

**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**CITY OF ALBANY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE  
CITY OF ALBANY  
May 22, 2008**

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Lubov Mazur, Chair.

**2. Roll Call**

Members present: Ray Anderson, Lubov Mazur, Marsha Atkinson. Treat was absent (Richard Treat called Chavez to let her know that he would be absent, however she arrived late to the meeting and could not mention this at this time) and Mazur asked the members present to wait a few minutes as the meeting was at a different place for the first time. Madson arrived at 7:10 pm. Mazur proceeded with item 4.

**5-1 Traffic Calming Policy (attached)**

Chaney provided background on the traffic calming policy that the Commission examined some time ago. Bill Burton of DMJM Harris reviewed the policy and provided comments on the draft document.

Bill Burton said that the first step is to determine if the street is suitable for the implementation of traffic calming measures and the second step is to collect speed and volume data. He said that the draft policy is within industry standards and that he had three of recommendations: First, dropping the lower boundary on Criterion 8 because the fact that a street has lower volume should not necessarily preclude it from being eligible for traffic calming implementation. The other recommendation is keeping the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile in compliance with the California Speed Law and stipulating speeding as the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile being 5 miles over the posted or street speed limit. His last recommendation was monitoring adjacent streets whenever a traffic calming implementation takes place in order to make sure the problem is not diverted to other areas.

Mazur asked if there were questions from the Commission members. Being none, she opened the discussion to the public.

Rhoda of 950 Cornell said she had one concern regarding long streets. Her experience is that long streets encourage faster driving. Burton said that the policy states that the street should be at least 300 feet in length.

Dave Fields of Kains Avenue asked a question about qualifying for traffic calming measures based on the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile. Burton clarified the concept.

Atkinson asked if speeding is considered five miles over the posted speed limit because Albany does not have many streets where the speed is posted.

Mazur asked if a street qualifies by volume and speed or by volume or speed alone. Burton said that usually the criterion is speed, because street calming is not a solution for volume reduction. Mazur asked for examples in town where the street grade is more than 8 percent. Burton said that without measuring, Solano Avenue west of San Pablo would be an example. Chaney said that perhaps, Peralta was another street with a grade greater than 8 percent.

Madson moved to approve the policy with the changes proposed by Mr. Burton in his memo of January 16, 2008 and with the removal of the word "posted." Atkinson seconded. Vote was 4/0. The item will be forwarded to the City Council in the near future.