

Date : 2/8/2023 5:08:05 PM

From : "Javandel, Farid"

To : "Ben Gerhardstein" [REDACTED]

Subject : RE: Thanks

Attachment :

image001.jpg;image002.jpg;image003.jpg;image004.jpg;image005.jpg;image006.jpg;image007.jpg;image008.jpg;image009.jpg;image010.jpg;

Thanks Ben.

From: Ben Gerhardstein [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2023 8:54 AM

To: Anderson, Eric <EAnderson@cityofberkeley.info>; Garland, Liam <LGarland@cityofberkeley.info>; Javandel, Farid <FJavandel@cityofberkeley.info>

Cc: Karen Parolek [REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: Thanks

Hi Liam, Farid, and Eric - Sharing that Walk Bike Berkeley (Karen and I) met with Chief Sprague yesterday. Here's some follow up correspondence.
-Ben

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sprague, David A.** <DSprague@cityofberkeley.info>

Date: Wed, Feb 8, 2023 at 05:03

Subject: Re: Thanks

To: Ben Gerhardstein [REDACTED]

CC: Taplin, Terry <tTaplin@cityofberkeley.info>, Liza Lutzker [REDACTED], Karen Parolek <[REDACTED]>

Guys, always a pleasure meeting with local folks who are trying to improve our community. I think we share many of the same goals and I am confident that we can work together to make Berkeley an even better place to walk, bike and live. I look forward to more gatherings in the future.

I did not know the response time study was an action item, that's great. The Standard of Coverage (SOC) is actually a different type of study than the evacuation time study, but good news, we are just wrapping the city's first SOC up in the next month or so (2 years of work). You can watch the mid-way council presentation on that one [here](#) (slides [here](#)) if you want. The final draft is a little different but most of the data did not change. I am estimating that we will have the baseline evacuation and response time study done by the end of 2023, if not sooner.

My intention moving forward, along with Director Garland, is to clearly define a process within the city for how these projects interact with fire - this is in the works now.

Just as you want to get to a place where there are zero serious ped/bike related injuries or fatalities, we have to ensure we are making smart decisions that does not negate the hundreds of years of - mostly tragic experiences - that have built the international/California/Berkeley fire code. And of course our collective experience as responders in navigating the streets to provide life saving aid to our residents who call us day-in and out with serious medical complaints. Whether that be a pedestrian or bicyclist suffering from a traumatic injury, an asthmatic who can't breathe, a diabetic in a coma, or someone having a stroke or heart attack. In all these scenarios, seconds and minutes matter.

In the coming months, I think our efforts will provide some clarity to the process, some baseline standards that projects will need to comply with, and some other tools we can use to help make decisions when project components fall in the grey area where stakeholders need to make decisions that will have an unavoidable trade off, one way or the other.

I haven't found a pic of Stan (OG Berkeley bike guy and general all around activist) on what may be the original cargo bike in the US, I will find it and share eventually. But I did find a picture of his "fancy" bike that he finally splurged and purchased in his 70s after his stint with pedal express. He was a CERT instructor and this is a series of pics of him picking up some fire hose for a neighborhood class he was instructing.

Looking forward to building a relationship and to what is next.





















--
David Sprague
Interim Fire Chief
Berkeley Fire Department

On Feb 7, 2023, at 11:13 PM, Ben Gerhardstein [REDACTED] wrote:

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Dave,
Thanks so much for meeting with us today. It was great to start the conversation about how to re-engineer streets for safety while ensuring emergency access.

As discussed, we look forward to ongoing BFD participation in the City's Vision Zero Coordinating Committee. Eric Anderson, in Public Works, is the lead on that (eanderson@cityofberkeley.info). Maybe you knew it, but the work you're doing to study response times is an action in the [Vision Zero Action Plan](#):

"Undertake a Standards of Coverage/Response Time Study to provide a data-driven understanding of how safety improvements impact emergency response times."

I'm hopeful that a clearly outlined process for Public Works and Fire to follow as street improvements are developed will be a big help. As will ensuring you have staff capacity and expertise to engage.

Ultimately we'd love to see the Fire Department helping the City achieve its goal of preventing collisions through an engineering-first strategy that prioritizes safety over speed. In practice, that is going to mean a good bit of conversation, creativity, and flexibility.

One concern I have, that we didn't really get into today, is that people whetted to the status quo sometimes use emergency access as a red herring to maintain the unsafe status quo on Berkeley streets. Unfortunately, that's part of what we are seeing happen on Hopkins. In those situations, I hope the Fire Department will help the City move our Vision Zero goals forward.

Finally - please do share a picture of your Dad!

Cheers,
Ben