

Rigel Robinson  
Councilmember District 7

## **REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL**

**Meeting Date:** October 26

**Item Number:** 31

**Item Description:** Budget Referral: Telegraph Shared Streets Feasibility Study

**Submitted by:** Councilmember Rigel Robinson

Amendments to provide staff greater flexibility to deliver on the Telegraph Shared Streets project as part of Southside Complete Streets, aligning the shared streets component of the Telegraph Public Realm Plan with existing planning processes instead of creating a separate process.



# CITY COUNCILMEMBER RIGEL ROBINSON DISTRICT 7

## CONSENT CALENDAR

October 26, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Robinson (Author), Mayor Arreguin (Co-Sponsor) and Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor)

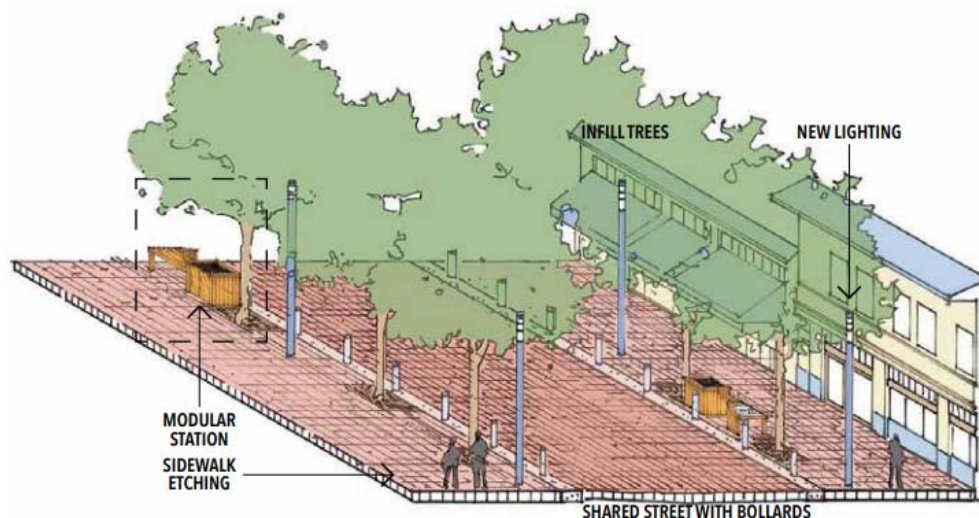
Subject: Budget Referral: Telegraph ~~Shared Streets Feasibility Study~~ Public Realm Plan Implementation

### RECOMMENDATION

Refer \$500,000 to the November 2021 AAO process for implementation of the Telegraph Public Realm Plan, including but not limited to the Telegraph Shared Streets proposal. Funds should be considered for planning or construction of TPRP recommendations, including potential construction of Southside Complete Streets project recommendations consistent with TPRP, and considering conducting a feasibility study of the Telegraph Shared Streets project.

### BACKGROUND

The Telegraph Public Realm Plan (TPRP), approved by Council in 2016 after extensive input from community members including vendors, merchants, property owners, and representatives from UC Berkeley and AC Transit, establishes a vision and provides guidance for a shared street on the first four blocks of Telegraph Avenue.



*Ultimate Condition.* TRPR proposes a plaza-like shared street and new lighting as a final phase. Sidewalk etching may remain or, if necessary, sidewalks can be replaced.

In 2019, Council referred to staff to develop a plan to implement the shared streets proposal outlined in the Telegraph Public Realm Plan, including identification of potential funding sources for the project. In 2020, Council referred to the budget process to allocate funds that would have advanced the Telegraph Shared Streets project. Due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, that budget request was not funded.

Staff is currently carrying out the planning process for grant-funded Southside Complete Streets, which includes improvements on Telegraph Avenue from Bancroft to Dwight. Elements of the TPRP are being considered by way of the Southside Complete Streets project, including components of the Telegraph Shared Streets proposal.

Fully embracing the shared street recommendations of the TPRP as part of Southside Complete Streets will require additional funding for implementation and construction. Should the Southside Complete Streets planning process not result in recommendations that align with the shared street vision, staff should consider using the funding set aside for Telegraph Shared Streets to initiate a feasibility study, in order to make the project competitive for state and regional grants. In order to begin this process and open up opportunities for the City to apply for state and regional grants, it is critical for Council to approve funds for an initial feasibility study.

The \$82.6 million settlement agreement between UC Berkeley and the City of Berkeley, finalized in July of 2021, includes an annual payment of “\$1.3 million (increased by three percent per year) for capital projects and other services benefiting residents living within one-half mile of the University’s main campus boundaries and the Clark Kerr Campus.”<sup>1</sup> There is a potential opportunity to allocate a portion of these funds towards implementation of the Telegraph Public Realm Plan, including Telegraph Shared Streets. However, given the many pressing infrastructure investments and services that are needed near campus, it is important that Council also consider making a general fund investment through the AAO process to keep the project moving forward, even if settlement funds are allocated towards other purposes or to supplement a partial allocation from the settlement.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$500,000 to fund implementation of the Telegraph Public Realm Plan recommendations and shared streets proposal~~a feasibility study of Telegraph Shared Streets.~~

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SETTLEMENT-AGREEMENT-UCBerkeley.pdf>

Implementing a shared street on Telegraph Avenue would be with the goal of increasing the number of people walking, biking, and using public transit to access and move through the Telegraph area. This is directly in line with the City's environmental goals, and a main objective of this project.

### CONTACT PERSON

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Angie Chen, Legislative Aide

### Attachments:

1: Telegraph Public Realm Plan

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/wpcontent/uploads/2016/09/Telegraph-Public-Realm-Plan-Final-Low-Res.pdf>

2: Referral: Telegraph Shared Streets

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2019/10\\_Oct/Documents/2019-10-29\\_Item\\_30\\_Referral\\_Telegraph\\_Shared\\_Streets\\_-\\_Rev.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2019/10_Oct/Documents/2019-10-29_Item_30_Referral_Telegraph_Shared_Streets_-_Rev.aspx)

3: Artist's rendition of Telegraph as a shared street, by Alfred Twu

