



City of Albany

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Date: November 13, 2008
To: Ann Chaney, Community Development Director
From: Beth Pollard, City Administrator
Subject: Traffic & Safety Commission composition

I understand that the Traffic & Safety Commission has agendized the subject of a change in the composition of the Commission for recommendation to the City Council, and that the focus of the discussion is toward providing representation from the bicyclist and/or pedestrian community on the Commission.

My recommendation is to consider expanding the Commission by two members. One member would be appointed at-large by the City Council and one member would be appointed by the Albany School Board.

The City Council at-large appointment would allow the Council to add to the Commission a perspective or experience that it believes would help the Commission be more effective, which might be from the bicyclist community. On the other hand, if the Councilmember appointees already sufficiently cover that perspective, the Council may wish to appoint someone that brings a different skill set to the group, such as a local traffic engineer, or someone with an accessibility disability, or something else. Since traffic safety encompasses a variety of issues, by having an at-large seat, the Council has greater ability and flexibility to fill the needs of the group as a whole.

The School Board appointee would provide a direct link between the City's traffic and safety efforts and the schools. Historically issues of drop off, pick up, and travel to and from schools have received significant attention from the Traffic & Safety Commission. Other city advisory bodies, including the Parks & Recreation Commission, Social & Economic Justice Commission, Sustainability Committee, and Arts Committee have School Board appointees. I know that in the case of the Parks & Recreation Commission, there have been times when these appointees present reports at School Board meetings on commission activities, which strengthens communication and cooperation.

Lastly, by having two appointees added to the Commission, it allows all members to be voting members while preserving the odd-number of members for voting purposes.