



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

Agenda Date: May 6, 2019
Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Proposed Driveway Red Curb Policy

REPORT BY: Grasielita Diaz, Community Development Intern
Justin Fried, AICP, Transportation Planner

SUMMARY

The action before the City Council is to adopt a policy for the installation of red curb markings adjacent to driveways.

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt a resolution establishing a city driveway red curb policy as proposed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2019-34, establishing a city driveway red curb policy.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The installation of small segments of red paint adjacent to driveways, sometimes referred to as 'red tipping', is used as a visual cue to drivers of vehicles parking along the curb not to encroach on the driveway. Parking in a way that blocks a driveway is enforceable by Albany Police Department without the red paint. Residents often request red paint to improve access in and out of driveways when vehicles parked on the street are making it difficult to do so. The intent with the red paint is to help reduce these conflicts.

Currently, there is not a process in place for submitting a red curb request nor are there city guidelines outlining which situations allow for installation. Staff is proposing the attached policy establishing the criteria for approving red curbs at driveway approaches. Under this policy, residents or businesses would submit an application and pay fees to formally request red curb paint at driveway approaches so that these requests are treated in a uniform manner.

The proposed policy would allow staff to approve the treatment when the red paint would not remove a curbside parking space. Staff is proposing that reducing curb lengths that are between 12 and 19 feet would not be permitted, interpreting this reduction as taking away a

viable parking space. Often these are the curb areas where cars try to squeeze in to a space that is too small; however, these curb areas are viable spaces for some vehicles. Curb flares (where the curb slopes down to meet the driveway) could still be painted in these cases as these are considered part of the driveway where parking is already prohibited. The curb length on both sides of the driveway does not need to meet the criteria of not reducing a parking space - when only one side meets the criteria, red curb markings can be applied on just the one side.

It is recommended that the length of approved treatment would be up to two feet on either side of the driveway such that the total no parking area including driveway and red paint would be up to eleven feet. For a seven-foot driveway curb cut with minimal flares, two feet would be painted on either side. For wider driveways, the red paint would be reduced in length.

It is also recommended that an application procedure for the public to request red curb markings be formalized. The request would include completing an application form, payment of an application fee for review of the request, and a paint installation fee. A request may be denied if it does not meet the standards listed in the policy procedures. The policy would allow the applicant can appeal the decision to the Traffic and Safety Commission. In the case of an appeal, owners and residents within 150 feet of the applicant would be notified of the Traffic & Safety Commission review.

The red curb procedures and application will be made available online and in hard copy at the Community Development Department.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

N/A.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The red curb application would include fees to cover costs of review and installation. Pending Council direction, the fees will be incorporated into the City's Master Fee Schedule.

Attachments

1. Reso 2019-34
2. Driveway Red Curb Policy
3. Example of Driveway Red Curb Marking

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING THE CITY DRIVEWAY RED CURB POLICY

WHEREAS, the Albany City Council recognizes the use of city streets for both private driveway access and for street parking; and

WHEREAS, red curb markings are identified in the City of Albany Municipal Code Section 9-10.17 to indicate no stopping, standing or parking at any time; and

WHEREAS, red curb markings can provide a visual cue to drivers of vehicles parking along the curb not to encroach on the driveway; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on April 25, 2019, the Traffic and Safety Commission recommended the City Driveway Red Curb Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albany City Council does hereby adopt the Driveway Red Curb Policy for the installation of red curb markings adjacent to driveways.

ROCHELLE NASON, MAYOR

Attachment 2:

City of Albany Driveway Red Curb Policy

The City of Albany Municipal Code Section 9-10.17 defines curb markings to indicate restrictions or prohibition to park at designated areas. Number 1 of this section states:

"1. Red. Shall mean no stopping, standing or parking at any time, except as permitted by the Vehicle Code of the State, and except that a bus may stop in a red zone marked or signed as a bus zone."

Considerations for Red Curb Treatment Adjacent to Driveways:

The installation of small segments of red paint adjacent to driveways, sometimes referred to as 'red tipping', is used as a visual cue to drivers of vehicles parking along the curb not to encroach on the driveway. Parking in a way that blocks a driveway is enforceable by the Albany Police Department without the red paint. Parking restrictions for driveway red curb markings is similarly enforceable, just as any other no-parking zone in the City.

Residents often request red paint to improve access in and out of driveways when there is a history of vehicles parked on the street making it difficult to do so. The intent with the red paint is to help reduce these conflicts. In evaluating requests, the City must balance the issue of maintaining access in and out of private driveways with the use of curb space for on-street public parking.

- Red curbs can typically be installed in the following situations:
 - Short sections of red curbing, at the request of property owners, can be installed on one or both sides of a driveway to promote better maneuverability into and out of the driveway and to improve visibility from the driveway.
 - The amount of red curb shall be installed in a way that avoids the loss of existing on-street parking spaces. Requests for reducing the available curb length below 19 feet will be denied unless already less than 12 feet.
 - Up to two feet of red curb on either side of the driveway shall be installed to widen the combined driveway and red curb zone up to 11 feet. (For example, a 7 foot driveway could get 2 feet of red curb on either side; an 8 foot driveway could get 1 ½ feet of red curb on either side)

How to Submit a Red Curb Request

1. Requests for painting a red curb near business/residential driveways shall be made by completing an application form and submitting it to the Community Development Department.
2. An application fee per Master Fee Schedule must be submitted with the application form.
3. The application will be reviewed by Community Development staff for approval.
4. In evaluating the request, the department should consider:
 - a. Width of existing driveway
 - b. Curb length available for parking on either side of the driveway
 - c. Any other information deemed necessary by staff

Appeal Process for a Denied Red Curb

Staff can deny a red curb request if it does not meet the criteria listed above. If staff denies a red curb marking, the applicant can request an appeal through the Traffic and Safety Commission.

- The appeal request will be placed on the agenda of an upcoming Traffic and Safety Commission meeting.
- Notice of the public meeting will be sent to property owners and residents on both sides of the street within 150 feet walking distance of the subject property.
- In addition, a notice shall also be posted on the subject property. The notice shall be sent and posted at least 10 days prior to the meeting and shall describe the request and provide the date, time and location of the Traffic and Safety Commission meeting.
- In evaluating the request, the Traffic and Safety Commission shall consider whether the applicant has demonstrated a need for the curb space that outweighs preservation of such space for public use.

Attachment 3:

Example of Driveway Red Curb Marking

