



Office of the City Manager

INFORMATION CALENDAR
September 24, 2002

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Weldon Rucker, City Manager

Subject: City of Albany Plans Regarding Marin Avenue (CF 123-02)

INTRODUCTION

On July 23, 2002, the Council asked the City Manager to report on the status of the City of Albany proposal to reduce the number of traffic lanes on Marin Avenue in Albany, and any potential traffic impacts this proposal might have on other streets.

Staff from the Office of Transportation has consulted with City of Albany staff and reviewed work performed by their traffic consultant. It is the opinion of Berkeley staff that there will be no major impacts to other streets if the bicycle lane plans (including the reduction of lanes from 4 to 3) approved by the Albany City Council for Marin Avenue are implemented.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On July 1, 2002, the Albany City Council approved Resolution #02-52 to approve traffic calming options for Marin Avenue. This resolution approved the recommendations of Albany's Traffic & Safety Commission, which included the following:

- Converting Marin Avenue from 4 travel lanes to 3 travel lanes (including left-turn lanes)
- Adding bicycle lanes
- Terminating improvements at Ventura/Tulare Streets or The Alameda (depending on City of Berkeley concurrence)

The City of Albany's consultant studied the impacts of four proposals and recommended a plan (to be referred to hereafter as Alternative 2) which the Albany City Council approved with phased implementation as follows:

- Phase I – Changing the striping (paint) and signage per Alternative 2 improvements (east of San Pablo Avenue), beginning in the area between Stannage and Cornell Avenues.
- Phase II – Changing the striping (paint) and signage similar to Alternative 2 improvements west of San Pablo Avenue, contingent upon the results of community consultation and consultant input.
- Phase III – Constructing bulbouts or islands per Alternative 2 (east of San Pablo Avenue) to suit the new configuration
- Phase IV – Introducing new road design elements to suit the new configuration similar to Alternative 2 improvements (west of San Pablo Avenue), as noted above.
- Phase V – Adding stop lights at yet to be selected locations.

Finally, the Albany City Council resolved that the City seek grant funds for plan design and construction.

The City of Albany commissioned an engineering consultant to study the potential effects of bicycle lanes and traffic calming on Marin Avenue. These studies showed the levels of service impacts of the preferred Alternative 2 (reduction from 4 to 3 lanes, and with bike lanes) to be minimal at all intersections with Marin Avenue under current and projected traffic volumes.

With minor impacts to the levels of service on Marin Avenue, Office of Transportation staff concludes that streets in Berkeley will not be significantly impacted by the bicycle lane plan. Phase V was not studied by the consultant and seems to be an item for future study. It is not possible to assess the impact of adding stop lights at yet to be selected locations.

BACKGROUND

Interested Parties

Residents in the immediate vicinity of Marin Avenue, along its entire length, have expressed interest in this matter.

Community Outreach

The City of Albany invited residents of Berkeley who live on Marin Avenue to a public meeting on May 2, 2002, to review the Marin Avenue Traffic Simulation Study.

Commission Comments

This issue has not been forwarded to the Transportation Commission for comment as such action could not be accommodated in the tight reporting schedule requested by City Council.

Past Council Action

Bicycle lanes on Marin Avenue from Monterey Street to the Albany border are proposed in the Berkeley Bicycle Plan, adopted April 4, 2000. Therefore, the action taken by the Albany City Council is consistent with the policy direction established by the Berkeley City Council.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

In the spring of 2003, Office of Transportation staff will begin the process of working with the community to determine a plan for implementing bicycle lanes on Marin Avenue in the City of Berkeley. The bicycle lane designs approved by the City of Albany will be included within the design work to be considered by City of Berkeley staff.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

To be determined.

CONTACT PERSON

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Approved:



Peter Hillier, Assistant City Manager for Transportation