



Office of the City Manager

February 10, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
Re: Opening of the 24-Hour Telegraph-Channing Public Restroom

On Tuesday Feb. 11 the City of Berkeley will open a new, permanent 24-hour public restroom on Telegraph Avenue, addressing a key need along one of the densest and busiest commercial districts in Berkeley. The ADA-accessible and solar-powered restroom at the intersection of Channing Way will be cleaned multiple times a day and maintained regularly in partnership with the Telegraph Business Improvement District. The facility is built to maintain user privacy while also deterring potential illegal activities with carefully designed sight lines at the top and bottom of the stall.

The location was identified in a 2020 Citywide Restroom Study as the top Citywide priority for a 24-hour public restroom due to the lack of easily accessible public restrooms, the street's heavy pedestrian usage, and complaints of open urination and defecation.

Following the opening of this restroom, two more public restrooms are planned for construction: one at Alcatraz Avenue and Adeline Street and another at San Pablo and University Avenues. Public outreach on those projects is underway, including the scheduling of virtual community meetings.

The general public is invited to join leaders from the City, UC Berkeley, and TBID to celebrate the opening.

[Telegraph/Channing Public Restroom Ribbon Cutting](#)

Corner of Telegraph & Channing

February 11 at 11am

This new, round-the-clock public restroom seeks to enhance a street that is already a destination unto itself as well as a key corridor into the university's expansive and varied cultural and academic life.

Restroom Features and Operations

The new public restroom is a prefabricated model known for its durability, accessibility, and ease of maintenance. Referred to as a “Portland Loo,” this stand-alone structure offers several key features designed to enhance the user experience and minimize environmental impact:

- **Hygiene:** The restroom includes a handwashing station with running water and soap along with a hand sanitizer dispenser.
- **Accessibility:** The Portland Loo restroom is ADA-compliant. Entry to and exit from the restroom can be easily done on a wheelchair. Multiple handrails are located for easy grabbing for those who need support.
- **Sustainability:** The restroom is powered by solar panels on its rooftop, reducing energy consumption and minimizing its carbon footprint.
- **Security:** The restroom is constructed with graffiti-resistant materials and limited sight lines at top and bottom to deter illegal activities while maintaining absolute user privacy.
- **Art Wrap:** The interior and exterior of the restroom will feature a decorative wrap with artwork by Forest Wolf Kell who painted the "Marvelous Miss Mars" mural. This new public artwork will complement the existing mural next to the restroom and enhance the aesthetic appeal of the facility.

The City of Berkeley, in partnership with the Telegraph Business Improvement District (TBID), will be responsible for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the restroom. This will include:

- **Daily Cleaning:** The facility will be cleaned and sanitized multiple times daily to ensure a hygienic environment for users.
- **Regular Maintenance:** Routine maintenance will be conducted to address any repairs or upkeep needs, ensuring the facility remains in good working order.
- **Supplies:** The restroom will continuously be stocked with essential supplies, such as toilet paper and hand soap, to ensure a comfortable and convenient user experience.
- **Additional Support:** The Telegraph District Ambassadors will provide additional staff presence and community support around the restroom, including handling harmful and threatening situations through trained conflict resolution and de-escalation skills.

This collaboration between the City and the TBID has long been critical to the vibrancy of the Southside neighborhood. With this partnership, the City can work to deliver long-term success of this first-of-a-kind public restroom in Berkeley.

[Restroom Funding and Partnerships](#)

The Telegraph and Channing Public Restroom project is funded through a combination of sources:

- **Measure T1 Funds:** A significant portion of the funding comes from Measure T1, a voter-approved measure in 2016 that provides funds for improvements to City infrastructure and facilities. This funding source highlights the community's commitment to investing in essential public services like this restroom project.
- **UC Berkeley Settlement:** Additional funding is provided through the UC Berkeley Settlement, an agreement between the City and UC Berkeley that includes provisions for supporting public restroom facilities. This partnership is emblematic of the shared commitment of the City and the University to addressing community needs.

The total project budget is approximately \$488,000, which covers the unit procurement cost of around \$160,000 and the construction cost of about \$328,000. Additionally, \$210,000 was budgeted for maintenance for FY2025/2026. The decorative art wrap has been sponsored and donated by the Telegraph Business Improvement District with support from the UC Berkeley Chancellors Community Partnership Fund.

We encourage community members to stay informed about the project's progress and to share their feedback and suggestions via the Capital Projects page for [Restrooms in the Public Right of Way](#). Together, we are working to enhance our public spaces and improve the quality of life for everyone in Berkeley.

cc: Terrance Davis, Director, Public Works
Sharon Friedrichsen, Interim Deputy City Manager
Tasha Tervalon, Interim Deputy City Manager
Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Farimah Brown, City Attorney