



CITY COUNCIL
Linda Maio

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 10, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Council Members Linda Maio and Jesse Arreguin

SUBJECT: Budget Referral: Appropriate Traffic Controls on University Avenue from Martin Luther King, Jr. Way to California Street

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer to the FY 2015/2016 budget process an allocation of \$50,000 for appropriate traffic controls, such as a pedestrian crossing light, on University Avenue from Martin Luther King, Jr. Way to California Street.

BACKGROUND:

University Avenue – the gateway corridor of our city – functions as a major entry and exit path to the city, especially for motorists travelling between the freeway and downtown. At the same time, University is part of the city’s multimodal transportation network, with multiple bus lines on the corridor, and proximate to city bikeways and pedestrian paths; therefore, the ability of pedestrians and cyclists to safely cross the avenue is of prime importance. Vehicular speeds are currently too high on the stretch between California and MLK. Residents of the neighborhood have witnessed a number of accidents involving cyclists and pedestrians attempting to cross, even using the cross-hatched crosswalk. The problem stems from vehicular speeds attained between the lights at MLK and California, three long blocks with no traffic controls resulting in high volumes of speeding traffic. We recently experienced a cyclist fatality¹ at McGee and University. The lack of appropriate traffic controls allows for these unsafe speeds to be reached, resulting in unsafe – and deadly – conditions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

\$50,000 for appropriate traffic controls, such as the placement of beacon lights on University Avenue at McGee.

CONTACT:

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¹ See **Berkeleyside**: “Berkeley cyclist dies after hit and run.” January 27, 2015.

<<http://www.berkeleyside.com/2015/01/27/breaking-berkeley-cyclist-dies-after-hit-and-run>>

