

# City of Albany



**TO:** ALBANY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
**FROM:** BARRY MILLER, GENERAL PLAN CONSULTANT  
**SUBJECT:** GENERAL PLAN UPDATE  
**DATE:** MAY 28, 2014

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## **REQUEST**

This is the next in a series of Planning and Zoning Commission Study Sessions on the Albany 2035 General Plan Update. This Study Session will cover the General Plan goals and policies for transportation. An opportunity for public comment will be provided.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

This item is a study session and no Commission action is required.

## **SITE LOCATION**

The General Plan applies to all property in the City of Albany.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Planning and Zoning Commission Study Session on May 28 will focus on the General Plan Transportation Element. The intent of this Element is to summarize existing and projected transportation conditions, identify planned improvements, and express the City's transportation goals, policies, and action programs. All modes of travel are addressed.

The narrative portion of the Transportation Element is presently being drafted. It will include the results of new traffic counts taken on April 30, 2014 as well as current information about the City's bicycle and pedestrian networks, public transit facilities and services, and vehicle traffic management programs. Forecasts for 2035 will be included.

Goals, policies and actions for Transportation are included as Exhibit "A" of this staff report. At the Study Session, the City's consultant will walk the Commission through this material, and solicit feedback from Commissioners.

## **Transportation Policy Audit**

The intent of the Transportation Element of the General Plan is not to substantially alter existing policies, but rather to integrate and synthesize policies that have already been adopted by the City. Thus, one of the key tasks in assembling the Transportation Element was an “audit” of existing transportation policies.

Among the documents reviewed were the 2012 Active Transportation Plan, the 2013 Complete Streets Resolution, the 2010 Climate Action Plan, the 2000 Traffic Management Plan, and the recent Buchanan-San Pablo Complete Streets Plan. In addition, the 1992 General Plan also was reviewed. Other sources for transportation policies include input from the Measure D (parking) Working Group, the long-range plans of other agencies such as BART and AC Transit, and regional planning documents such as Plan Bay Area. Roughly 250 goals, policies, and actions were included in the audit.

As the Commission may recall from its review of the Land Use Policy Audit, the audit is formatted a matrix. Policies and actions are listed in rows of the matrix, with columns showing the subject matter and whether the statement should be carried forward, edited, merged with another statement, included in narrative, etc.

A copy of the Transportation Policy Audit will be posted to the project website and may be provided on request. It is a 26-page document.

## **Draft Goals, Policies, and Actions**

Exhibit “A” presents draft Transportation Use goals, policies, and actions for discussion. This is a Working Draft for discussion only. Comments are encouraged and revisions are likely before a Draft General Plan is published.

Seven goals are identified, corresponding to the following topics:

- Complete Streets
- Sustainable Transportation
- Transportation Choice
- Safety
- Managing Transportation Impacts
- Vehicle Flow
- Parking

For each goal, the text includes policies and actions. In each case, the statement of origin leading to the policy or action is listed in small (8 point italics) font. The statements have been rewritten (and in some cases completely restructured) to reflect the focus and format conventions of a General Plan. In some cases, the statements are new and reflect best practices or other directives.

## **Feedback from Traffic and Safety Commission**

The material being presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission on May 28 was also presented to the Traffic and Safety Commission on May 22. Comments from that meeting

(including comments from the public) are included as Exhibit B to this staff report. In general, the Commission felt the goals and policies were on point and were moving the City in the right direction. Major comments will be reviewed during the P & Z Study Session on May 28.

### **Study Session Format**

The study session is envisioned as 60 minutes in length. There will be a short PowerPoint presentation on the goals, policies, and actions followed by discussion. Commissioners will be asked to share their thoughts about the draft policies, including additional topic areas or new policies that should be covered. Public comment will be considered before the close of the study session. Comments may also be submitted in writing after the Study Session via email or feedback on the Project website.

**APPENDIX A:** Draft Transportation Goals, Policies, and Actions

**APPENDIX B:** Comments from Traffic and Safety Commission on Appendix A