



**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**City Council Chambers
1000 San Pablo Avenue
May 23, 2013– 7:30 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Vice- Chair Javandel.
2. **ROLL CALL. Members present:** McQuaid, Javandel, and McCroskey. Commissioners Reeves and Miki were absent and excused. Staff present: Chavez and Officer Chris Willis
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for April 25, 2013.** Minutes were approved unanimously with a correction for Item 6-1

4. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Public comment was received from Preston Jordan, Amy Smolens, Catherine Sutton, David Krebs, Maureen Carly regarding the possibility of eliminating parking along the east side of Masonic Parking as demand for it is low and widen the Ohlone Greenway to increase park land in Albany. Reports on successful activities during bike month; speeding on the 900 block of Madison, and a suggestion to close the street to cut through traffic from Buchanan. A comment on speeding on Solano Avenue, and a complaint about the sweeping service.

5 PRESENTATION

5-1 Police Report

During the month of April there were 19 total vehicle accidents, 5 injury and 14 Non-Injury accidents. Two accidents were auto-bicycle, and one (1) auto pedestrian collisions. During last month, the APD had 187 moving violations. On the 20th of April, there was the beginning of the Click it or Ticket Campaign and the APD issued 27 tickets. 21 were seat belts and the rest for other violations.

6.0 Discussion and possible action on matters related to the following items:

6-1 Disabled Parking Request on Solano Avenue

McQuaid said she was the resident who brought up this issue to the Commission. She stated no financial gain from this proposal, however, she did state that her daughter was disabled and she would benefit from implementing disabled parking. Chavez presented the potential locations for disabled parking along Solano Avenue. The discussion focused only on proposed spaces along lower Solano as Commissioner McCroskey lives on Santa Fe Avenue and within the 500 feet range from Solano Avenue. A total of four locations were considered for discussion along lower Solano. Chavez said that staff applied the same ADA principles used for off street parking.

McQuaid asked if Dr. Lau's request was included in the proposed locations. Miki sent a comment about adding more green parking spaces that can be used by the disabled. Chavez warned that this practice may not benefit businesses that required a longer turnover, such as sit-down restaurants or hair salons. Javandel also said that while green zones may benefit high turnover business, if a disabled person parks there, the time limit

does not apply to a holder of a disabled placard, cancelling the benefit of the green zone. In addition, the quality of the space is not compliant with ADA regulations.

Discussion was open to the public. The following persons spoke: Maureen Carly, David Kebs about enforcement by APD, ADA placard abuse, and the need for a plan in place.

Motion Javandel/McQuaid: moved to approve the four locations presented in the map for the implementation of ADA on-street parking as follows: The space by Albany the space by Medical Group, the space by Evelyn Gardens, the space by Jeanne La Deux, and the space by Flowerland.

Motion Javandel McQuaid: moved to include one space either on Solano Avenue or Adams Street for the Dr. Lao's Chiropractor Practice west of San Pablo on 1033 Solano Avenue. Vote was unanimous.

6-2 Kains and Adams Bike Boulevards - Review of recent changes to the design guidelines for implementing bike boulevards on one-way streets.

Chavez provided background about recent developments in design regarding implementation of bicycle facilities on one-way streets. She said that this item is up for discussion for two reasons: One because the ATP recommended partial street closures to implement bicycle boulevards along Kains and Adams Streets. The adoption the ATP was contingent upon not including those two projects and upon conducting further analysis and additional design options for the implementation of bicycle facilities on those streets. The other reason was that the City moved to start a complete streets planning process for San Pablo Avenue and Buchanan Street. The Complete Streets proposal is looking at implementing bicycle travel alternatives to San Pablo Avenue in order to include all skill levels in the bicycle network.

The commission clarified concerns, such as the use of double yellow line to separate bicycle travel in the opposite direction and the number of driveways existing on those streets. Discussion was open to the public. The following people spoke: Maureen Carly, Clay Larson, Joanne C. Ed Fields, Amy Smolens. The comments were related to lack of proper notification, opposition to any change on Kains and Adams, the issue of implementing bikeways to nowhere, and the need for public outreach to garner support for the implementation of contra-flow lanes. Other comments were related to the idea of a contra-flow lane being interesting and needing further analysis. Contra-flow lanes have the potential to slow down traffic. Adams is part of an inter-county bike network that connects El Cerrito to Emeryville, so the bike facility connects important destinations.

Motion Javandel/McQuaid: Move to develop concept drawings in preparation for a neighborhood discussion. Vote was unanimous.

6-3 Report on Temporary Traffic Calming implementation on the hill area of Washington Street and Castro Street.

Chavez presented the report on the speed survey and the monitoring of the stop signs that were recently implemented on Washington Avenue. She said that the next steps were to look at the red curbs, evaluate the results and decide if the other countermeasures would be needed. The Commission had some questions about the temporary chicanes at the intersection with Gateview. Public comments were received from Preston Jordan regarding the problem of parking on the sidewalk and reminding the Commission that Washington is part of the Albany Priority Sidewalk network and it was important to keep it accessible. The Commission commented on removal of vegetation to help keep sidewalks clear for pedestrians.

6-9 Report on Buchanan Marin Bikeway construction activities

Chavez provided a report on the status of this project. She also shared with the Commission the presentation staff prepared for Caltrans regarding the proposed signal modifications at the Marin/San Pablo intersection. Public comment was received from Amy Smolens and Preston Jordan regarding the width of the ramp on the south side of the Pierce/Buchanan intersection and other locations such as the Jackson/Buchanan intersection. In addition, there was frustration about the fact that the AS&R members had to point out design mistakes. Chavez said the ramp would be widened after the project is built. Javandel said that it might be possible that the designer is using the wrong standard. There are two design standards for ramps: the Americans with Disabilities Act and that of the Highway Design Manual, Chapter 1000. Most engineers use the ADA standards and most engineers have not transitioned from being traffic engineers to multi-modal engineers. McQuaid asked if the ramps at Jackson are bicycle ramps. Chavez said that they were not. Chavez said that staff had scheduled another meeting with Caltrans to discuss the UC multimodal project and the Complete Streets project.

7. Announcements and Communications. Announcements were given about the following items:

McCroskey said that the Bike to School Day was quite successful with distribution of goodie bags and bike blender smoothies, lights by the AS&R at all the schools, including the High School. He also reminded that the Bike About Town was tomorrow night.

McQuaid said that the Albany Police Activities League hosted the Bike Rodeo. She thanked the AS&R and others for their contribution.

Javandel announced that the Alameda County Transportation Commission recommended funding for two of the three projects that the City submitted. Chavez said that the projects were the Third Phase of the Buchanan Marin Bikeway for \$536,000 and the Santa Fe Pavement Rehabilitation project for \$149,000.

8. Future Agenda Items.

McCroskey asked when Masonic would be repaved. Chavez responded that when BART finalized its retrofit project. She also said that speed humps are scheduled to be installed on the 600 and 800 blocks of Masonic. Preston Jordan suggested discussing the sidewalk program under the Parcel Tax as this is one of the goals of the strategic plan. It is important to get financial information on how this would work.

9. Adjournment—Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.