

CITY COUNCILMEMBER RIGEL ROBINSON DISTRICT 7

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 26, 2021

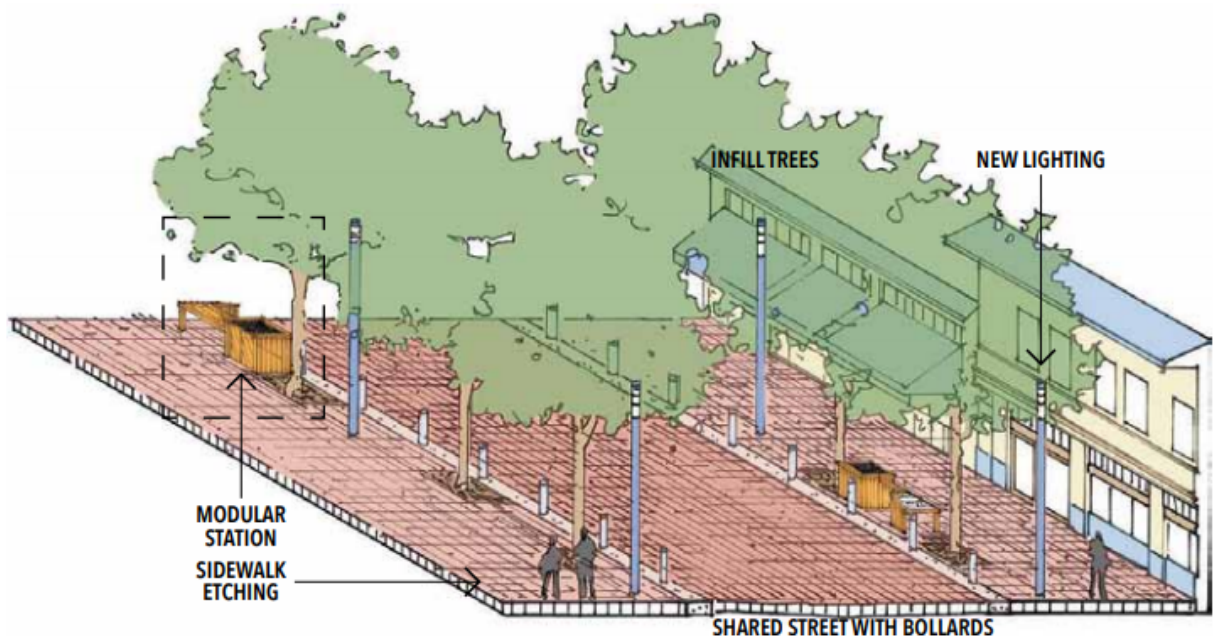
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Robinson (Author) and Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor) and Mayor Arreguin (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Budget Referral: Telegraph Shared Streets Feasibility Study

RECOMMENDATION

Refer \$500,000 to the November 2021 AAO process for 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 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.”¹ There is a potential opportunity to allocate a portion of these funds towards 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 a feasibility study of Telegraph Shared Streets.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

Councilmember Rigel Robinson, (510) 981-7170
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

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

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

