OTS grant would require additional overtime expenditures from General Fund resources or could result in a decrease in the overall safety of the people of Berkeley

**CONTACT PERSON**

Lieutenant Rashawn Cummings, Police Traffic Bureau, (510) 981-5983

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

REVENUE GRANT: SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP)  
GRANT FROM THE OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY TO FUND STRATEGIES TO  
REDUCE THE NUMBER OF INJURIES AND DEATHS RELATED TO TRAFFIC  
COLLISIONS IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

WHEREAS, the Police Department is committed to providing a safe and secure environment through law enforcement within the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has made grant funding available to the Police Department to assist them in their mission of increasing traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, this grant will provide funding to support efforts to reduce injury and fatal collisions involving pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and motorists on all City of Berkeley roadways and highways; and

WHEREAS, grant revenues will be deposited into budget code 309-71-703-812-0000-000-000-431110, in the DUI Enforcement Education Program Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Chief of Police is authorized to accept the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant and enter into the resultant grant agreement and any amendments, with the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to fund increased levels of impaired or distracted driving enforcement, nighttime seatbelt enforcement, motorcycle safety enforcement, and educational programs regarding bicycle and pedestrian collisions in the amount of \$240,000 for the period of October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026.