CITY OF ALBANY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: April 20, 2009

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Declare Official Bike to Work Day and community member

recognition

REPORT BY: Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Albany City Council approve Resolution #09-19 declaring May 14, 2009 as the Official Bike to Work Day and recognize community members for their outstanding efforts in advancing bicycling in the City.

BACKGROUND

Bike to Work Day is an annual event that happens in the month of May as part of the National Bike to Work Month. In the Bay Area, Bike to Work Day is celebrating its 15th year and it has been a very successful event since its inception in 1995. According to the 2007 American Community Survey 43,000 Bay Area residents use a bike as their primary means of transportation on a daily basis, but for this event hundreds of thousands are expected to take the streets of the Bay Area. The Bay Area Bicycle Coalition (BABC) and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District are the major organizers and sponsors of the Bay Area event along with many private companies, non-profit organizations, and some Bay Area cities.

Energizer stations are located along the most popular bicycle routes where bicyclists can stop for refreshments and giveaways during the morning commute hours. In Alameda County, the East Bay Bicycle Coalition (EBBC) has been one of the main organizers of this event and Albany has had an "energizer station" at the intersection of Ohlone Greenway and Marin Avenue for previous events. The Albany Strollers and Rollers have worked with the EBBC in organizing this event, which includes coordinating with the City and local sponsors for monetary donations or for the provision of incentives (gift certificates) for those commuting to work or to school that day. Members of the Albany Strollers and Rollers have been very active in promoting and advancing this event in particular and bicycling in general.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Every year, the City has collaborated with the Albany Strollers and Rollers for this event, mainly by providing a portable table, getting in kind donations from local businesses and

staffing the energizer station at Marin and Ohlone Greenway.

Since the City has recognized the impact of vehicle emissions on the environment and the detrimental effects of global warming, promoting bicycling is one of the modes of transportation that will bring the City closer to achieving its goal of reducing carbon emissions by the year 2020. Therefore, in recognition of the imminent need to decrease carbon emissions and encourage alternative modes of transportation to the private automobile, staff recommends that the Council support the Bike to Work Day and declare May 14, 2009 as the Official Bike to Work Day in Albany. In addition, in recognition that the work conducted by the members of the Rollers and Strollers has been conducive of the great success of the Bike to Work Day in Albany in the past years, Councilmember Wile is requesting that the Council recognize the efforts of the members of the Albany Strollers and Rollers in advancing bicycling as an efficient, non-polluting alternative to the private automobile.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Advancing bicycling as an alternative mode of transportation and promoting the Bike to Work Day has positive impacts on the vitality of the City and brings about a more sustainable environment.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

No financial impact has been determined by the Council taking these actions

Attachment
Resolution #09-19