

**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 17, 2024
12:00 PM**

2180 Milvia Street, 6th Floor - Redwood Room

Committee Members:

Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani and Sophie Hahn
Alternate: Councilmember Susan Wengraf

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid model with both in-person attendance and virtual participation. All Committee meetings are recorded.

To access the meeting remotely use this URL - <https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1617370401>. To request to speak, use the “raise hand” function in Zoom. To join by phone: Dial **1-669-254-5252** or **1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free)** and Enter **Meeting ID: 161 737 0401**. To provide public comment, press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. To submit a written communication for the Committee’s consideration and inclusion in the public record, email policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting, however, if you are feeling sick, please do not attend the meeting in person.

Pursuant to the City Council Rules of Procedure and State Law, the presiding officer may remove, or cause the removal of, an individual for disrupting the meeting. Prior to removing an individual, the presiding officer shall warn the individual that their behavior is disrupting the meeting and that their failure to cease their behavior may result in their removal. The presiding officer may then remove the individual if they do not promptly cease their disruptive behavior. “Disrupting” means engaging in behavior during a meeting of a legislative body that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting and includes, but is not limited to, a failure to comply with reasonable and lawful regulations adopted by a legislative body, or engaging in behavior that constitutes use of force or a true threat of force.

California Government Code Section 84308 (Levine Act) Parties to a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use are required to disclose if they made contributions over \$250 within the prior 12 months to any City employee or officer. Parties and participants with a financial interest are prohibited from making more than \$250 in contributions to a decisionmaker for the 12 months after the final decision is rendered on the proceeding. The above contribution disclosures and restrictions do not apply when the proceeding is competitively bid, or involves a personnel or labor contract. For more information, see Government Code Section 84308.

MINUTES

Roll Call: 12:06 p.m.

Present: Kesarwani, Arreguin

Absent: Hahn

Councilmember Hahn present at 12:11 p.m.

Minutes for Approval

Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.

1. Minutes - June 19, 2024

Action: M/S/C (Arreguin/Kesarwani) to approve the minutes of 6/19/2024.

Vote: Ayes – Kesarwani, Arreguin; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent – Hahn

Committee Action Items

The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker.

Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.

2. **Budget Referral: Allocate the Existing \$900,000 Transportation Network Company (TNC) Tax to Calm Traffic in Vicinity of Derby St., Increase Citywide Traffic Calming Budget, and Establish Ongoing General Fund Allocation Policy for the TNC**

From: Councilmember Harrison (Author)

Referred: December 5, 2023

Due: September 25, 2024

Recommendation: Refer to City Manager and the Budget and Finance Committee to consider establishing an ongoing General Fund policy of allocating 50% of annual TNC Tax revenues to a citywide traffic calming budget and the remaining 50% to tier 1 bike/pedestrian/transit priority projects as specified under 3. a-c.

Financial Implications: None

Contact: Kate Harrison, Councilmember, District 4, (510) 981-7140

Action: 1 speaker. Discussion held. M/S/C (Hahn/Arreguin) to refer the item to the City Council with a qualified positive recommendation to refer the policy to the 2026 Fiscal Year budget process for consideration alongside other available funds for traffic calming, bike, pedestrian, and transit priority projects.

Vote: All Ayes.

Committee Action Items

3. City Council Legislative Systems Redesign

From: City Manager

Referred: January 16, 2024

Due: September 30, 2024

Recommendation: ****On January 16, 2024, the Agenda and Rules Committee referred the questions in the supplemental materials to the Budget and Finance Policy Committee for review and response.****

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Mark Numainville, City Clerk, (510) 981-6900

Action: 2 speakers. Discussion held. Item continued to the next meeting

4a. Achieving Goals of 2018 Berkeley Age-Friendly Action Plan

From: Commission on Aging

Referred: May 7, 2024

Due: October 13, 2024

Recommendation: Refer to the City Manager steps to revisit and act on the recommendations of the Berkeley Age-Friendly Action Plan as outlined in the report, by building on what is already occurring in the community, expanding the Plan's impact, and addressing gaps by increasing funding for personnel and other services currently being offered, as well as others identified in the Age-Friendly Plan.

The Aging Commission identified as first steps four (4) priority areas and goals for the Action Plan:

1. Housing and Economic Security: Develop a continuum of affordable, accessible housing options for older adults to age in their community regardless of their health or financial status.
2. Transportation and Mobility: Advance a network of public and private transportation (including transit, assistive devices, e-bikes and e-scooters and bicycling and walking) that equitably serves residents and connects them to services, social activities, and employment opportunities.
3. Health and Wellness: Develop a more integrated system of services and supports that is person-centered and ensures that all residents have the opportunity to engage in health promoting activities.
4. Social Participation and Civic Engagement: Enhance neighborhood cohesion and social connectedness of all Berkeley residents with community events and activities that are inclusive, affordable, and accessible.

In the short term, the Commission recommends that these plans should include a budget referral to the City Manager for consideration in the biennial budget process.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Darleen Bronson, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-5400

Action: 2 speakers. Discussion held. M/S/C (Arreguin/Hahn) to refer the item from the Commission and the City Manager Companion Report item to the City Council with a qualified positive recommendation to consider sending both items to the City Manager for evaluation of the age-friendly action plan and the provision of recommendations.

Vote: All Ayes.

Committee Action Items

4b. Companion Report: Achieving Goals of 2018 Berkeley Age-Friendly Action Plan

From: City Manager

Referred: May 7, 2024

Due: October 13, 2024

Recommendation: Refer to the City Manager to review and prioritize the recommendations of the City of Berkeley's Age-Friendly Action Plan, in conjunction with the results of the Community Health Assessment that will be conducted by the Health, Housing, and Community Services Department in the 2024 calendar year. In addition, to consider the following referrals:

1. Refer to the Transportation Commission to collaborate with the Commission on Aging to assess the equitable accessibility of public transportation options for the older adult and disabled community in Berkeley
2. Refer to Housing Advisory Commission to collaborate with staff to assess the level of affordable, accessible housing options for older adults to age in the Berkeley community.
3. Refer the Commission on Aging's request for increased funding to the Budget and Finance Policy Committees for further deliberation.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Scott Gilman, Health, Housing, and Community Services, (510) 981-5400

Action: See action for Item 4a.

5a. Measure P Allocations, Fiscal Year 2025-2026

From: Homeless Services Panel of Experts

Referred: May 21, 2024

Due: October 29, 2024

Recommendation: That Council approve the Homeless Services Panel of Experts recommendations to allocate Measure P revenue providing homeless services as detailed in Attachment 1, Exhibit A.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Josh Jacobs, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-5400

Action: 2 speakers. Discussion held. M/S/C (Arreguin/Kesarwani) to refer the item from the Commission and the City Manager Companion Report item to the City Council with a negative recommendation that no further action is required, as the Council has already taken action through the adoption of the 2025-26 Bi-annual Budget.

Vote: All Ayes.

Committee Action Items

5b. Companion Report: Measure P Allocations, Fiscal Year 2025-2026

From: City Manager

Referred: May 21, 2024

Due: October 29, 2024

Recommendation: Approve the Homeless Services Panel of Experts recommendations for Fiscal Years 2025-2026, but continue to partially fund 5150 transports from Measure P until alternative sources can be identified.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Peter Radu, City Manager's Office, (510) 981-7000, David Sprague, Fire, (510) 981-3473

Action: See action for Item 5a.

6. Accept the Risk Analysis for Long-Term Debt (Bonding Capacity) Report provided by Government Finance Officers Association

From: City Manager

Referred Date: June 25, 2024

Due Date: January 21, 2025

Recommendation: (Reviewed by the Budget & Finance Committee)

Accept the report titled 'Risk-Based Analysis and Stress Test of Long-Term Debt Affordability' as provided by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This report is based on their research and development of a risk-modeling tool to address issuing long-term debt related to City of Berkeley Vision 2050.

On April 26, 2022, the City Council referred this item to the City Manager and Budget & Finance Committee to return to Council with recommendations or analysis on as many of the following items as possible by October 2022, if feasible. 1)

Consideration of reserves policies for operational funds other than the General Fund; 2) Potential reduction of the maximum indebtedness rate from 15% of assessed property value down to 4-8% range; 3) A new policy to not incur indebtedness when interest rates go above 5% or a different specific threshold; 4) Tools for increased transparency for taxpayers; 5) Updated report and discussion of pension and healthcare costs; 6) Refer the full Report to the Budget & Finance Committee for consideration.

Policy Committee Recommendation: No final action taken. Item is automatically returning to the Council agenda pursuant to the time limit for items referred to policy committees.

Financial Implications: None

Contact: Henry Oyekanmi, Finance, (510) 981-7300

Action: 0 speakers. Discussion held. Item continued to the next meeting

Unscheduled Items

These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Committee may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Committee meeting.

Committee Action Items

7. **Audit Status Reports: Fleet Replacement Fund Short Millions & Rocky Road: Berkeley Streets at Risk and Significantly Underfunded**

From: City Manager

Recommendation: ****On May 23, 2023, the City Council referred to the Budget and Finance Policy Committee to prioritize funding to the vehicle replacement fund to make up the shortfall over time in order to stabilize the fund.****

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Terrance Davis, Public Works, (510) 981-6300

Items for Future Agendas

- None

Adjournment

Action: M/S/C (Arreguin/Hahn) to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: All Ayes.

Adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting held on September 17, 2024.

Neetu Salwan, Assistant City Clerk

Communications

Communications submitted to City Council Policy Committees are on file in the City Clerk Department at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA, and are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk Department at (510) 981-6908 or policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov.