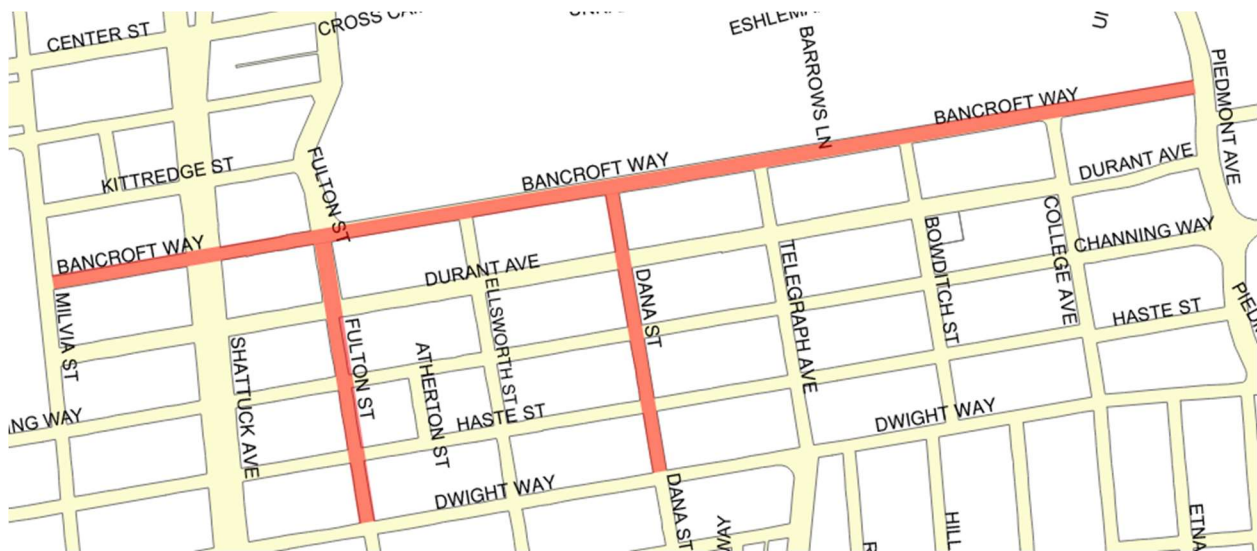




**Southside Complete Streets Project
Responses to Frequently-Asked Questions
October 31, 2023**

The following information is intended to address frequently asked questions about the City of Berkeley's Southside Complete Streets Project. Additional information may be added to address further questions, and updated on the project website:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/capital-projects/southside-complete-streets-project>



Conceptual Design – Approach

The Southside Complete Streets Project was developed in response to continued growth of commercial activity and residential occupancy in the Southside neighborhood, which has increased demands on the use of sidewalks and roadways for walking, biking, transit, ride-hailing, and commercial deliveries. In conjunction with citywide plans and policies to improve safety for the traveling public, transit reliability, and cultural vitality, and funded in large part by a federal-aid grant with a defined expiration date, the project is designed to address these identified challenges on its three corridors: **Bancroft Way** (Piedmont Avenue to Milvia Street), **Fulton Street** (Bancroft Way to Dwight Way), and **Dana Street** (Bancroft Way to Dwight Way).

The Southside Complete Streets Project was designed with the following three main goals:

- Ensure safety for all street users consistent with the City's Vision Zero policy.
- Improve transit reliability consistent with the City's Transit-First policy.
- Support the economic and cultural vitality of Berkeley's Southside neighborhood consistent with the Economic Development goals of the City's Southside Plan.

Conceptual options were prepared by the City's design consultant, overseen by City staff, to address the project goals. The conceptual options were analyzed using two filters: (1) public input from stakeholder and public outreach and engagement activities and (2) technical analysis, including qualitative and quantitative criteria to assess how well each design option performed in meeting the project's primary goals. Technical analysis also included a comparison of each option to "baseline" operation metrics to identify potential fatal flaws, including traffic operations, parking effects, accessibility, construction impacts and costs, fire marshal requirements, and streets maintenance.

A detailed summary of the analyses of conceptual options is available on the project website, under "Past Events", in the January 7, 2022 Institutional Stakeholder Group Meeting presentation, pages 25-47. An overall summary of the results of public input and technical analyses is available on the project website, under "Past Events", in the February 22, 2022 Council Meeting council report, page 5.

Community Engagement – General Summary

Community engagement activities for the City of Berkeley Southside Complete Streets project occurred between October 2021 and February 2022 and consisted of the following:

- Numerous public meetings were held with various City commissions, City Council, community groups, transit operators, UC Berkeley, City departments, and business districts.
- Two public open house meetings were conducted on November 10, 2021 and January 27, 2022. A total of 80 community members attended the first meeting; 56 attended the second meeting.
- An online survey was available to all Berkeley residents from October 27, 2021 through November 28, 2021 and received 1,358 responses.
- A project website was established and updated with detailed information about the project.
- Notifications to promote the two public open house meetings and the online survey consisted of flyers and posters that were distributed to all residences and businesses throughout the project area, along with sidewalk decals that were installed in key locations such as near AC Transit bus stops. Notifications for Open House #1 were distributed on October 20, 2021. Postcard notices for Open House #2 were mailed on January 10, 2022. Approximately 1,500 notifications were distributed in advance of each Open House. Sidewalk decals were installed on October 27, 2021 for Open House #1 and on January 17, 2022 for Open House #2.
- Additional outreach to promote the public events consisted of:
 - Email blasts, which were sent to public and institutional stakeholder lists.
 - Multiple postings by the City on social media.
 - City's project website.
 - Social media postings by AC Transit and UC Berkeley.

Associated documents from public meetings, including a summary of the community engagement process, are available on the project website, under "Documents".

Community Engagement – Shell Gas Station

Targeted community engagement activities occurred during the development of the Southside Complete Streets project. Below is a summary of specific outreach activities with the Shell gas station at the southeast corner of the Fulton Street/Durant Avenue intersection regarding access into and out of the gas station by a tanker truck.

- City staff visited the gas station on May 4, 2022 and spoke with the owners. From this discussion, staff prepared a diagram of the gas station tanker truck operations in relation to the gas station driveways and fuel tanks.
- A subsequent meeting occurred on May 10, 2022, in which City staff met with the owners who identified the tanker company and arranged a future meeting on site.
- A third meeting occurred on May 26, 2022. The City’s design team met on site with the gas station owners, tanker truck vendor representative, and tanker truck driver to discuss their circulation needs and observe actual tanker truck operations. The tanker truck entered the gas station from the northernmost driveway on Fulton Street; it exited the site from the westernmost driveway on Durant Avenue. Following this meeting, a City traffic engineer analyzed tanker truck turn movements into and out of the site and prepared sketches to refine the design concepts to accommodate such tanker truck turn movements into and out of the site. The refined concepts were incorporated into the project plans.

City Council Actions – General Summary

City Council took actions in several Council meetings during the development of the Southside Complete Streets project. The most recent actions are associated with the development of conceptual and final designs and are summarized below.

- February 22, 2022:
 - Approval of conceptual designs. Graphics of the conceptual designs are available on the project website, under “Past Events”, in the Council Report document, pages 13-18.
 - Directed City Manager to direct staff to proceed with detailed engineering design.
- June 27, 2023
 - Approval of plans and specifications. Excerpts from the approved plans are available on the project website, under “Past Events”, in the Council Agenda packet document, pages 18-33.
 - Acceptance of low bid from construction contractor.
 - Authorized City Manager to execute a contract with the construction contractor.

A more detailed summary of City Council actions associated with this project is available on the project website, under “Past Events”, in the June 27, 2023 Council Agenda packet document, pages 5-12.

Final Design – Stakeholder Outreach

During the detailed design phase of the Project, which occurred after Council approved the conceptual design on February 22, 2022, City staff worked closely with the following stakeholders to develop and refine the design, including dozens of staff from the following departments and groups:

- *City Public Works Department: Transportation, Engineering, Zero Waste, Streets & Utilities*
- *City Fire Department (BFD): Fire Marshal*
- *City Police Department*
- *Parks Department: Urban Forestry, Maintenance*
- *City Planning Department*
- *City Office of Economic Development*
- *Telegraph Business Improvement District (TBID)*
- *Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA)*
- *UC Berkeley: Planning & Capital Strategies; Transportation; Fire; Police; Facilities, Operations & Maintenance; Housing & Dining; Cal Performances; Government & Community Relations; Public Information Office; Cal Athletics; Cal Recreational Sports*
- *Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL): Shuttle Operator*
- *AC Transit: Planning, Traffic Engineering, Operations*
- *East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD): Engineering*

Specific stakeholders indicated in *italics* above were afforded several opportunities to provide input at various stages of the detailed design phase, including review and comment on 35%, 65%, and 95% draft submittals. Other stakeholders were engaged at vital points during the design process depending on their particular input relative to the development of corresponding elements of the design. Key dates involving coordination with stakeholders during the detailed design phase include the following:

Stakeholder Engagement – Key Dates in Detailed Engineering Design Phase

March 7, 2022	DBA Field Visit (and follow-up design refinement discussions through May 2022)
April 7, 2022	Initial Project review meeting with BFD at pre-35% design stage
April 25, 2022	35% design submittal for review by ISG
May 10, 2022	35% design review meeting with ISG
June 23, 2022	Pre-65% design submittal for review by BFD
July 15, 2022	65% design submittal for review by ISG
July 19, 2022	On-site meeting with Zero Waste Division of the Public Works Department to review affected properties to ensure continued waste and recycling collection operations
July 27, 2022	Detailed Project review meeting with BFD
August 1, 2022	65% design review meeting with ISG
October 17, 2022	95% design submittal for review by ISG
November 29, 2022	Design review meeting with TBID
December 14, 2022 – February 15, 2023	Numerous meetings and correspondence with various groups from UC Berkeley

City staff received and addressed approximately 1,000 comments from stakeholders during this extensive review process. The final project plans and specifications were prepared as a result of this process.

On April 27, 2023, during the bid period which occurred from March 31, 2023 to May 4, 2023, City staff received a conditional approval of the Project design from BFD, which included three additional comments. Discussions between City staff and BFD ensued and, as a result, BFD formally approved the design of the Project on May 26, 2023.

Final Design – On-Street Parking

The June 27, 2023 Council Report (available on the project website, under “Past Events”, in the Council Agenda packet document, page 4) includes estimates of the number of on-street parking spaces in the final design of the Southside Complete Streets project. These estimates can vary from the actual number of parking spaces due to vehicle length and relative spacing between parked vehicles.

Plan sheets for the design of Bancroft Way, Fulton Street, and Dana Street are available on the project website, under “Past Events”, in the June 27, 2023 Council Agenda packet document, pages 18-33.

Fulton Street – On-Street Parking

Specifically for Fulton Street, the breakdown of the estimates for number of on-street parking spaces is indicated below.

Bancroft to Durant:

- West side: existing 0, future 9 (including 1 accessible space)
- East side: existing 7, future 0

Durant to Channing:

- West side: existing 8, future 7
- East side: existing 4, future 0

Channing to Haste:

- West side: existing 9, future 6 (including 1 accessible space)
- East side: existing 8, future 0

Haste to Dwight:

- West side: existing 10, future 6 (including 1 accessible space)
- East side: existing 9, future 0

Plan sheets for the design of Fulton Street are available on the project website, under “Past Events”, in the June 27, 2023 Council Agenda packet document, pages 28-30.

Fulton Street – Transit and Bikes

Public transit (buses) currently do not run on Fulton Street within the project area (Bancroft Way to Dwight Way). The Southside Complete Streets Project will not add any bus routes to Fulton Street.

A bike share station currently exists on the east side of Fulton Street, south of the Bancroft Way intersection. The project will relocate this station approximately 150 feet to the north to the east side of Fulton Street, north of the Bancroft Way intersection.

Construction – What to Expect

Construction of the Southside Complete Streets Project is anticipated to start in November 2023. Construction cannot begin until the contractor submits a construction phasing plan that meets the project requirements, which includes considerations for ongoing operations and access on the roadways, such as waste/recycling pickup, emergency access, commercial and passenger loading, access to parking garages, maintenance of bus routes, maintenance of bikeways and pedestrian routes, performances and other major scheduled events, and special events.

The project construction duration depends on the implemented phasing plan. In general, larger phase extents would allow construction to be finished sooner but with more potential impacts on ongoing operations, whereas smaller phase extents would break the project into smaller areas of work in an effort to further reduce potential impacts to operations and would result in a longer overall duration. Inclement weather would also affect the construction duration. For example, if rainy weather occurs when subsurface work is scheduled, or if cold weather occurs when roadway paving is scheduled, the construction duration would be extended. The construction duration is estimated to range from approximately 12 months minimum to 18 or more months.

During construction, expect temporary lane closures, detours, reduction of on-street parking spaces, reduction and/or relocation of commercial and passenger loading zones, closures of some crosswalks, rerouted bicycle facilities, relocated bus stops, and changes to waste/recycling pickup locations. There is a possibility of night work for roadway paving operations. Two general purpose vehicle lanes (for all vehicles, including buses, cars, and trucks) should be open during the daytime, including peak travel times. All travelers should exercise heightened caution along the project corridors: Bancroft Way (Piedmont Avenue to Milvia Street), Fulton Street (Bancroft Way to Dwight Way), and Dana Street (Bancroft Way to Dwight Way).

Communication about upcoming construction activities will be broadcast in advance via the following:

- Project website:
<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/capital-projects/southside-complete-streets-project>
- Postcards/written notices to addresses on the project corridors: Bancroft Way (Piedmont Avenue to Milvia Street), Fulton Street (Bancroft Way to Dwight Way), and Dana Street (Bancroft Way to Dwight Way).
- City social media postings
- Informational postings by AC Transit and UC Berkeley

Construction-related inquiries should be directed to the City's resident engineer, Steve Patterson, at spatterson@park-eng.com , 510-508-2047.