

ALBANY 2035 GENERAL PLAN

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION STUDY SESSION

May 28, 2014

Transportation Element



Slide 2

GC 65302(b):

(The General Plan shall include a...)

“Circulation element consisting of the general location and extent of existing and proposed major thoroughfares, transportation routes, terminals, and other local public utilities and facilities, all correlated with the land use element of the plan.”

Transportation Element Topics



Slide 3

- Current and projected traffic conditions
- All modes of travel
 - ▣ Bicycles, pedestrians, autos, trucks, public transit
- Relationship between transportation and land use
- Strategies to reduce VMT and congestion
- Transportation issues such as parking, safety, traffic calming

Transportation Policy Audit



Slide 4

- 1992 General Plan
- 2000 Traffic Management Plan
- 2012 Active Transportation Plan
- 2010 Climate Action Plan
- 2013 Complete Streets Policy
- San Pablo-Buchanan Complete Streets Plan
- Municipal Code
- County/Regional plans

Policy Audit



Slide 5

Albany General Plan Policy Audit					
TRANSPORTATION					
Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation	Adjustments
920P-Circ	Goal	Preserve the character of residential areas near end on arterial streets	neighbor impacts	merge into a policy about residential arterials	
920P-Circ	Pol Circ 1.1	Evaluate the traffic and circulation along Kains and Adams Streets. Take advantage of an east-west street or San Pablo Avenue for primary access. Discourage the use of Kains and Adams for primary access to non-residential uses.	neighbor impacts	The first sentence is a program, rather than a policy. The second sentence should be rewritten to better express the objective. The last sentence is still relevant, but is included as Policy 2.7 in the Land Use Element. X-ref here	
920P-Circ	Pol Circ 1.2	Delete the designation of minor arterial for Cornell Avenue	neighbor impacts	Superseded by more current transportation plans. Check road hierarchy maps to make sure this is correct.	
920P-Circ	Pol Circ 1.3	Support staging and careful scheduling of I-80 corridor improvements to reduce traffic diversion on to City streets.	neighbor impacts	Should update and apply more broadly to all freeway work, not just the now-completed improvements to 90,580.	
920P-Circ	Pol Circ 1.4	Concentrate east-west through-traffic along Marin and Solano Avenues and discourage such traffic from Washington and Portland	neighbor impacts	All valid. Perhaps broaden to discourage through traffic on other east-west streets?	
920P-Circ	Pol Circ 1.5	Concentrate north-south through traffic along Masonic, Key Route and Santa Fe (all east of San Pablo Ave)	neighbor impacts	Why not just concentrate north-south traffic on San Pablo? What about Pierce/Cleveland?	
920P-Circ	Pol Circ 1.6	Redesignate the following streets: (a) Jackson between Solano and the northerly terminus; downgrade from "minor arterial" to "collector"; (b) Washington between Cleveland and Jackson; downgrade from "minor arterial" to "local"; (c) Solano between San Pablo and east city limit; upgrade from "collector" to "major arterial"	neighbor impacts	This is a program, not a policy. Replace with more current hierarchy as expressed in Active TP and Traffic Management Plan. Show current classification system on General Plan Map.	
920P-Circ	Pol Circ 1.7	Review and consider the use of roadway features such as speed bumps, traffic diverters, and other methods to limit through traffic and high speeds on residential streets. This tool should be considered on a citywide basis and potential impacts to adjacent streets due to changing travel patterns should be fully addressed.	neighbor impacts	Carry forward and potentially expand, based on more recent transportation policy plans	
920P-Circ	Goal	Protect residential neighborhoods from excessive parking demands.	parking	Need to rewrite this goal to present a more balanced perspective and acknowledge competing goals (sustainability, affordability, etc.)	

Existing v Proposed Transportation Goals



Slide 6

EXISTING GOALS (1992)

1. Residential Character
2. Neighborhood Parking
3. Solano and San Pablo Parking
4. Transit
5. I-80 Interchange
6. Bike Routes

PROPOSED GOALS (2014)

1. Complete Streets
2. Sustainable Transportation
3. Transportation Choice
4. Safety
5. Transportation Impacts
6. Vehicle Flow
7. Parking

1 Complete Streets



Slide 7

Create and maintain a street network that accommodates all modes of travel, meets the mobility needs of all travelers, and enhances Albany's sense of place.

- Balancing all modes
- Sensitivity to context
- Operating procedures
- Design standards
- Connecting the City
- Accessibility for all

2 Sustainability



Slide 8

Reduce the consumption of non-renewable resources and the emission of greenhouse gases related to transportation.

- Transit Oriented Development
- Mixing of uses and jobs-housing balance
- Low emission vehicles
- Sharing: Rides, Cars, Bikes
- Spreading/reducing the peak hour
- Evaluating GHG emissions

3 Transportation Choice



Slide 9

Provide the opportunity to safely and conveniently travel through Albany using a variety of travel modes, including walking, bicycling, and public transportation.

- Bikeway improvements
- Bike and sidewalk maintenance
- Bike parking
- Bike programming and education
- Sidewalks and paths
- Access to open space
- Transit service
- Transit stops
- Transit needs
- Paratransit
- Coordination across city lines

4 Transportation Safety



Slide 10

Improve the safety of all modes of travel, taking particular care to reduce the rate of injury accidents for bicycles and pedestrians.

- Accident data and project prioritization
- Enforcement
- Preventive maintenance
- Crosswalk safety
- Community education on safety
- School safety
- Lighting and security

5 Managing Transportation Impacts



Slide 11

Minimize the adverse effects of vehicle traffic on Albany's neighborhoods.

- Traffic calming
- Cut-through traffic
 - Regional scale
 - Local scale
- Residential arterials
- Kains-Adams access
- Streetscape improvement
- Trucks

6 Vehicle Flow



Slide 12

Provide for the safe and efficient flow of vehicle traffic.

- Road hierarchy
- Monitoring performance
- Interstate 80 and 580
- Development-related improvements
- Pavement maintenance
- Signal timing and configuration
- Level of service
- Coordination with other cities

7 Parking



Slide 13

Balance the need for vehicle parking with the goal of reducing auto dependence and achieving more sustainable development.

- Strategies to balance supply and demand
- Parking standards (residential and commercial)
- Shared parking
- Innovations (lifts, car-share, etc.)
- Design of surface parking
- Unbundling
- Municipal parking

Other Components



Slide 14

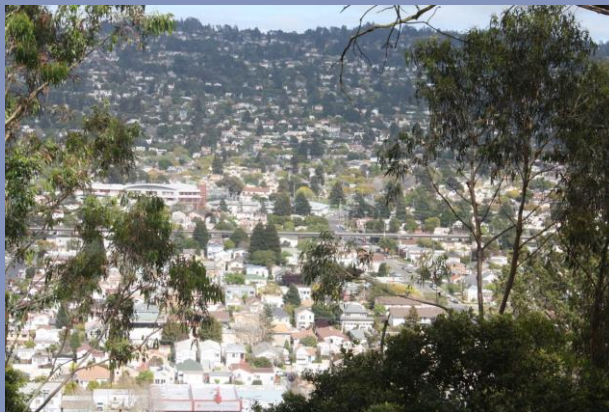
- 2014 traffic counts completed
- 2035 traffic forecasts to be prepared based on:
 - ▣ Local land uses and forecasts
 - ▣ Regional projections
- Analysis of potential hot spots and needed improvements
- Maps of road hierarchy, ped and bike network

Discussion Questions



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- Are these the right goals?
- Are there missing transportation topics requiring policies?
- Do the policies provide the right direction?
- Are there additional action programs needed to implement the policies?



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