

CITY OF ALBANY
PLANNING AND ZONING AGENDA
STAFF REPORT

Agenda date: May 8, 2012

Prepared by: JB

ITEM/ 6b

SUBJECT: **Consideration of installation of multi-colored bike racks in the public right-of-way on Solano Avenue and San Pablo Avenue.**

SITE: **Solano Commercial and San Pablo Commercial District**

APPLICANT/
OWNER: **Albany Strollers & Rollers**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Provide direction to staff.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The selection and determination of location of improvements in the right-of-way is generally approved by either the City Engineer or the Community Development Director. In the case of bike racks, staff will be utilizing guidelines adopted by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (Attachment 1). In addition, an appendix to the Active transportation Plan provides bike parking guidance (Attachment 2)

Albany Strollers & Rollers is requesting City approval for the installation of “bike” bike racks at six locations on Solano and San Pablo (Attachment 3). The racks are manufactured by Dero and can be ordered in a variety of custom colors (www.dero.com). In order to encourage biking and to draw attention to the availability of bike racks, Strollers and Rollers has worked with adjacent businesses to select the following colors:

Address	Adjacent Business	Color
1412 Solano	Gathering Tribes	Sky Blue
1325 Solano	K2TOG	Red
1215 Solano	Daniel Winkler & Assoc.	Green
1109 Solano	T324	Blue
916 San Pablo	Innate Chiropractic	Tbd
727 San Pablo	Metta Tradition Massage	Tbd

The aesthetics of streetscape improvements is an important component of our commercial street. The vibrancy of colors in a streetscape are to some degree a reflection of the characteristics of activities on the street. As an example, Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley and Oakland is a local example of a streetscape that would support a more colorful appearance.

In general, the City's approach has been to use understated dark green, black, or un-finished steel on street furniture, news racks, light poles, trash cans, etc. This approach has been consistent with the City's focus in urban forestry and desire for high quality facades and architectural improvements.

A limited number of colorful elements in themselves will not change the character of the streetscape, but wide-scale implementation of colorful street furniture may be out of place. Therefore, direction to staff from the Commission on the implementation of a variety of colorful bike racks would be helpful.

Attachments:

1. APBP Bicycle Parking Guidelines
2. Bike Parking Guidance from the Active Transportation Plan
3. Request from Strollers and Rollers