

**CITY OF ALBANY
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: July 26, 2012
Prepared by: JB

ITEM/ 6b

SUBJECT: Initial discussion of potential comprehensive review of Municipal Code for parking, bicycles, and other traffic and safety considerations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Provide direction to staff on Commission interest in drafting amendments to the Albany Municipal Code.

BACKGROUND/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Attached are excerpts from the Municipal Code related to Traffic and Safety Commission activities. In summary, the Code includes:

- Chapter 2 (Administration) – Excerpts from Chapter 2 that describes City Engineer and Commission responsibilities.
- Chapter 8 (Law Enforcement) - Section 8-12 regulates bicycles
- Chapter 9 (Motor Vehicles and Traffic) – Chapter 9 is attached in its entirety. Significant changes to this Chapter, particularly as they related to the California Vehicle Code and Police Department enforcement, will require consultation with the Police Department.
- Chapter 14 (Work on Public Property) – Excerpts are attached that related to sidewalks and use of the right-of-way.

DISCUSSION OF KEY ISSUES

Most of these regulations were adopted in the 1950s through 1970s, and thus may not reflect current practice. As an initial point of departure for discussions, staff would suggest Commissioners review the current Municipal Code sections and discuss potential prioritization for policy initiatives. With direction from the Commission, staff would begin to research potential updates. As Commission agenda allow, results of the research would be brought back for discussion. Currently, the issues that are coming up most frequently are parking standards and design standards for bikeways. In addition, the City is required to adopt “complete streets” standards in the near future.

It also should be noted that the city's General Plan will be updated over the next several years. Major policy initiatives that affect the physical layout of the City can be folded into the General Plan.

In addition to specific policy refinements, it may be useful for the City Council to consider adopting procedural guidelines and decision criteria for processing various types of requests. These guidelines would identify the public noticing requirements, decision-making authority, appeal process, etc.

Attachments:

1. Analysis of Zoning Requirements
2. Project Application & Plans