

January 16, 2009

To: Traffic and Safety Commission
From: Ann Chaney, Community Development Director
Subject: **Traffic and Safety Commission Membership**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the City Council amend Section 2-20.1 of the Albany Municipal Code to state that:

The Traffic and Safety Commission of the City shall consist of six (6) members as follows:

- a. Five (5) members of such Commission shall be appointed by Councilmembers; each Councilmember shall appoint one (1) member to the Commission.
- b. One (1) members of such Commission shall be nominated by the President of the Board of Education, subject, however, to approval of such nomination by a majority of the Board of Education as a whole. The term of the Board of Education member shall be for a two (2) year period. Such member shall be an elector of the City at the time of confirmation of the appointment, and no member of the Board of Education shall be eligible to serve on this Commission.

It is further recommended that the Traffic and Safety Commission direct City staff to carry out the following:

- Place an item on each agenda calling for the Commission to explicitly address the effects on Bicycle and Pedestrian safety and travel (pro or con) for all potential action items.
- Invite the Albany Strollers and Rollers to participate and provide input in the City's Update to the Bicycle Master Plan and preparation of the new Pedestrian Plan.
- City staff should work with AS&R to seek their review of public projects that may affect matters of bicycle and pedestrian safety and travel.

BACKGROUND

Representatives of the Albany Strollers and Rollers have requested that the Traffic and Safety Commission consider adding ex-officio members to the Commission membership who specifically represent bicycle and pedestrian interest. The Commission has discussed this matter during the last several meetings. Between the time of the AS&R request and now, the City Administrator sent the Commission a memo, and the City Administrator and Community Development Director met with Preston Jordan and Nick Pilch, AS&R, to more fully discuss their concerns and possible ways of addressing those concerns.

ANALYSIS

Per the Albany Municipal Code, the Traffic and Safety Commission is made up of five (5) members. Ex-Officio members include the Police Chief, Fire Chief and City Engineer (thus all staff personnel) who advise but are not voting members. If the make up of the Commission were to change, an amendment to the AMC would be necessary and require City Council action.

The discussion over the past several months at the Commission and with AS&R has been helpful. Based on concerns raised by AS&R, staff recommends that:

- Effects on Bicycle and Pedestrian safety and travel (pro or con) be explicitly addressed by the Commission for all potential action items.
 - While the importance of bicycle and pedestrian safety and travel is consistently a part of the Commission's purview and thought, explicit attention will ensure that this issue is being given overt attention.
- Albany Strollers and Rollers participation and input be actively sought during the City's Update to the Bicycle Master Plan and preparation of the new Pedestrian Plan.
 - Pending receipt of a grant, this effort will likely begin in mid-2009.
- City staff should work with AS&R to seek their review on public projects that may affect matters of bicycle and pedestrian safety and travel.

During the Commission's discussion, interest was expressed in having a School Board representative as part of the Commission's membership. A School Board representative currently sits on the Park and Recreation Commission and the Sustainability Commission. Both are appointed by the School Board and periodically report back to the Board on matter relevant to the schools. Because the Commission's agenda nearly always includes an item regarding vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle safety, in and around Albany schools, it seems logical to expand the make-up of the Commission to include such representation.

Staff does not believe that having a six (6) voting member body for Traffic and Safety would be problematic given absences from time to time, and the few numbers of split votes the Commission has faced over the past decade.