

DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

May 28, 2025

7:00 PM

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Andy Katz

District 1 – Michael Wilson
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet
District 3 – Todd Darling
District 4 – Robert Kinosian

District 5 – Shirley Dean
District 6 – Greg Murphy*
District 7 – Taj Herzer-Baptiste
District 8 – Theo Gordon**

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order:

Approval of the Agenda

*Discussion –
Agenda approved as amended by Acclamation or Vote?*

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

Public speakers:

1. Chairperson's Report
2. Fire Department Staff Report

REGULAR AGENDA MATTERS *All Regular agenda Matters are for discussion and possible action.*

3. **Action/Discussion:** Minutes of April 23, 2025 (Murphy)
Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of the April 23, 2025 regular meeting

- Written Material:** DFSC 4/23/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 4. Discussion:** Measure GG/FF Budget Presentation Part 2 (Staff)
- Recommendation:** None
- Written Material:** 3rd Quarter Reports
- 5. Action/Discussion:** Recommendation to City Council on the Measure GG/FF Tax Rate Adjustments (Murphy)
- Recommendation:** Approve the increase to use the 2026 PIG Tax Rate Adjustments.
- Written Material:** Memo to Berkeley Budget Office
- 6. Discussion/Action:** EMBER Ordinance & Building Codes (Murphy)
- Recommendation:** Support of proposed EMBER Ordinance and Change to Building Codes Improving Fire Resilience
- Written Material:** Draft Memo To Council
- 7. Discussion/Action:** 25/26 DFSC Work Plan (Murphy)
- Recommendation:** Amendment and Approval of Individual Activities Proposed in a 2025-2026 DFSC Work Plan That Will Be Finalized and Submitted To City Council for Approval
- Written Material:** Draft 25/26 DFSC Work Plan
- 8. Discussion/Action:** Reschedule August 6, 2025 Regular DFSC Meeting (Murphy)
- Recommendation:** Reschedule 8/6/2025 Regular Meeting to 7/30/2025 (or Amended to 8/13/2025)
- 9. Discussion/Action:** Letter To Assemblymember Wicks Re: AB612 (Wilson)
- Recommendation:** Request Berkeley City Council to send the attached recommendation to Assemblyman Wicks adding section 14033.5 to the Government Code, as follows:

“On or before July 1, 2026, the department shall update the Highway Design Manual to direct local governments to consult with local fire departments when making road improvements to ensure the improvements do not negatively impact emergency response times.”

Written Material: Draft Report to Berkeley City Council and AB 601 Analysis May 2025

10. Work Group Reports

Receive reporting on recent activities by the following work groups:

- Plan& Budget Oversight
- Home Hardening
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Safe Passages
- Community Outreach
- Vision Zero

11.

Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

-

Adjournment

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Keith May, kmay@berkeleyca.gov 510-981-5508.

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. Please note: E-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required but, if included in any communication to a City board, commission, or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Berkeley Fire Department located at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

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I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City’s Disaster and Fire Safety Commission was posted at the front of the Division of Training, 997 Cedar Street, as well as on the City’s website, three days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting.

SECRETARY SIGNATURE *Keith May* 5/22/2025

## DFSC Staff Report

May 28, 2025

### 1. Measure FF Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview –

b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November

Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February

Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in **May**

Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report due in October

i. Program Review

- **WUI Interns** – The Interns provide Berkeley Fire Department with a trained, mobile and mission-specific workforce that is principally assigned to monitor vegetative hazardous fuel on or near structures, collect data, and identify reduction activities
  - **Updates:** No New Updates
- **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections –**
  - **Updates:** No New Updates
  - **Safe Passage - The Fire Department has contracted with a vendor to help the City of Berkeley meet requirements outlined in SB 99, AB 747, and AB 1409, provide City with professional services in the areas of traffic and evacuation modeling and planning, given various evacuation and/or emergency response scenarios as determined by the City.**
    - **Update:** No New Updates.

### 2. Measure GG Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview – No new update

b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November

Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February

Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in **May**

Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report due in October

- ### 3. Fire Facilities Master Plan (FMP): Berkeley Fire Department stations are undersized, in poor condition and in need of remodels or replacement. The Department initiated a long-term replacement planning process to better understand infrastructure needs. This process will provide the City leaders of today and tomorrow with actionable information ahead of future infrastructure bond measures. *(Measure FF has funded the study only)*

- a. Update: **No new update**

4. Department Activities

- a. **114<sup>th</sup> Firefighter Academy:** Entry level interviews were held from April 14<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chief Interviews and EMS Skills Exam started on the 19<sup>th</sup> and will conclude the first week of June.
- b. **EMS-06 Paramedic Academy:** The interviews and EMS skills exam is complete. Candidates are now in the background process.
- c. **First-In Camp:** This year thirty people spent two days at our Drill Tower getting a taste of what it’s like to be a firefighter. This is a well-orchestrated and positive event for all of the participants and for our own staff who participate. Mayor Ishi, City Manager Buddenhagen, along with the Chief Sprague attended part of the event and saw first-hand the high energy that was on display.

5. Call Volume Report

| <b>Fire Department Report by California Incident Type</b>                                                                                                                                                   |     |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--|
| <b>April</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                |     |  |
| <b>Fires – including Encampment Fires</b><br>(structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,                                                                              | 22  |  |
| <b>Explosion - no fire</b><br>(overpressure ruptures, explosions)                                                                                                                                           | 0   |  |
| <b>Rescue &amp; EMS</b> (medical assist, vehicle accident                                                                                                                                                   | 887 |  |
| <b>Hazardous Condition - no fire</b><br>(combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles) | 50  |  |

|                                                                                                                                   |              |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Service Calls</b> (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby) | 95           |  |
| <b>Good Intent</b> (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)                                   | 106          |  |
| <b>False Alarm Calls</b> (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)                                                 | 189          |  |
| <b>Severe WX</b> (lightening, wind storms)                                                                                        | 0            |  |
| <b>Special Incidents</b> (citizen complaints)                                                                                     | 0            |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                                                                      | <b>1,349</b> |  |
| <b>Apparatus Count</b>                                                                                                            |              |  |
|                                                                                                                                   | <b>2,945</b> |  |

### **DFSC Action Tracker**

| Date of DFSC Action | Description                                                                                                                                                        | Status                                                                                                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3/26/2025</b>    | Remove the 1-year pre-transfer eligibility restriction of the transfer tax rebate for wildfire hardening from BMC 7.52.060, to encourage early mitigation efforts. | Referred to the Budget & Finance Committee and heard on 5/22/25. Committee has postponed item to a future date. |

Public

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|

# WILDLAND FIRE MITIGATION MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2025

Prepared by the SPP Division



## Program Data - Cumulative 2024-2025 (+/- current month)



### Grizzly Peak Clean-up

<https://www.berkeleyfiresafe.org/grizzly-peak>

- Completed Wildcat Canyon Rd (1.8 miles total)
- .76 miles of the 2.28 miles cleared on Grizzly Peak Blvd.
- 199.1 tons of vegetation removed between February 17 & April 29, 2025



### FireWise Application Status



16 FireWise Communities 3 Pending / In-Progress



### Home Hardening Mesh Program



206 (+38) Applications



121 (+18) Pickups



58 (+25) Deliveries



### Eucalyptus Understory Program



49 (+6) Applications



24 (+0) Properties Completed



127,514 Total Spent



### Chipping Program

The Chipper Program restarted the week of March 17, to coincide with the start of the 2025 defensible space inspection season.



3534 (+543.5) Cubic yards removed



1213 (+119) Pickups



32 (+4) Weeks Completed

## Defensible Space Inspections YTD (+/- current month)

636 (+111) Inspections

19 (+4) Re-Inspections

134 (+22) Violations

256 (+116) Discoveries

443 (+39) Resolved Violations

11 (+0) Total Citations

47 (+1) Resolved Items

25.3% Full Inspection Access

Inspections

Re-Inspections

Violations

Discoveries

Resolved Violations

Total Citations

Resolved Items

Full Inspection Access

## Right of Entry Agreement Program

RoE program invitations were emailed to residents on April 9, 2025.

Within the first month of the RoE launch, full access inspections increased from 39.2% to 57.9%.

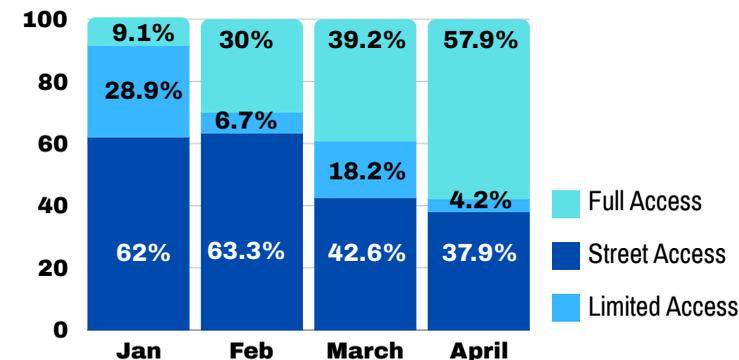


5,627 Invitations Sent



402 RoE's Signed

## Inspection Access %



## Announcements

### Resident Assistance Program

Resident Assistance Program applications open June 2<sup>nd</sup> with contractor work expected to begin first week in July.

## EMBER Initiative Timeline

### Effective Mitigations for Berkeley's Ember Resilience (EMBER)

- Introduced EMBER- January 2025
- First Reading of the Ordinance- March 2025
- Council Meeting to Adopt the Resolution- April 15, 2025
- Public Hearing to Adopt the Code- June 17, 2025
- Education Campaign May – December 2025
- Increased Services and Support May 2025
- Enforcement by Inspection January 1, 2026
- Reduced Risk of Loss Zone 4 2026

**FY2025 Measure GG**  
**Quarterly Report - Q3**

| Program                   | Original Budget     | Revised Budget      | Actuals                  |                         |                         |                         | Q3 Total            | % Budget Available | Available Budget    |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
|                           |                     |                     | Q1<br>July-Sept.<br>2024 | Q2<br>Oct.-Dec.<br>2024 | Q3<br>Jan.-Mar.<br>2025 | Q4<br>Apr.-June<br>2025 |                     |                    |                     |
| Disaster Prep             | \$ 1,105,797        | \$ 1,287,823        | \$ 212,116               | \$ 296,996              | \$ 261,634              | \$ -                    | \$ 770,746          | 54%                | \$ 596,684          |
| FRALS                     | \$ 407,159          | \$ 407,159          | \$ 19,459                | \$ 72,713               | \$ 135,755              | \$ -                    | \$ 227,927          | 77%                | \$ 314,987          |
| Minimum Staffing          | \$ 3,072,342        | \$ 3,072,342        | \$ 1,195,712             | \$ 5,864                | \$ 246,203              | \$ -                    | \$ 1,447,779        | 61%                | \$ 1,870,766        |
| Radio Interoperability    | \$ 667,327          | \$ 894,227          | \$ 258,046               | \$ 5,928                | \$ 372,582              | \$ -                    | \$ 636,556          | 60%                | \$ 403,354          |
| Training                  | \$ 339,165          | \$ 339,165          | \$ 78,611                | \$ 101,163              | \$ 93,675               | \$ -                    | \$ 273,449          | 47%                | \$ 159,391          |
| Community Outreach - HHCS | \$ 308,799          | \$ 309,249          | \$ 45,884                | \$ 61,999               | \$ 47,675               | \$ -                    | \$ 155,557          | 65%                | \$ 200,916          |
| <b>Totals</b>             | <b>\$ 5,900,588</b> | <b>\$ 6,309,964</b> | <b>\$ 1,809,828</b>      | <b>\$ 544,664</b>       | <b>\$ 1,157,523</b>     | <b>\$ -</b>             | <b>\$ 3,512,014</b> | <b>60%</b>         | <b>\$ 3,546,097</b> |

**FY25 Year-To-Date Quarter Report Measure FF**  
July to June 2025

| PROGRAM/VENDOR                       | AMOUNT           | FY25 BUDGET       | % USED        | NOTES                                   |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Administration</b>                | <b>870,132</b>   | <b>1,622,545</b>  | <b>53.63%</b> |                                         |
| B&H PHOTO                            | 2,527            |                   |               | Misc. Office Supplies                   |
| BERKELEY OFFICE INTERIORS            | 1,352            |                   |               | Office Furniture                        |
| BLAISDELL                            | 669              |                   |               | Misc. Office Supplies                   |
| CONFERENCE EXPENSES                  | 13,724           |                   |               | Professional development                |
| CARASOFT TECHNOLOGY                  | 6,410            |                   |               | Smartsheet license                      |
| COOKE AND ASSOCIATES INC             | 90,972           |                   |               | Background Checks                       |
| INTERIOR MOTIONS                     | 0                |                   |               | Office Furniture                        |
| INTTERRA LLC                         | 52,606           |                   |               | Situational Awareness Consultant        |
| SANTA ROSA JUNION COLLEGE            | 156              |                   |               | Enrollment fees                         |
| <b>SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>       | <b>528,980</b>   |                   |               | <b>Salary &amp; Benefits</b>            |
| SMITH & WALTERS                      | 165,432          |                   |               | Fire Headquarters Expenses              |
| WELLS FARGO BANK                     | 7,304            |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| <b>Dispatch</b>                      | <b>190,751</b>   | <b>341,647</b>    | <b>55.83%</b> |                                         |
| MISSION CRITICAL                     | 5,074            |                   |               | Phase 2 Dispatch needs Analysis         |
| <b>SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>       | <b>185,678</b>   |                   |               | <b>Salary &amp; Benefits</b>            |
| <b>EMS</b>                           | <b>1,967,258</b> | <b>3,461,828</b>  | <b>56.83%</b> |                                         |
| ALCO HealthCare Svcs Agency          | 2,500            |                   |               | Dues                                    |
| ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF               | 2,472            |                   |               | Enrollment fees                         |
| ALLSTAR FIRE EQUIPMENT               | 10,564           |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| B & H PHOTO                          | 3,111            |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| BOUND TREE MEDICAL                   | 5,182            |                   |               | Office chairs                           |
| BRAUN NORTHWEST INC                  | 1,047            |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| CONFERENCE EXPENSES                  | 2,033            |                   |               | Professional development                |
| CROSSFIT OAKLAND LLC                 | 250              |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| DELL Marketing LLC                   | 15,317           |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| FSOC LLC                             | 4,855            |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| HESCO ARMOR INC                      | 8,088            |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| HOLT of California                   | 1,870            |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| INT SVC - VEHICLE REPLACEMENTS       | 98,496           |                   |               | Vehicle Replacement Fund                |
| INT SVC - VEHICLE FUEL/MAINT         | 21,806           |                   |               | Vehicle Fuel and Maintenance            |
| KNOX CO                              | 2,749            |                   |               | CLOUD LICENSE                           |
| LAURA KOKINDA                        | 15,300           |                   |               | Pre-Employment Evaluations              |
| LEHR AUTO ELECTRIC                   | 64,474           |                   |               | Vehicle                                 |
| LEXIPOL LLC                          | 1,545            |                   |               | Evaluations                             |
| ORKIN EXTERMINATING                  | 4,505            |                   |               | Exterminator                            |
| PYRAMID FILMS CORP                   | 411              |                   |               | CPR Cards and Training Courses          |
| <b>SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>       | <b>1,629,954</b> |                   |               | <b>Salary &amp; Benefits</b>            |
| SANTA ROSA JR COLLGE                 | 333              |                   |               | Training Fees                           |
| STATE OF CALIF                       | 30               |                   |               | Training Fees                           |
| STRYKER SALES CORP                   | 39,956           |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| TECHNIMOUNT SYSTEMS                  | 805              |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| WELLS FARGO BANK N.A.                | 6,258            |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| Western Truck Fabric                 | 3,552            |                   |               |                                         |
| WMI SPORT Ltd                        | 469              |                   |               | Patch Panel                             |
| ZOLL MEDICAL CORP HEADQUATER         | 19,328           |                   |               | EKG monitors for new ambulances         |
| <b>Operations</b>                    | <b>290,863</b>   | <b>1,244,862</b>  | <b>23.37%</b> |                                         |
| BERKELEY OFFICE INTERIORS            | 1,253            |                   |               | Office Furniture                        |
| BLAISDELL                            | 367              |                   |               | Misc. Office Supplies                   |
| CONFERENCE EXPENSES                  | 177              |                   |               | Professional development                |
| ELS ARCHITECTURE                     | 17,374           |                   |               | New fire headquarters design/management |
| FIRE GRANTS EXPERTS                  | 5,500            |                   |               | Safer Grant Application work            |
| L.N. CURTIS                          | 1,539            |                   |               | Tech Rescue Equipment                   |
| PROTECTOR BOATS SERV                 | 2,650            |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| <b>SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>       | <b>101,148</b>   |                   |               | <b>Salaries and Benefits</b>            |
| SIEGEL & STRAIN ARCHITECTS           | 43,237           |                   |               | Fire Facilities Master Planning Process |
| SWIFTHAWK CONSULTING                 | 100,229          |                   |               | Project Management                      |
| VERDE ENVIRONMENTAL                  | 14,325           |                   |               | Fire Extinguishing agent                |
| WELLS FARGO BANK                     | 3,063            |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| <b>Paramedics Tax</b>                |                  | <b>737,718</b>    |               |                                         |
|                                      |                  |                   |               | No expenses yet                         |
| <b>Training</b>                      | <b>325,742</b>   | <b>600,000</b>    | <b>54.29%</b> |                                         |
| ALAMEDA COUNTY TRAINING OFFICERS     | 327              |                   |               | Dues                                    |
| ALLIANCE GRAPHICS                    | 1,495            |                   |               | Materials/Printing                      |
| B&H PHOTO                            | 5,483            |                   |               | Misc. Office Supplies                   |
| CONFERENCE EXPENSES                  | 937              |                   |               | Professional development                |
| DEPT. OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION  | 4,480            |                   |               | Reaccreditation Training                |
| INTREPID LEADERSHIP GROUP            | 26,520           |                   |               | Professional development                |
| JONES BARTLETT                       | 3,271            |                   |               | Training Materials                      |
| MALLORY SAFETY SUPPLY                | 26,469           |                   |               | SBCA Supplies                           |
| NICHOLAS CORP                        | 70,604           |                   |               | Vehicle                                 |
| O2X HUMAN PERFORMANCE, LLC           | 27,047           |                   |               | Employee Health and Wellness            |
| <b>SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>       | <b>145,464</b>   |                   |               | <b>Salaries and Benefits</b>            |
| TRUITT & WHITE LUMBER                | 3,718            |                   |               | Supplies                                |
| WELLS FARGO BANK N.A.                | 9,928            |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| <b>WUI/FP</b>                        | <b>2,022,607</b> | <b>3,466,977</b>  | <b>58.34%</b> |                                         |
| BAY AREA TREE SPECIALISTS            | 67,825           |                   |               | Hazardous Vegetation Treatment          |
| BLAISDELL'S BUSINESS PRODUCTS        | 805              |                   |               | Misc. Office Supplies                   |
| BRENDAN DEVLIN                       | 36,260           |                   |               | Chipper Day Program Mgmt                |
| CALTOPO LLC                          | 2,000            |                   |               | Software License                        |
| CRI-SF                               | 101              |                   |               | Misc. Office Supplies                   |
| DATA TICKETS                         | 1,416            |                   |               | Materials/Printing                      |
| DEPT. OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION  | 1,875            |                   |               | Professional development                |
| FIREASIDE, INC                       | 41,931           |                   |               | Defensible Space Inspection Software    |
| GENASYS INC                          | 22,000           |                   |               | Outdoor Alerting System                 |
| GRAINGER INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY           | 56               |                   |               | Supplies                                |
| INT SVC - CITY PKG PERMITS           | 27,547           |                   |               | Employee parking permits                |
| KLD ENGINEERING, P.C.                | 46,994           |                   |               | Evacuation & Response Time Study        |
| LEHR AUTO ELECTRIC                   | 62,746           |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| MAILING SYSTEMS INC                  | 6,240            |                   |               | Materials/Printing                      |
| NICHOLAS K CORPORATION               | 14,975           |                   |               | Vehicle                                 |
| PACHECO LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT         | 44,429           |                   |               | Hazardous Vegetation Treatment          |
| RRM DESIGN GROUP                     | 2,379            |                   |               | Landscape plan design revision          |
| <b>SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>       | <b>1,407,935</b> |                   |               | <b>Salary &amp; Benefits</b>            |
| SINGLE CYLINDER REPAIR               | 397              |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| Transfer Station Chipper Day Program | 19,852           |                   |               | Chipper Day Program                     |
| VERIZON WIRELESS (AIRTIME)           | 5,454            |                   |               | Phone Service                           |
| WELLS FARGO BANK N.A.                | 2,142            |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| WILDFIRE DEFENSE MESH                | 122,867          |                   |               | Equipment                               |
| WILDLAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT         | 84,382           |                   |               | Review threat of Wildfire               |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                   | <b>5,667,354</b> | <b>11,475,577</b> | <b>49.39%</b> |                                         |

# DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

## REGULAR MEETING

**April 23, 2025**

**7:00 PM**

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Andy Katz

District 1 – Michael Wilson  
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet  
District 3 – Todd Darling  
District 4 – Robert Kinosian

District 5 – Shirley Dean  
District 6 – Greg Murphy\*  
District 7 – Taj Herzer-Baptiste  
District 8 – Theo Gordon\*\*

### AGENDA

#### Preliminary Matters

**Call to Order:** 7:16 pm  
**Present:** Murphy, Gordon, Wilson, Herzer-Baptiste,  
**Late:** Katz (7:16) Darling (7:18)  
**Absent:** Dean, Kinosian, Bradstreet  
**Public Present:** 5

#### Approval of the Agenda

*Discussion – switching Items 5 and 6  
Agenda approved as amended by Acclamation.*

#### Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

*Public speakers: 5*

1. Chairperson's Report – switch August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting
2. Fire Department Staff Report

**REGULAR AGENDA MATTERS** *All Regular agenda Matters are for discussion and possible action.*

- 3. Action:** Minutes of March 26, 2025 (Chair)
- Recommendation:** Approve the Draft Minutes of the March 26, 2025 Regular Meeting.
- Written Material:** DFSC 3/26/25 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes
- 4. Discussion/Action:** Fire Weather Outreach (Staff)
- Written Material:** PowerPoint Presentation
- 5. Discussion:** Review 2025/2026 Work Plan Groups (Murphy)
- Recommendation:** The commission reviews and provides input into the following draft workgroup plans for 2025-2026. Develop an ad hoc work group to further develop a draft plan for the 2025-2026 Work Plan based on the following potential groups and input from other commissioners.
- Written Material:** Possible 2025-2026 DFSC Work Plan  
Public Comment: 3
- 6. Discussion/Action:** Review Understanding of Work Group Plans (Murphy)
- Recommendation:** Confirm Assignments and Work Group Plans
- Motion:** To form an ad-hoc work group to review everyone's proposal for the Work Groups as well as the commission comments and any input from staff and then draft a resolution for the May meeting. (Passed)
- Motion to approve: Gordon  
Second: Herzer-Baptiste  
Vote: Ayes: Katz, Wilson, Herzer-Baptiste, Gordon, Darling, Murphy  
Nays: 0  
Absent: Dean, Kinosian, Bradstreet
- Written Material:** Work Groups and Work Plans Document, 2023-2024 Work Plan
- 7. Discussion/Action:** Letter Regarding AB612 (Wilson)

The DFSC recommends that Council submit a letter to Assembly member Wicks, recommending that she work with her colleagues to revise AB 612 by (1) including mention of the role of fire departments in advancing street trauma prevention, alongside their role in ensuring effective and timely street trauma response; and (2) including definitions for the terms “negatively” and “response times.” We recommend that Council work with representatives of DFSC and the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission (TIC) in developing the text of the letter

**Recommendation:** Approve Referral to City Council  
**Motion:** Approve Referral to City Council and include Senator Arreguin (Not Passed)

**Written Material:** Commission Report Draft, Rogers AB612

Public Comment: 1  
Motion to approve: Gordon  
Second: Wilson  
Vote: Ayes: Katz, Wilson, Herzer-Baptiste, Gordon  
Nays: Darling, Murphy  
Absent: Dean, Kinosian, Bradstreet

**8. Work Group Reports**

Receive reporting on recent activities by the following work groups:

- Plan & Budget Oversight
- Home Hardening
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Safe Passages
- Community Outreach
- Vision Zero

**9. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps**

- PIG/CPI Recommendation Memo to City Council
- Evacuation Study Update

\*Chair

\*\*Vice-Chair

**Adjournment:** By Acclamation 9:04pm

*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Keith May, [kmay@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:kmay@berkeleyca.gov) 510-981-5508.*

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: E-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required but, if included in any communication to a City board, commission, or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information.*

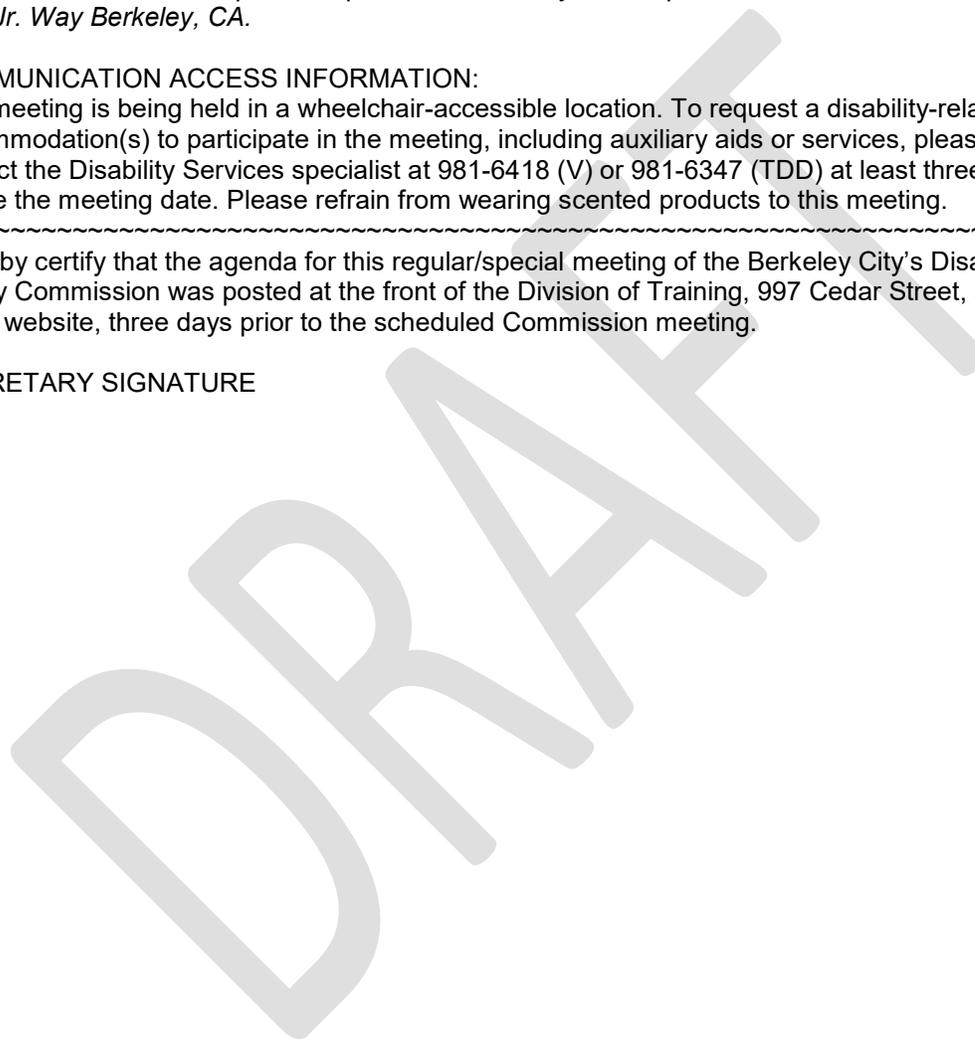
*Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Berkeley Fire Department located at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA.*

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

~~~~~  
I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City's Disaster and Fire Safety Commission was posted at the front of the Division of Training, 997 Cedar Street, as well as on the City's website, three days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting.

SECRETARY SIGNATURE



Fy26 Measure GG & FF Tax Rate

Annually, the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) makes a recommendation on the property tax rate that Measures GG and now FF have the option of using. Either the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or Personal Income Growth (PIG) can be applied. At this time, the PIG rate is 6.44%. The CPI rate is 1.30%

Motion to Recommend City Council Adopt Yearly Adjustments of Measure GG and Measure FF Tax Rate using the CPI rate:



Office of the City Manager

DATE: May 28, 2025
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Submitted by: Greg Murphy, Chair
Subject: MEMO: SUPPORT OF PROPOSED EMBER ORDINANCE AND CHANGE TO BUILDING CODES IMPROVING FIRE RESILIENCE

On January 22, 2025, the DFSC met and unanimously approved supporting the proposed ordinances presented to the council to improve fire resilience in the Berkeley Hills. The council unanimously approved the initial reading of these ordinances at a special meeting held on February 11, 2025.

The presentation to Council on Feb. 11 clearly showed the history and science that provided the rationale for the proposed ordinances. I will not add the content of the presentation to this memo, as the Fire Department's presentation was quite thorough and obviously compelling

To provide more opportunity to inform residents about the details of the ordinances and what new requirements will be enacted and the timeline for enforcement of the ordinance, workshops have been scheduled to present that information and to answer questions and concerns residents have prior to the 2nd reading of the ordinances which is scheduled for June 17, 2025.

The DFSC reiterates its support for these measures which will come before you on June 17th. Additionally, we will continue to work with the BFD and COB to find ways and resources to help subsidize the costs to residents that may be incurred if the ordinances are approved.

Revised FY 25 Work Plans / Work Groups

Work Groups and Responsibilities until next work plan is approved:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>EXPECTED OUTCOMES</u>	<u>COMMISSIONERS</u>
1. Plan & Budget Oversight BFD Staff Contact: D. Sprague / K. May	a) Review BFD Measure FF/GG budget materials on a quarterly basis b) Review current presentation materials / dashboards and make possible recommendations for changes or modifications c) Review the percentage of funds earmarked for Mitigation Areas d) Collaborate with Staff on providing recommendations to obtain additional funding for Vegetation Management and Home Hardening	a) Provide input for quarterly and annual Measure FF/GG budget; Provide Annual CPI/PIG recommendation to City Council on FF & GG; b) Review and Support concentration of FF mitigation funds to Mitigation Areas without sacrificing important programs and efforts in remaining fire zones c) Research possible funding resources for Home Hardening and Vegetation Management d) Research possible funding strategies for the Facilities Master Plan	<u>Murphy</u> Gordon Katz
2. Home Hardening BFD Staff Contact: C. Arnold	a) Initiate process to monitor EMBER compliance with Staff including the Fire Marshall and Building Department b) Obtain updates on HH mesh program	a) Review metrics and presentation materials/dashboards provided by Staff on EMBER compliance b) Provide input and recommendations to BFD on expanding and improving the HH program	<u>Katz</u> Bradstreet Dean Katz
3. Wildland Urban Interface BFD Staff Contact: C. Arnold	a) Activities as assigned completed b) Monitor progress by Berkeley Firesafe Council on Tree removal and clean-up project	a) Approved EMBER Ordinance b) Report to DFSC as data is updated	<u>Murphy</u> Darling Wilson Herzer-Baptiste

Internal
Internal

<p>4. Safe Passages</p> <p>BFD Staff Contact: C. Arnold / S. Lana</p>	<p>a) Review Safe Passage Components to EMBER ordinance, discuss implementation priorities with Staff</p> <p>b) Review Evacuation Study Results with Staff and draft recommendations for implementation</p>	<p>a) Recommendations for Safe Passages implementation in Very High and High FHSZs</p> <p>b) Provide input to Staff on recommendations and implementation</p>	<p><u>Gordon</u> Wilson Darling Kinosian?</p>
<p>5. Community Outreach</p> <p>BFD Staff Contact: S. Lana / J. Albrecht</p>	<p>a) Meet with OES Manager to discuss assisting in ongoing outreach activities</p> <p>b) Confer with Staff regarding current Communications Plan and provide recommendations to improve the plan or finding resources to implement unfulfilled activities of the plan</p>	<p>a) Present report to DFSC on results of meeting with staff</p> <p>b) Provide recommendations on maintaining or deleting this work group in the FY 2026 Work Plan</p> <p>c) If recommending maintaining the work group, provide draft of activities and outcomes for the 2026 Work Plan</p>	<p><u>Bradstreet</u> Herzer- Baptiste Kinosian?</p>
<p>6. Street Trauma Prevention Program</p>	<p>a) Document workgroup Activities and Outcomes for FY 25</p> <p>b) Draft workgroup Activities and Outcomes for FY 26</p>	<p>a) Provide a report to DFSC of planned Activities and Outcomes for FY26</p>	<p><u>Wilson</u> Gordon Herzer-Baptiste</p>

Action Item: Move DFSC regular meeting scheduled for August 6, 2025, to August 23, 202, at 7:00 pm

Recommendation: The commission approve the changed meeting date and the Secretary properly notify the clerk of the change.

Background: Both the chair and vice chair have schedule conflicts on August 6, leaving the commission with two options according to the commission manual:

1. Reschedule the regular meeting
2. Appoint an interim chair or vice chair to conduct the meeting at the scheduled date.

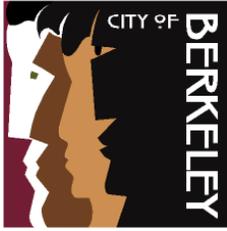
Both the chair and vice chair preferred to reschedule the meeting so that they might attend and preside over the meeting. The chair discussed this option in his comments during the regular meeting of the commission on April 23, 2025.

Fiscal and Environmental impacts;

None

Alternate Action Considered:

The commission appoints an interim chair and vice chair to preside over the regularly scheduled meeting on August 6, 2025.



Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Submitted by: Greg Murphy, Chairperson, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Subject: Letter to Assemblymember Wicks regarding AB 612 (Rogers)

RECOMMENDATION

AB 612 (Rogers) would add section 14033.5 to the Government Code, as follows:¹

On or before July 1, 2026, the department shall update the Highway Design Manual to direct local governments to consult with local fire departments when making road improvements to ensure the improvements do not negatively impact emergency response times.

Infrastructure improvements to increase street safety need not be in conflict with emergency response times. Further, fire departments have an important role to play in preventing street trauma, while also ensuring an effective response to it. This dual function should be reflected in AB 612. The DFSC therefore recommends that Council submit a letter to Assemblymember Buffy Wicks asking that she amend the “Increase Fire Department Authority Bill” (AB 612) (Rogers) to reflect an approach that balances street trauma prevention and street trauma response, consistent with the approach of the Berkeley Fire Department’s Street Trauma Prevention program. The DFSC Street Trauma Prevention (STP) workgroup will assist staff in drafting this letter.

RATIONALE

The DFSC is concerned that as written, AB 612 will give greater veto power to fire departments over efforts by California cities to achieve the objectives of Vision Zero through improved street design. The bill focuses on the question of street trauma response without considering the important role of fire departments in street trauma prevention. Some fire departments have opposed street design changes that improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety (such as narrower lanes, protected bike lanes, bulb-outs at intersections, protected intersections, speed tables) out of concerns that such infrastructure changes might impede emergency response times. These concerns are sometimes voiced in absence of definitive evidence of impeded response times and without full consideration of the broader benefits that result from preventing street

¹ LegiScan. <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB612/2025>. Accessed April 16, 2025

trauma in the first place. AB 612 would benefit from an approach that balances street trauma prevention and street trauma response, similar to the approach adopted by Berkeley Fire's Street Trauma Prevention program.

BACKGROUND

In 2024, the City of Berkeley launched the state's first Street Trauma Prevention (STP) program at Berkeley Fire to help lead the City in implementing Vision Zero and reducing the daily toll of street trauma. As the DFSC noted to Council in May 2024, each year on average, 694 motorists, walkers and bicyclists are injured on our streets, and five die.

Moreover, severe and fatal collisions disproportionately affect people walking and biking. Berkeley residents report that they walk or bike for 40% of trips made in the city, but people walking and biking suffer 61% of severe and fatal collisions.² These incidents include children on their way to and from Berkeley schools. Drivers operating at unsafe speeds and drivers failing to yield at crosswalks are the two most common violations contributing to severe and fatal collisions in Berkeley, amounting to 33% of such incidents over the period 2011-2020.³ Data from a 2017 survey showed that while 71% of Berkeley residents report being interested in relying on bicycles for daily use, most are too concerned about safety to act on this choice.⁴ This finding was reaffirmed in a 2024 survey conducted by Embold Research.⁵

The fire service understands the importance of prevention. Again as noted in our May 2024 memo, between 1977 and 2021, fire prevention efforts resulted in a 64% reduction in fire-related deaths nationwide, saving more than 5,000 lives over this period.⁶ Fire departments, which respond to many more EMS calls due to traffic collisions than fires, should now apply their prevention expertise to street trauma. Berkeley has demonstrated its commitment to this forward-looking approach. AB 612 would benefit by a similar approach, incorporating language pertaining to street trauma prevention as a complement to street trauma response. Over the coming decades, with the support and

² City of Berkeley, Vision Zero Annual Report (June 2022). (https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06-28%20Item%2023%20Vision%20Zero%20Annual%20Report_0.pdf). (p. 13).

³ City of Berkeley, Vision Zero Annual Report (June 2022), *ibid* (p. 14).

⁴ Berkeley City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley (June 29, 2022). Consent Calendar on Vision Zero Annual Report, 2021-2022. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Impacts (https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06-28%20Item%2023%20Vision%20Zero%20Annual%20Report_0.pdf). (p. 3).

⁵ Libby Lee-Egan and Marc Hedlund (March 3, 2025). New survey supports a strong Berkeley Bike Plan: Op-ed. The Berkeley Scanner. <https://www.berkeleyscanner.com/2025/03/03/traffic-safety/op-ed-new-survey-supports-strong-berkeley-bike-plan/>. See Embold Research survey results at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Y2PzvbXVTQQjetZh_9xRBLup39ZRFxel/view.

⁶ Hall, S. (November 2023). Fire loss in the United States during 2022. Quincy, MA: National Fire Protection Association. <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/home-and-community/safety-topics/fire-related-fatalities-and-injuries/>.

engagement of the fire service, this approach has the potential to prevent thousands of injuries and fatalities from street trauma across the state through the installation of proven street trauma prevention measures, and by an efficient and effective emergency response by fire departments when a street trauma incident occurs.^{7,8,9}

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No environmental sustainability outcomes that directly affect the City of Berkeley.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative actions.

CITY MANAGER

CONTACT PERSON

Dave Sprague, Fire Chief, Fire Department, 510-981-3473

Keith May, DFSC Secretary, Fire Department, 510-981-5508

⁷ San Francisco Slow Streets: An Analysis of the Impact of San Francisco's Slow Streets Program on Traffic Safety and Emergency Response Times (May 21, 2025). <https://transpomaps.org/projects/san-francisco/slow-streets?live=true#street-dropdown-selector>.

⁸ Aaron Short. Separated Bike Lanes Means Safer Streets, Study Says (Amy 29, 2019). StreetsBlog USA. <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2019/05/29/protect-yourself-separated-bike-lanes-means-safer-streets-study-says>.

⁹ Corcoran, Hamann, Reyes, Jansson, Cavanaugh (July 2024). Impact of 4-to-3 Lane Conversions on Emergency Response. Transp Res Interdiscip Perspect, 2024 Jul:26:101158 doi: 10.1016/j.trip.2024.101158. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39381505/>.

From: [May, Keith](#)
To: [May, Keith](#)
Subject: FW: Communication to DFSC
Date: Monday, May 05, 2025 10:59:38 AM

Internal

From: Greg Murphy <gsmjfcs@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 4:10 PM
To: May, Keith <KMay@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: Communication to DFSC

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Deputy Chief May, can you please send the following to the commission:

As reported in the SF Chronicle yesterday, San Francisco is moving forward with an ordinance to require inspections and submit a survey of suspected non-ductile concrete structures. This proposed ordinance does NOT require a retrofit of vulnerable buildings. Please check out this link: [S.F. fears nearly 4,000 buildings could be at risk in an earthquake. It could soon know for sure](#)

Thank you.

--

Please excuse any typographical errors.

Greg Murphy

May, Keith

From: May, Keith
Sent: Monday, May 05, 2025 11:00 AM
To: May, Keith
Subject: FW: Communication to DFSC

Internal

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To: May, Keith <KMay@berkeleyca.gov>
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[S.F. fears nearly 4,000 buildings could be at risk in an earthquake. It could soon know for sure](#)

Thank you.

--

Please excuse any typographical errors.

Greg Murphy

From: [Katz, Mary-Claire](#)
To: [Katz, Mary-Claire](#)
Cc: [Larowe, Kathryn](#)
Subject: FW: City of Berkeley Public Hearing Public Notice - June 4, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
Date: Monday, May 05, 2025 4:56:00 PM

Hello Commission Secretaries, please share the below public hearing notice with your commissions.
Thank you!

From: Katz, Mary-Claire
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 4:49 PM
To: Katz, Mary-Claire <MKatz@berkeleyca.gov>
Cc: Larowe, Kathryn <KLarowe@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: City of Berkeley Public Hearing Public Notice - June 4, 6:30 p.m., City Hall

Dear Community Partners,

The City of Berkeley will hold a hybrid public hearing on community needs, taking place in-person at City Hall, 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Cypress Room, and [via Zoom](#) on **Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 6:30 PM**. The purpose of this public hearing is to review the draft 2026/27 Community Action Plan, which is a requirement of the City's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding. This plan includes an assessment of community needs, the current community services being funded by CSBG, and updates on the management of CSBG funds. To view the draft 2026/27 Community Action Plan, please [click here](#). The public comment period will run from May 5 to June 6, 2025. Please send your public comment to Mary-Claire Katz at mkatz@berkeleyca.gov, or call 981-5414.

The Human Welfare and Community Action Commission (HWCAC) has designated seats specifically for elected low-income representatives. Currently, there is one vacancy in these elected low-income seats. If you or someone you know is interested in seeking election to the HWCAC as a low-income representative, please visit the [Boards & Commissions webpage](#) for more information, including the election nomination form.

We encourage you to share this message and the link to the draft Community Action Plan with your community partners, staff, and other interested parties.

Thank you,

Mary-Claire Katz
City of Berkeley
Housing and Community Services
2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 981-5414 (tel)
(510) 981-5450 (fax)
mkatz@berkeleyca.gov

Please note: As a cost saving measure the City of Berkeley is closed the 2nd Friday of every month. Additional closures may occur. For the latest City Closures and Holidays

please check the City of Berkeley Homepage at <https://berkeleyca.gov/>

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From: [Klatt, Karen](#)
To: [Klatt, Karen](#)
Subject: MHSA Community Input Meetings
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 9:33:33 AM
Attachments: [MHSA FY26 Annual Update Community Meetings Flier.pdf](#)

[Internal](#)

Please share this information with your Commissions.

Thanks so much!

Karen

From: Klatt, Karen <KKlatt@berkeleyca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 9:19 AM
To: Klatt, Karen <KKlatt@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: MHSA Community Input Meetings

Greetings!

Attached is a flier with information on four upcoming Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Input Meetings that will be held in May. The Community Input Meetings are being held to provide information on MHSA funded mental health services, and upcoming changes to funding as a result of Proposition 1, as well as to obtain input on the MHSA FY26 Annual Update, and mental health needs in Berkeley.

There will be two in-person meetings and two Zoom meetings. In addition to the attached flier, the meeting information is also outlined below:

Meeting Dates/Information

-Tuesday, May 6: 6:00pm - 7:30pm – In person Meeting - South Berkeley Senior Center

-Thursday, May 8: 3:30pm – 5:00pm – Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8446733966?
pwd=OGp3Tm5LQTc5TGdhd2tYWllKcDVhdz09&omn=83317709163](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8446733966?pwd=OGp3Tm5LQTc5TGdhd2tYWllKcDVhdz09&omn=83317709163)

-Monday, May 12: 6:00pm-7:30pm – In person Meeting - North Berkeley Senior Center

-Wednesday, May 14: 1:00pm-2:30pm – Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8446733966?
pwd=OGp3Tm5LQTc5TGdhd2tYWllKcDVhdz09&omn=88557423950](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8446733966?pwd=OGp3Tm5LQTc5TGdhd2tYWllKcDVhdz09&omn=88557423950)

Or call into Zoom Meetings: 1 (669) 444-9171

Meeting ID: 844-673-3966

Password: 081337

Please share widely with anyone who you feel would be interested in providing input into this process!

Thanks much,

Karen

Karen Klatt, MEd
MHSA Coordinator
City of Berkeley Mental Health
1521 University Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 981-7644 – Office
(510) 849-7541 – Cell

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CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION	
COB Job Classification Program Manager II	Working Title Street Trauma Prevention Program Manager
Department Fire	Division Strategic Programs & Projects Division
Physical Work Location(s) Fire Administration (Public Safety Building) Off-site meeting locations	Work Hours M-F 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Supervisor Classification Principal Program Manager	Revision Date 9 October 2024

POSITION SUMMARY

The Street Trauma Prevention Program Manager (STPPM), under the direct supervision of the Strategic Programs and Projects Division Principal Program Manager, is responsible for designing and building the novel Street Trauma Prevention Program (STPP). The STPP will support the City's efforts to eliminate traffic-related deaths and severe injuries among pedestrians and cyclists while supporting safe, equitable mobility for all and building community trust. To accomplish this, the STPPM will develop a Street Trauma Prevention Program and coordinate with multiple city departments, community organizations, and stakeholders to strengthen the Fire Department's role in street safety improvements across the city, while ensuring the Fire Department continues to have access to respond to all emergencies.

The duty statement outlines the responsibilities and performance standards expected from the STPPM. These include, are not limited to, and are subject to change: conducting applied research, developing a portfolio of best practices, participating in all phases of City projects related to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, and public outreach and collaboration with city departments and community-based organizations (CBOs). A STPPM candidate must demonstrate a high degree of accountability and professionalism to perform in this critical position.

The STPPM will have several areas of focus: 1.) strategic planning and design; 2.) street trauma prevention; 3.) community education and public engagement; 4.) data analysis and compliance; and 5.) leadership and stakeholder collaboration. The incoming STPPM is expected to have knowledge in one or more of these areas and will be expected to enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities in the other areas.

Collaboration

This position works closely with staff from the Office of the Fire Chief, Fire Prevention Division, Emergency Medical Services Division, Department of Public Works – Transportation Division and Traffic Division, the City Manager's Office, and other city staff engaged in these efforts.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DESIGN

Collaborative Design and Innovation

- Collaborate with Public Works-Transportation to develop methodologies for assessing traffic calming measures' impact on pedestrian/cyclist safety and emergency response times.
- Use the developed methodology throughout the roadway design process to communicate potential safety and response-time impacts of new designs.
- Engage with city planners, stakeholders, non-profits, and academic institutions to create transportation designs that enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety without compromising emergency response times.

Fire Apparatus Design: Work with the department's Apparatus Maintenance Officer to evaluate and refine fire apparatus specifications, ensuring optimal maneuverability and efficiency.

Advanced Traffic Management: Assist in the design, implementation, and communication of traffic management systems, including adaptive signal control and connected vehicle technologies.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public Education Support:

- Coordinate with the Fire Department PIO to promote STPP safety messages and practices to community audiences.
- Educate community members about the Fire Department's purpose for being involved in the street redesign process.

Stakeholder Training: Conduct STPP awareness training for city staff and key stakeholders to increase awareness of street trauma prevention programs.

DATA ANALYSIS AND COMPLIANCE

Data Analysis:

- Analyze existing (or from newly collected) data on fire department incidents, trends, and high-risk zones; collect and analyze fire department response time and route data.
- Track and categorize and track critical patient interventions, critical transports, cardiac arrest statistics.

Compliance and Enforcement: Collaborate with law enforcement to analyze and enhance understanding of enforcement barriers and develop strategies to increase compliance with traffic laws that may support efforts to eliminate deaths on our roadways.

LEADERSHIP AND STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

Community Leadership: Represent the BFD in community networks, enhancing relationships with groups and stakeholders to support the STPP alongside citywide safety and emergency response strategies.

Strategic Partnerships: Build and maintain partnerships to further citywide safety and emergency response strategies.

CHALLENGES AND EXPECTATIONS

Complex Stakeholder Environments: This role operates in a high-visibility environment, often subject to public scrutiny and critical feedback. Candidates must possess the resilience and professionalism to effectively manage diverse opinions and interests, ensuring constructive dialogue and partnership across various community and government sectors.



Rania Ahmed

Street Trauma Prevention Program Manager



EXPERIENCE

25 years of experience in urban planning, public health & safety, participatory research, and program development & evaluation.

Urban Strategies Council

Director of Research & Evaluation, 2015 - 2025

Led participatory research methods in public health and safety. Developed culturally responsive training curricula, and conducted award-winning applied research, influencing the creation and development of Oakland's Department of Violence Prevention and the Mobile Alternative Community Response of Oakland (MACRO) program in the Fire Department.

City of Albany

Urban Planning & GIS Specialist, 2013 - 2015

Conducted research and collaborated with diverse stakeholders, including the unhoused community, to address their safety needs, leading to the development of the City's first affordable housing. Key activities included designing and administering a survey (60% response rate) that informed new rental assistance programs and ensuring policy decisions were data-driven and responsive to community needs.

Ministry of Housing

Urban Planner & Team Leader, 2001-2011

Trained urban planners on creating GIS-based processes to analyze the impact of informal housing on roads safety and the infrastructure. Recognized as Best Employee due to facilitating high-level stakeholder engagement to make informed decisions.

EDUCATION



Cairo University, 2000

B.Sc. Urban & Regional Planning

University of San Francisco, 2015

M.A. urban Affairs

TRAININGS & CERTIFICATES



- Trauma Informed Care, UC Berkeley
- Women in Data Science, Stanford
- Women in Public Service, Wellesley College
- Leadership & Equitable Evaluation, Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI)

CORE COMPETENCIES



- Quantitative, qualitative, geospatial participatory research methods
- Public health and safety
- Non-traditional community engagement & education

BACKGROUND & LANGUAGES



English (Proficient)



Arabic (Native)





STORY & VISION

A Personal Journey to Safer Streets



In 1985, Rania's life changed forever when her 15-year-old cousin Soliman was fatally struck while crossing the street on his bike. Her family couldn't reach the hospital in time to say goodbye. The profound trauma that followed shaped Rania's perspective on urban safety, leaving an irreversible mark on her life. Since that night, she has never biked again. This personal loss transformed into a lifelong commitment to creating safer cities through evidence-based urban planning by incorporating a public health lens to ensure no family would experience preventable catastrophes.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

With a background in urban planning and public health, Rania's innovative community engagement strategies earned her the G. Thomas Kingsley Impact Award in 2020. Through therapeutic participatory research, she has connected with over 15,000 East Bay residents, elevating voices often excluded from the planning and decision-making processes. Her methodology was taught at UC Berkeley as an applied research model that drives change while facilitating community healing.

Her work contributed to establishing Oakland's Department of Violence Prevention (with prevention programs serving 10,000+ residents annually) and the MACRO program within the Oakland Fire Department, redirecting mental health-related calls to community response teams, freeing first responders to respond to more urgent needs.

PHILOSOPHY

Rania's philosophy is rooted in the belief that genuine urban safety is both technical and social and will be best realized when those five pillars are in place:

- Community voices shape the planning decisions,
- Data-driven solutions align with community needs and urban/street designs,
- Emergency services and safe infrastructure are in harmony,
- First responders and paramedics are well supported (physically, mentally, and socially),
- Trauma-informed care informs city-wide safety measures and is inclusive.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Rania envisions cities where traffic-related fatalities and severe injuries are eliminated through strategic infrastructure improvements, targeted interventions, and collaboration. Her work with the Street Trauma Prevention Program intends to balance the need for pedestrian and cyclists' safety with the operational requirements of first responders, ensuring both objectives are met through thoughtful urban planning and engineering solutions.

"A truly great city doesn't just respond to emergencies—it prevents them. By embracing a prevention mindset and investing in safety infrastructure, we can meet diverse community needs and protect lives before crises unfold." -Rania



Berkeleyans for Accessible Rights-of-Way

March 15, 2025 [*Updated April 23, 2025, to include additional signers*]

Mayor Adena Ishii
Members of the Berkeley City Council
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Via email

Subject: Recommendations on Berkeley's Bike Plan Update

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

Berkeleyans for Accessible Rights-of-Way (BAROW) is an affiliation of groups and individuals focused on advancing the rights and interests of the senior and disability community regarding Berkeley's rights-of-way (i.e., streets and sidewalks). We offer these comments on the Berkeley Bike Plan Update in the hope and expectation that Berkeley will plan its public rights-of-way, including addressing the needs of cyclists, with the goal of achieving an accessible environment for all.

In Berkeley today, about 7 percent of people under 65 have disabilities.¹ Older adults routinely face mobility, vision, and hearing disabilities due to age, and Berkeley's senior population is rising. By 2030, 20 percent of adults are expected to be over 65.² It is also worth noting that most people will be temporarily or permanently mobility-limited at some point(s) in their lives. For people with disabilities, a more accessible environment is a necessity, not a luxury. Additionally, safe streets and sidewalks are important for the community in general, as safe infrastructure allows all people to move around their community while also preventing injuries and disabilities that can be caused by poor pavement and access barriers.

Given our city's need to prevent injuries and accommodate those with disabilities now and into the future, it makes sense to plan for more accessible public infrastructure. Successful planning requires an inclusive process from conception to implementation. Berkeley is the

¹ U.S. Census, 2024. See <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/berkeleycitycalifornia/PST045224>. Also see Draft City of Berkeley Community Action Plan, 2023 Appendix A. https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-attachments/DRAFT_2024_2025_Community%20Needs%20Assessment.pdf

² Age-Friendly Berkeley Action Plan (2018). <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-01/Age-Friendly-Berkeley-Action-Plan.pdf>

birthplace of the independent living movement, where people with disabilities are not viewed as the problem. Rather, we recognize that Berkeley's physical environment creates barriers to independent living. It is truly sad to see how far Berkeley has moved away from this vision. Much of the disabled community is overlooked, excluded, and forgotten by the City. In fact, if not corrected, Berkeley seems destined to re-segregate people with different abilities back into their homes and constricted environments, unable to move around their community independently.

The Bike Plan Update Should Emerge from a Holistic Planning Effort Guided by Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Requirements

Berkeley should plan its rights-of-way (ROWs) holistically, balancing the needs of all ROW users in all parts of the city. The Bike Plan should be one product of such holistic planning. Instead, the updated bike plan appears to have been developed with a single-minded focus on cyclists' needs. Far from removing literal and figurative barriers to accessibility, the bike tracks would actually build new concrete barriers.

The City's February 18, 2025, virtual presentation hosted by the Center for Independent Living (CIL) showed that the updated plan was created with only cyclists and no others in mind. As one participant noted, in its presentation to CIL and some 50 attendees, the City never, not even once, mentioned how the needs of people with disabilities were addressed in developing the plan or how they would be addressed in implementing the plan.³

Outreach for the updated bike plan began in 2022, with 14 different events held,⁴ but members of the disability community apparently were not briefed until February 2025,⁵ just six months before the final plan is to be adopted. While the planners "talked to over 900 residents and collected over 1,300 comments about how we should prioritize projects into the future,"⁶ the signers of this letter are unaware of any prior outreach to the senior and disability communities.

The City has a record of not sufficiently accommodating the needs of people with disabilities in designing its recently completed projects, including the Southside Complete Streets project, the Milvia Street Bikeway, and the planned Adeline Corridor modifications. The lack of outreach and proper planning for accessibility is reflected in several undesirable features of these projects, including but not limited to:

³ Since the CIL presentation where this fact was pointed out by a participant, the City's consultant has reached out to at least a few people in the disability community to obtain feedback regarding problems posed by cycle tracks. This outreach is appreciated but does not substitute for a holistic planning process.

⁴ Berkeley Bike Plan Focused Update (<https://berkeleybikeplan.org/#/what-we-heard/>) accessed March 2, 2025.

⁵ Presentations were made to the City's Commissions on Aging and Disability and to CIL in February and March 2025.

⁶ <https://berkeleybikeplan.org/#/what-we-heard/> (accessed March 2, 2025).

- highly variable street designs that are confusing even for people without disabilities and, for persons with vision disabilities, are not sufficiently marked with required detectable warnings and Audible Pedestrian Signals (APS) that can distinguish among the various traffic flows;
- the absence of mid-block curb ramps, which requires people with mobility disabilities to utilize bike lanes to reach a corner curb ramp;
- the lack of reflective marking on mid-street barriers;
- cycle tracks that are too narrow to safely accommodate e-trike and mobility scooter users;
- two-way cycle tracks with e-bikes and e-scooters traveling at high speeds, which pose safety hazards to all pedestrians, particularly mobility and visually impaired people who cannot react quickly enough to avoid possible collisions. Even one-way cycle tracks create hazards for people navigating from a parked vehicle alongside a cycle track across the active cycle track to get to the sidewalk. Accessible vehicles with side ramps will have no option but to open their ramp directly into the active cycle track to exit their vehicle.

These are just a few examples of access barriers that are not only a safety issue (e.g., could result in severe injury or death to pedestrians and cyclists), but they also represent non-compliance with the law.

Holistic planning is the right approach regardless of any legal requirements because everyone stands to benefit. That said, the ADA offers clear legal requirements for access for people with disabilities, and these legal mandates are not optional. While there are no ADA Guidelines pertaining to bicycle lanes, courts have been quick to rely on the regulatory requirements of the ADA when public rights-of-way (ROW) are altered, requiring “to the maximum extent feasible...that the altered portion of the facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.”⁷ Newly installed cycle tracks and the ROWs that they impact are considered alterations under the ADA.

While we understand the City is attempting to increase the share of bicycle commuters relative to other modalities,⁸ a single-minded focus on bicyclists is inappropriate and does not reflect a holistic approach benefiting all Berkeleyans.

⁷ No ADA guidelines pertaining specifically to bike lanes have been promulgated. However, the ADA provides, at 28 C.F.R. § 35.151 (b), that: “Each facility or part of a facility altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity in a manner that affects or could affect the usability of the facility or part of the facility shall, to the maximum extent feasible, be altered in such manner that the altered portion of the facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, if the alteration was commenced after January 26, 1992.”

⁸ About 31% of people commute by car, 16% by public transit, 14% by walking, and 5% by biking. See: U.S. Census, American Community Survey (ACS), 2023 5-Year Estimates, Commuting Characteristics by Sex.

In striking an appropriate balance when planning for the city's ROWs, the city should therefore consider the following:

- People with disabilities who have mobility limitations are often unable to walk more than a block or two from their destination, and some must be dropped off in front of their destination. Cycle tracks reduce the availability of vehicle parking, meaning those with mobility disabilities cannot walk to their destination. Cycle tracks can also create barriers that impede vehicle and wheelchair drop-off to homes, schools, shops, churches, community centers, entertainment venues, etc.⁹
- Most cyclists are sufficiently able-bodied that their cycling needs could be accommodated with a plan focusing primarily on bicycle boulevards, which do not impede access for any user group. Rather than accommodating cyclists with a door-to-door plan,¹⁰ the City should consider whether a plan focused on improving the bicycle boulevard network can get cyclists within a reasonable walking distance of their destinations. Cyclists can park their bicycles (potentially in planned bike facilities on a bicycle boulevard) and walk to their destination on sidewalks, walk their bikes to their destination on sidewalks, or ride their bikes to their destination on a non-bicycle-boulevard street. (To the extent that Berkeleyans were surveyed for the update, the website report on the survey results suggests that improvements to the bicycle boulevard network, including improving safety at major intersections and improving pavement quality, would address the stated concerns.¹¹)
- The negative impacts of bicycle infrastructure on Berkeley's disability population can be mitigated in project design (e.g., by providing curb ramps, additional pedestrian markings across cycle tracks, and sufficient disabled parking).¹²

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=commute&g=160XX00US0606000>. Share by bicycle has declined from a 2014 peak of 8.5% to 6.2% in 2023 (also according to ACS data), despite a 22% increase in the student population over that time. See:

<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/historical-enrollment>

⁹ For example, the drop-off zone at the ADA-compliant front entrance of the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, which frequently hosts concerts, speakers, and other public events in addition to church services, was eliminated when a cycle track was built on Dana Street as part of the Southside Complete Streets project.

¹⁰ At the City's virtual presentation to CIL, the City's representative stated that barricaded cycle tracks were deemed necessary to enable cyclists to reach the door of their destination.

¹¹ The website states that "41% of comments expressed safety concerns about today's streets in Berkeley; 38% of comments focused on improving safety at major intersections; 30% of comments focused on improving the quality of bicycle network projects; and 10% of comments prioritized pavement quality and maintenance. <https://berkeleybikeplan.org/#/what-we-heard> (accessed March 7, 2025).

¹² For a discussion of these design strategies, see StreetsBlog SF, "Protected Bike Lanes, Seniors and the Disabled," (March 19, 2020). Available at: <https://sf.streetsblog.org/2020/03/19/protected-bike-lanes-seniors-and-the-disabled>.

However, the city should retain an expert in the ADA and its architectural requirements to properly determine how the needs of people with all types of disabilities will be accommodated before deciding that a cycle track is feasible. Ultimately, accommodating all needs while retaining a cycle track may not be possible or desirable. For example:

- Cycle tracks generally require eliminating parking, which reduces available parking for people who can walk only limited distances. In addition, accessible parking must meet a ratio of total parking, which will further reduce parking for people who do not qualify for accessible parking but have mobility limitations.
- Cycle tracks may impede emergency access and evacuation. The evacuation study commissioned by the City will be released this spring, and its results should be a primary consideration in the draft plan.
- Widening the cycle track to accommodate tricycles may not be feasible in the available street space.
- Cycle tracks pose high risks to people with vision disabilities. Detectable warnings must be placed in appropriate places to alert people with vision disabilities before entering traffic. Also, Audible Pedestrian Signals must be set up to coordinate with bus, bike, and vehicular traffic.
- Cycle tracks with island bus stops are unsafe for visually impaired people.¹³ The American Council of the Blind and others have called for new installations of floating bus stops to stop until more research is completed.¹⁴
- A cycle track, particularly a two-way cycle track, in front of a busy commercial area or community venue will increase hazards to pedestrians, particularly the vulnerable elderly population and people with mobility limitations. A drop-off zone at busy venues may not be feasible with a cycle track.

For all these reasons, the City needs to critically review whether bolstering the city's bicycle boulevard network, possibly with bike-parking facilities on those routes or elsewhere, would enable the most appropriate balancing of the needs of all street users. Moreover, the cost of completely mitigating the access and safety problems posed by cycle tracks, assuming complete mitigation is possible, raises the question of whether limited

However, this resource does not address the need for visual, auditory, and tactile signals at intersections where bikes are crossing that inform pedestrians that bikes are approaching.

¹³ The hazards posed by island bus stops are shown in this video from the City of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJMol5KYaoE>.

¹⁴ American Council of the Blind, comments to U.S. Department of Transportation regarding public right of way accessibility guidelines (PROWAG), September 23, 2024. https://www.acb.org/sites/default/files/ACB_DOT%20PROWAG%20NPRM_comments.docx

public funds would be better spent on another approach, particularly given the dire condition of Berkeley's streets and sidewalks.¹⁵

Addressing ADA compliance as an afterthought could expose the City to costly legal challenges and potentially even costlier post-construction mitigation requirements. In 2020, a court held that the City of Los Angeles violated the ADA when it redesigned its streets to add protected bike lanes without considering accessibility.¹⁶ The city had to pay attorneys' fees for both the individual suing Los Angeles and itself and remedy the inaccessibility with partial redesign of the cycle track. In 2022, several disability and other community groups sued the District of Columbia for its cycle tracks and the lack of accessibility that results for persons with disabilities. The case has been litigated fiercely now for two years and will likely go to trial. There are other settlements (not usually public) involving cycle tracks and accessibility where taxpayer money was used to build a cycle track that was ultimately agreed to cause inaccessibility, and then taxpayer money again had to be used to remove or remedy the cycle track. The city of Berkeley need not risk wasting taxpayer money on legal fees associated with litigating cycle tracks or removing/remediating the access barriers caused by cycle tracks.

The Bicycle Plan Update Needs to Meet the City's Complete Street Policy Study Requirements and State and Federal Safety Standards

Apart from the two words "safety data" on the webpage on "Plan Recommendations,"¹⁷ no information in the Bicycle Plan Update indicates that data has been collected on street, sidewalk, and bikeway usage and injuries (related and unrelated to vehicle traffic), as called for in the City's Complete Streets policy.¹⁸ The City's policy requires collecting such data before implementing Complete Street projects. The City should study whether

¹⁵ Over 40% of Berkeley's streets are in poor to failed condition, according to the City (see <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/City%20of%20Berkeley%202022%20PMP%20Update%20PTAP%202023%20Final%20Report.pdf>), and the City's ADA violations database documents 111,000 ADA violations on our streets and sidewalks (statement of Thomas Gregory at February 19, 2025, Commission on Disability meeting). A July 2024 City assessment of Measure FF concludes that Measure FF's revenues will only bring average street conditions to a "fair" level by 2036. And Measure FF funds appear insufficient to correct ADA sidewalk violations by 2036 without property owner willingness (or City enforcement) and at least a 50% property owner contribution to repairs.

¹⁶ *Sarfaty v. City of Los Angeles* (2019). For a discussion of this case, see ADA Update, "Bike Lanes Can Create Disability Barriers" (August 19, 2020). Available at: https://ada-update.com/2020/08/19/bike-lanes-can-create-disability-barriers/#_ftn2

¹⁷ Berkeley Bike Plan Focused Update (<https://berkeleybikeplan.org/#/recommendations>) accessed March 2, 2025.

¹⁸ Berkeley's 2012 Complete Streets Policy. See <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Berkeley%20Complete%20Streets%20Policy.pdf> at PDF-p. 9.

improvements to bicycle routes made in recent years have improved safety for all users and increased bicycle ridership.

Cycle tracks have been largely designed for ambulatory individuals who use two-wheeled bikes. Only about 6 percent of Berkeley's population uses bikes for commuting,¹⁹ about the same as people with disabilities, not to mention people with temporary mobility limitations and the senior population. In short, there is absolutely no reason why a small population of cyclists should determine the city's infrastructure, put seniors and the disabled at risk of injury, and restrict public rights of way.

The updated plan appears to be based primarily on unscientific public outreach efforts, which, as noted above, have only recently included organizations representing disabled and senior communities. Recent "pop-up" events have involved passersby who apply sticky notes and dots to various poster boards. The value of such efforts is questionable. Moreover, the updated plan's map of responses to outreach efforts suggests that residents in the eastern portions of the city were excluded from the outreach effort, given a lack of comments in these areas.^{20,21}

As the City's Vision Zero Action Plan recommends,²² injury data should include whether the parties involved are disabled. The Vision Zero Action Plan calls for "shifting away from state crash data and toward use of BPD police report data." However, not all injuries are reported to BPD or involve a traffic collision. Rather, many people are injured solo due to poor sidewalk conditions and new street designs where public reports are not taken. Therefore, special outreach to vulnerable communities and targeted data collection efforts are needed.

A holistic ROW planning effort should, in addition to striving to meet all ADA requirements, assess whether state and federal safety design standards are being met on Berkeley's streets and sidewalks and bicycle routes, such as Caltrans' Highway Design Manual design standards, Caltrans' Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices (MUTCD), and AASHTO's "Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities." Again, we see no evidence in the Bike Plan update that such review and planning have been or will be conducted.

¹⁹ See note 8 above.

²⁰ <https://berkeleybikeplan.org/#/what-we-heard/> (accessed March 9, 2025).

²¹ The Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association felt the need to conduct its own survey regarding the need for a cycle track on Claremont Avenue. The survey was sent to 1,400 people and obtained 130 responses that were overwhelmingly opposed to such a cycle track, in part due to impacts on emergency evacuation.

²² The Vision Zero Action Plan calls on the City to, among other things, "perform a robust assessment of other key gaps in safety datasets as part of the first update to this plan; and elevate community voices to understand the perception of safety and personal security in our most vulnerable communities."

Next Steps

As discussed above, it is essential to adopt a comprehensive approach to public rights of way and collect the necessary data before formulating plans to address the requirements of cyclists. By all indications, such planning has not occurred. Therefore, BAROW recommends that the City take a step back before issuing its Draft Bike Plan Update, currently scheduled for May, to enable such planning. The newly available funding from 2024 Measure FF could provide the necessary funds for such comprehensive planning.²³

We would welcome the opportunity to share further details regarding our perspective on the needs of seniors and people with disabilities on Berkeley's public rights-of-way as relates to planning for cyclists' needs and desires.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vincent Pineda, Executive Director
Michai Freeman, Systems Change Advocate
Center for Independent Living

Erik Knaresboro and Michaela Tsztoo
Founders
Streets of Equality

Helen Walsh
Accessibility-Inclusion Advisor
UCC Disaster Ministries
-and-
Member, Berkeley Disability Commission*

Daveed Mandell
Board Member
California Council of the Blind*

Patricia Nash, President
Bayview Chapter
California Council of the Blind

Mike Cole
Executive Director
East Bay Center for The Blind

Eugene Turitz
Friends of Adeline

Carol Crooks
Betsy Morris
Co-conveners
Gray Panthers of Berkeley and the East Bay

Rev. Kelly Colwell
Rev. Molly Baskette
Co-Senior Ministers
First Congregational Church Berkeley

Bab Freiberg
Executive Director
Ashby Village

Patricia Nash, President
Bayview Chapter
California Council of the Blind

*For identification purposes only

²³ Measure FF Sec. 7.11.010 states, "Proceeds of the tax may be used to pay or reimburse the City for actual, verifiable costs of City staff when they are performing work on, or necessary and incidental to, projects funded by the tax, or public input, oversight, and accountability elements required by this chapter.

cc: Berkeley City Attorney Farimah Brown
Christopher Kidd, Alta Planning + Design
Commission on Aging
Commission on Disability

INDIVIDUALS IN SUPPORT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF BERKELEYANS FOR ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY ON BIKE PLAN UPDATE
As of April 23, 2025

Susan	Aberg	Howard	Hertz	Laura	Monroe
Eileen	Adams	Bill	Hickman	Joel	Myerson
Camille	Antinori	Carol	Hirth	Doris	Nassiry
Joan	Barnett	Kris	Hodges	Nguyen	Nguyen
Carmen	Baskette	Andrea	Hosmer	Jennifer	Nixon
Alison	Beck	Paul	Huston	William	Popper
Anna	Boersma	Susanne	Huttner	Gary	Pratt
Lisa	Chow	Candace	Hyde-Wang	Patricia	Pratt
Ron	Choy	Steve	Jackson	Peggy	Radel
Jim	Coates	Ellie	Jay	Nancy	Rader
David	Coolidge	Margaret	Kavanaugh-Lynch	Matthew	Reed
Tony	Corman	Flora	Keilch	Catherine	Ryan
Linda	Crebbin	Kathleen	Keller	Gloria	Schild
Amber	Crowley	Mary-Lee	Kimber Smith	David	Shiver
Kaleo	Crowley	Kori	Kody	Susan	Shome
Gary	Dahl	Jean	Krois	Margot	Smith
Jeremy	Fish	Eunice	Kwon	Ben	Spielman
Kirk	Foster	Rev. August	LaPerche	Laura	Spielman
Eric	Friedman	Jonell	Lucas	Deborah	Streeter
Joan	Garvin	Doris	Lynch	Janet	Stromberg
Isabelle	Gaston	Julia	Madore	Peter	Sussman
Norm	Gelbart	Joan	Martin	Rev. Hannah	Turner
Diana	Graham	Marcy	McGaugh	Martha	Vognar
Julia	Greer	Kristina	McNaught	Charles	Webb
Louise	Halsey	Evan	Meyer	Mary Susan	Webb
Kerrie	Hein	Charles	Monroe	Cheryl	White
				Rebecca	Wright

From: Linda Currie <lindamariecurrie@gmail.com>

Date: March 20, 2025 at 11:38:02 AM PDT

To: berkeley-climate-advocates@googlegroups.com

A few of you already know, but I sharing with those that don't.

Last Thurs, March 13th, on my way to a meeting, I took a spill in the protected bikelane going South on Milvia just past Dwight Way. My bike tire just skimmed the left cement barrier and I was thrown on my right side hitting my head and hip. Thankfully my head was protected by my helmet, but my hip was fractured. This is the first time I've had a significant bike accident in my 30 years of cycling in Berkeley.

Since then I've had a full hip replacement. Thankfully the surgery went well and I've started to walk slowly with a walker. I was discharged and got home Mon afternoon.

I'm told to expect about two months to full recovery just for walking. It's going to take patience, as I am also an avid hiker, do yoga and lap swimmer.

While it's a bummer that this happened to me, especially along the Milvia bikelane project, one I advocated for many years ago, I'm hoping some good can come out of this.

The style of cement barrier is dangerous and you can see many black tire marks along the section I rubbed up against. My Transition Berkeley colleague, Bonnie, had a crash near the same area within the last year and injured some tendons.

I've already been talking with Marjorie Alvord and Tom Lent about my accident. Tom has since done a photographic survey of the various bike lane treatments on several streets around Berkeley, including the area where I fell. Marjorie has contacted Councilmember Tregub and Kate Harrison is letting her appointed Transportation commissioner know.

My hope is that we can come up with some standards for better and safer biking/walking infrastructure and mitigate the ones that are problematic.

Hope you're all well and stay safe out there!

Linda Currie

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