



CITY COUNCILMEMBER
RIGEL ROBINSON
DISTRICT 7

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CONSENT CALENDAR
March 22, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Rigel Robinson (Author) & Councilmember Sophie Hahn (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Budget Referral: Telegraph-Channing Garage Elevator Repairs

RECOMMENDATION

Refer \$3.6M to the June 2022 budget process for urgent repairs to the Telegraph-Channing Garage elevators. Additionally, refer to the City Manager to pursue all available funding opportunities for this project, including American Rescue Plan Act funds.

BACKGROUND

The Telegraph-Channing Mall is a City-owned property in the heart of the Telegraph district, with commercial space, garage parking, public restrooms, and two elevator shafts. The garage's elevators are past their useful life, have experienced periodic water intrusion, and are generating almost daily requests for service to address their unsatisfactory performance. The required renovations include interior and exterior upgrades, mechanical equipment and electrical system overhauls, and sealing of the elevator shaft from water intrusion.

The City's Public Works Department has completed 50% design and developed a project cost estimate of \$3.6M. However, the project continues to be on hold until funding becomes available, meaning that the unreliable elevators will continue to impact the commercial tenants and the visitors who park in the garage.

The Friends of the Berkeley Public Library, operator of the Channing Bookstore in the garage, has expressed particular concern about the condition of the elevators. Community members and volunteers regularly bring book donations to the store and are forced to carry heavy boxes of donations down stairs or ramps when the elevators are out of service.

The current state of the elevators is an ADA issue and a liability for the City. Access to the garage is compromised, especially for seniors and disabled people, and there is the potential for people to get stuck in the elevators when they break down. This has occurred on at least one occasion. Therefore, this is an urgent situation that must be addressed by the City as soon as fiscally possible.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$3.6M for design and construction, accounting for escalating costs and existing supply chain issues. Potential funding sources include the General Fund and American Rescue Plan Act funds, given that the Off Street Parking Lot Fund is not a viable funding source due to the decline in parking revenue. Council should also take into consideration the current costs of frequent service requests borne by the City.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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