



Office of the City Manager

August 23, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager *LB for*

Re: Update on *Bright Streets Initiative*

On November 9, 2021, City Council approved a referral to the City Manager to establish and complete a *Bright Streets Initiative*, including “[c]ompleting the work, if necessary, to paint all crosswalks, midlines, bike lanes, and other street markings, clarify and/or improve traffic signage, and paint curbs in areas around Berkeley public schools, to support safety and Vision Zero goals...”

Public Works is responsible for the pavement, markings, curb paint, signage, and other traffic safety features in the City’s streets and sidewalks around public schools. Pursuant to the City Council’s referral, the Traffic Maintenance Unit of the Public Works Department conducts annual visual review of pavement, markings, curb paint, signage, and other traffic safety in the streets and sidewalks around schools. This assessment follows the prioritization throughout the year of service requests around schools, and is supplemented by staff’s understanding of the unique needs and conditions of the streets and sidewalks around each school.

This year’s review led to improvements in advance of the start of school at Cragmont, Oxford, Martin Luther King Jr., Ruth Acty, Rosa Parks, and Washington. Last year’s review led to improvements at Berkeley High, Cragmont, Emerson, John Muir, Malcolm X, Realm West Campus, Rosa Parks, Washington, and Thousand Oaks. Work included refreshing pavement markings; enhancing existing crosswalks to high visibility crosswalks; adding and/or refreshing curb paint for no parking zones, bus zones, and passenger loading zones; adding necessary signage for no-parking and 15 MPH speed limits; and replacing faded regulatory signs. Public Works’ Traffic Engineering Unit also deploys an electrical contractor to maintain and repair flashing beacons, which improve safety for children and families who walk or roll to school.

For pavement markings, the Traffic Maintenance Unit typically deploys thermoplastic paint. This type of paint is very durable and can last up to seven years. Where the street surface is concrete or poorly maintained, regular paint is used as thermoplastic does not adhere well to either surface.

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The Traffic Maintenance Unit deploys signage compliant with California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control devices. This signage is retro reflective, meaning the signs are easier to see both during the day and at night.

The Engineering Division of the Public Works Department handles sidewalk repairs. In 2021, the Division performed repairs at sidewalks adjacent to schools using a concrete shaving contractor. Locations that require removal and replacement of the concrete are being prioritized within the City's annual sidewalk repair contract.

Overall, Public Works maintains citywide 215 miles of street, 300+ miles of sidewalks, 1,145,435 feet of pavement markings, 32,945 signs, and 340,049 feet of painted curb.

For requests to improve pavement, markings, curb paint, signage, and other traffic safety features in the streets and sidewalks near a school, please use the City's 311 service.

cc: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager
LaTanya Bellow, Deputy City Manager
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Liam Garland, Public Works Director
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager