

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: April 19, 2010
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Request to Temporarily close a segment of Curtis Street on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 for the Bike and Walk to School Activities at Marin Elementary School

FROM: Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve an Encroachment Permit at no fee, submitted by the PTA of the Marin Elementary School, to allow closure of Curtis Street, between Marin Avenue and Sonoma Avenue on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 for the celebration of Bike and Walk to Work/School Month.

BACKGROUND

The Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Task Force in Albany formed by parents from the three elementary schools, City and TransForm staff, in coordination with the Albany Strollers & Rollers has organized a series of events in the month of May, 2010 for the celebration of the Bike to Work month. The taskforce initially planned for each elementary school to close a street each week from May 5 to May 19. During the street closures, parents, children and staff would conduct activities relevant to curb emissions and protect the environment. Cornell and Ocean View schools decided to hold their events on school grounds because in the case of Ocean View, being adjacent to Buchanan Street required more planning and more volunteer efforts to help children cross the street and the time to plan accordingly was too short as their events are planned for earlier in the May. There was a suggestion to involve the PTA and plan for next year, or perhaps try to go ahead with the event in the fall for the International Walk to School Day.

Marin Elementary decided to participate and hold their event on May 19, 2010. The Principal approved their street closure proposal of closing Curtis from Marin Avenue to Sonoma Avenue from 8 am to 12 noon. The events they are going to conduct include chalk art on the street, collaborate with Cycles of Change on pedestrian/bike safety courses, and distribute the Bike to Work/Schools bags.

The Marin Elementary Physical Education instructor has expressed interest in using the street space for some of his classes that day.

The 8 am-12 noon closure allows all the students to participate, despite the varied arrival/departure times.

ANALYSIS

Closure of this section of Curtis Street is not expected to have a major impact on traffic because it is only a small section adjacent to the Marin Elementary School. Residents will be advised of the closure through a mailed flyer where they will be provided alternatives for access.

The Albany Police Department staff is aware of this event and will provide assistance to direct traffic during the morning peak. Residents will be using Curtis St. south of Sonoma Ave. and parents will be encouraged to drop off their children along Sonoma Avenue and walk with them to school or form walking school buses to school that day. The Police Department will coordinate with the Public Works division regarding items such as barricades. Community Development staff will discuss traffic control with the Police Department at the intersection of Curtis Street and Marin Avenue and Curtis Street and Sonoma Avenue.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

This event is not expected to contribute to carbon emissions or other aspects of climate change. This event promotes environmental awareness and cycling and walking as an alternative to the automobile.

FISCAL IMPACT

It is recommended that the \$131.09 fee that is typically charged for this encroachment permit, be waived, and that the City waive costs for Police Department and Public Works staff to cordon off and secure the area. For Public Works, the costs are estimated to be \$145 for two staff hours. For the Police Department, volunteer Reserve staff will be used if possible for the event, plus one paid supervisory person, at a cost of about \$254 for two staff hours.

Attachment

Encroachment Permit submitted by representatives of the Marin Elementary School PTA.