

City of Albany

City Council Strategic Plan

April 2023 – March 2025

STATUS UPDATE – FEBRUARY 25, 2025



**Advance Climate
Action & Adaptation**



**Promote Housing
Availability & Quality**



**Promote Streets that
Support Safety &
Transportation Mobility Options**



**Encourage Community
Connectivity Through
Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity**



**Increase Revenue to
Sustain City Services**



**Increase Public Health,
Safety & Resiliency**

City Council Strategic Plan

City Mission Statement

Albany is committed to providing a healthy, safe, and accessible city, and strives to lift every voice in our community

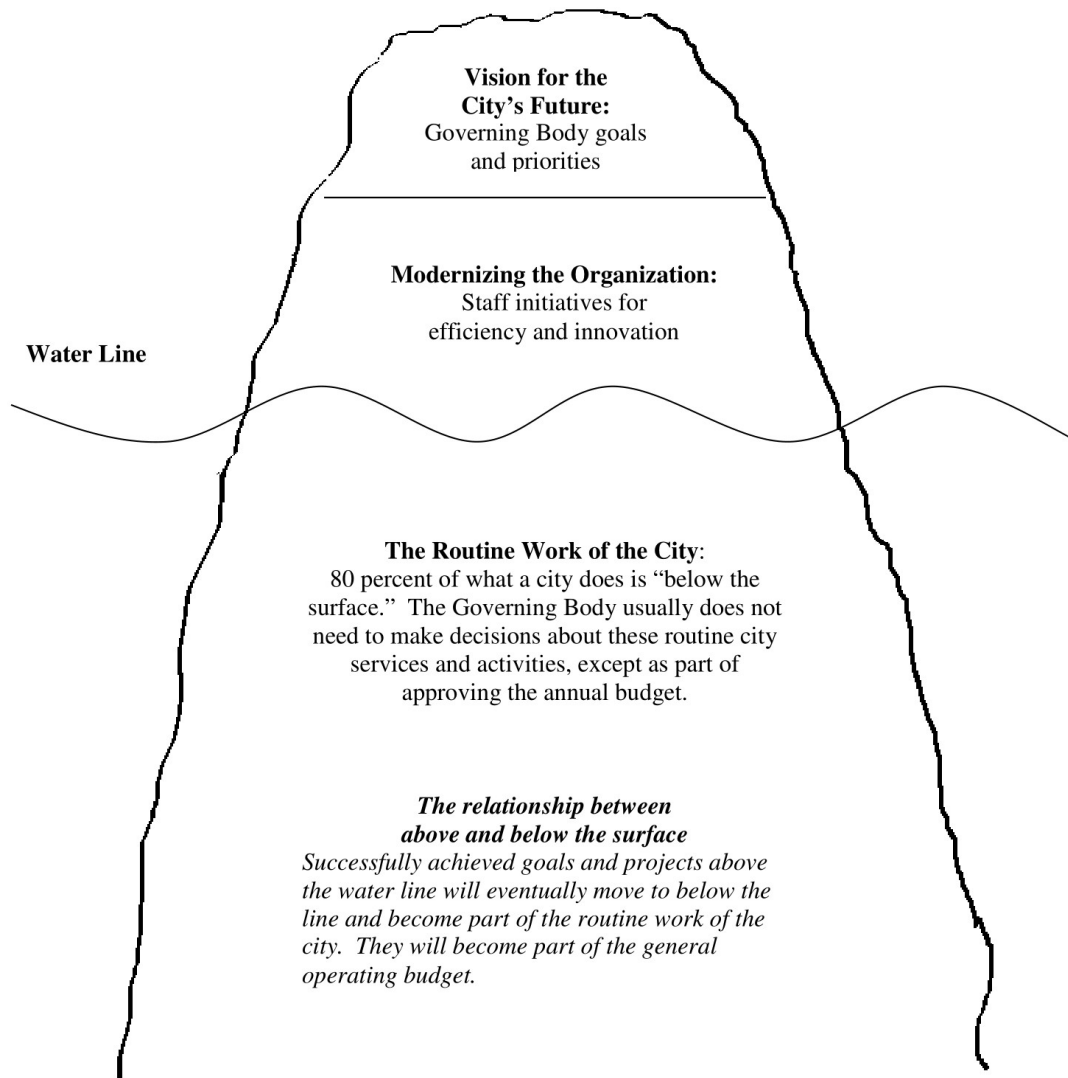
Overview

The purpose of the City Council Strategic Plan is to identify key issues, develop City Council direction, establish priorities, and set goals and objectives to best focus changes to the use of the City's limited resources and capacity over the course of the 2- year plan period. The mandated obligations of local government remain the core function of the City and need not be fully detailed in the Strategic Plan, including but not limited to: public infrastructure, public safety, governmental transparency, financial accountability, and implementation of regulations. This balance between core services and strategic plan goals is well depicted by the "Iceberg Model" as shown on next page.

To ensure effective implementation, the City Council and community will review progress toward objectives annually and will adjust the work plan and objectives as needed.



The Iceberg Model of City Work



Nalbandian Consulting and Training, May 2003



LIST OF GOALS

**GOAL 1: Advance Climate
Action & Adaptation**

**GOAL 4: Encourage Community
Connectivity Through
Diversity, Equity &
Inclusivity**

**GOAL 2: Promote Housing
Availability & Quality**

**GOAL 5: Increase Revenue to
Sustain City Services**

**GOAL 3: Promote Streets that
Support Safety &
Transportation Mobility
Options**

**GOAL 6: Increase Public Health,
Safety & Resiliency**



Status Update – February 25, 2025

The following provides an update on implementation status of the City Council Strategic Plan April 2023 – March 2025. It should be noted that the status updates included below are specific to the objectives listed. A significant amount of work has been conducted to forward the goals of the strategic plan beyond the listed objectives. An ongoing summary of accomplishments can be found on the City's website:

<https://www.albanyca.org/government/city-council/strategic-plan>





ADVANCE CLIMATE ACTION & ADAPTATION

OBJECTIVES:

- ♦ Continue work to establish a pilot program for electrification of existing buildings

Status: Gasline decommissioning project is pending due to uncertainty with \$200,000 grant funding from the US Department of Energy. Decision making on next steps and timing anticipated for the March 3, 2025 City Council meeting.

- ♦ Explore opportunities to facilitate electric vehicle charging

Status: EV chargers installed at three locations for a total of 18 charging locations. Phase 2 of this project is currently under discussion with the City's Climate Action Committee.

Upcoming Capital Improvement Plan will include project to evaluate electrification of city buildings and EV charging to support transition of the City's fleet to EVs.

- ♦ Identify opportunities to enhance City program for management of street trees

Status: Street Tree Management Plan development underway, to be presented to the Council in Spring/Summer.

Guiding City Plans: *The City's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan serves as an instructional plan that identifies programs and projects that are intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as measures to adapt to climate change impacts.*





PROMOTE HOUSING AVAILABILITY & QUALITY

OBJECTIVES:

- ♦ Identify ways to incentivize more housing development including zoning or other code updates

Status: Updates to the accessory dwelling unit and the zoning density bonus standards in the Planning and Zoning Code have been accomplished. A pre-approved detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Program has been launched to offer a faster and more cost-effective permitting process for adding a detached ADU to a property. Additional work underway in coordination with the City's Housing Advisory Committee which is now fully seated and meeting monthly.

- ♦ Establish funding opportunities to develop affordable housing

Status: Anticipated funding via the proposed Bay Area Housing Finance Authority regional bond has not been realized due to leading agencies removing this regional measure from the 2024 ballot.

- ♦ Continue to educate and inform the community regarding housing to include tenants' rights and housing provider responsibilities

Status: Rent review and landlord/tenant counseling continue to be provided via ECHO Housing on behalf of the City. Outreach on this program is ongoing. Nearly 70 landlords and tenants are assisted annually regarding housing issues, with the majority referred to ECHO Housing for direct services.

Information regularly provided to seniors, families and other residents about the affordable housing process in the Bay Area. Referrals to community-based organizations are ongoing by the City that specialize in affordable housing and a variety of related issues.



- ♦ Evaluate resources needed to conduct specific plan for Solano Avenue

Status: Due to changes in state laws, the scale of allowed development in the Solano Avenue zoning district has increased significantly. In response to state law, the City Council has approved amendments to density bonus portion of the Planning and Zoning Code, which applies to Solano Avenue. A future step will be to modernize city planning and zoning requirements and procedures to align with state law and with economic development priorities.

- ♦ Develop ballot measure to update the City Council's authority to consider changes to single family zoning standards

Status: Due to changes in state law, the scale of allowed development in the City's single family zoning districts has increased significantly. In response to state law, the Council approved amendments to Accessible Dwelling Unit (ADU) standards in the Planning and Zoning Code. In addition staff have prepared informational handouts and application forms that help explain development allowed under Senate Bill 9, which allows multiple unit development and subdivision of single-family zoned parcels.

- ♦ Explore funding opportunities for acquisition of available open space

Status: Initial research underway to understand bonding capacity and opportunities.

Guiding City Plans: *The City's Housing Element portion of the City's General Plan is intended to further both housing quantity and quality for all members of the community. The City's San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan also details opportunities to increase housing and quality living space along San Pablo Avenue.*





PROMOTE STREETS THAT SUPPORT SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY OPTIONS

OBJECTIVES:

- ♦ Update the Active Transportation Plan

Status: Active Transportation Plan update underway with most recent discussion at the City Council meeting on 2/18/25. Anticipated completion date by the end of 2025.

- ♦ Conduct citywide street traffic surveys to obtain objective data on traffic calming

Status: Over the 2023-2024 period, staff work on traffic calming focused on evaluating requests and preparing the first round of project recommendations under the 2021 revision to the traffic calming policy, which opened up calming requests to busier streets. This strategic plan item would change the program from the 2021 traffic calming policy and a request-based approach to a city-led program based upon a citywide survey of speeds and volumes. If this remains a priority for 2025-2026, staff can prepare a proposal for a program revision and associated citywide survey costs for Council consideration.

- ♦ Explore opportunities for shuttle service to connect community to business areas

Status: Analysis of the cost of a shuttle service was presented to the Transportation Commission on January 25, 2024. The Commission discussed the viability of a potential route and priority areas to serve, and highlighted the need to identify a potential funding source before developing the concept further.

The Paratransit Program transports seniors and adults 18+ with a disability to local businesses. Many participate in the weekly program. The Senior Shuttle also takes seniors on a variety of trips. In 2024, the Senior Center completed 1,460 one-way trips helping seniors stay active.



- ♦ Support development of a City program for maintaining and increasing streetlighting

Status: An evaluation of the streetlighting system was completed in February 2024. Analysis included a GIS inventory of the existing streetlighting system, specifications for the types of luminaries used in Albany and recommendations for improvements at critical intersections, near schools, and along bikeways and priority sidewalks. Replacement of failed/failing streetlights using the new specifications is underway, and additional improvements will be incorporated into the upcoming Capital Improvement Plan projects.

- ♦ Seek voter reauthorization of Measure P1 to fund sidewalk repairs and consider including related infrastructure systems as appropriate

Status: Measure C “Safe and Accessible Sidewalks & Pathways Special Tax” was approved by the voters at the November 2024 election – approx.. 70% YES votes. The scope of funded is expanded to include established bike and pedestrian pathways and fund a broader range of operations tasks.

Guiding City Plans: *The City’s Local Roadway Safety Plan in connectivity with the Active Transportation Plan help guide transportation and mobility enhancement projects within the City. The City’s Capital Improvement Plan identifies the timing, cost, and funding sources for the planning, design, and construction of City infrastructure projects.*





ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY THROUGH DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSIVITY

OBJECTIVES:

- ♦ Implement the Racial Equity Survey

Status: Consultant was retained to conduct a survey, however the project was not completed.

- ♦ Enhance programs and services for residents across the full lifespan

Status: Community connectivity promoted through several events including Community Expo in April, Movie in the park in May, Boheme out of the Box in June, 4th of July in the Park, Concerts in the park (4) in August/September, and Winter Wonderland in December.

- ♦ Increase accessibility and enhance communication to residents on City resources and information

Status: Community Expo featured 52 local nonprofits and city departments to help facilitate community building. Staffed city info booths to several community groups and events. Increased outreach through Albany CARES and Community Center programs. Information distribution on city programs and services provided via multiple channels – electronic, flyers, mailers, banners, posters, other service organizations and in person. New website under development expected to go live in late 2025.

- ♦ Continue to promote and assist with enrollment in tax exemptions/rebates for low income households

Status: Program promoted through annual postcard mailing, posting on website and in eNews, sending direct emails, in-person assistance, and outreach at several events. Number of recipients has increased from 125 in 2022 to 201 in 2024.

Guiding City Plans: *The City's Equity Impact Plan identifies projects and programs to help further Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity within the City.*





INCREASE REVENUE TO SUSTAIN CITY SERVICES

OBJECTIVES:

- ♦ Identify funding mechanisms to further stabilize the City's General Fund through exploration of various revenue generating streams

Status: Measure C "Safe and Accessible Sidewalks & Pathways Special Parcel Tax" approved by voters at the November 2024 election. Currently reviewing additional revenue opportunities for consideration. Ongoing research for grant funds to help support special projects.

- ♦ Identify funding and strategies to manage unfunded pension liabilities

Status: Research completed to develop a Pension Funding Policy including a recommendation to consider establishing a Pension Pre-Funding Trust. Anticipated to come to the Council Audit & Fiscal Sustainability Committee in March/April 2025 for review.

- ♦ Seek funding partnership with outside agencies

Status: Program support funding via Stopwaste.org, and ACTC. In addition, ongoing MOU with UC Berkeley for \$400,000/year to support operating costs that serve UC Village and \$200,000 to support city equipment costs.

- ♦ Develop options to restructure the Business License Tax

Status: Coordinating with service provider to analyze current business license tax and provide recommendations for modernization.

- ♦ Update Development Impact Fees

Status: Update under review in coordination with legal counsel. Changes in state housing laws and recent court rulings have added complication to implementation.



- ♦ Assess potential opportunities to utilize newer technology for parking enforcement

Status: Project requires additional analysis of technology options, parking time limits/methodology and possible operational changes to parking enforcement. Ongoing research on improving technology to support public safety will be a continued focus.

Guiding City Plans: *The City's biennial budget provides a detailed outlook regarding City finances, projected revenue and expenditures, and includes a number of policies to help manage and account for existing funding needs. The City's annual audits also document financial management and accountability.*





INCREASE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & RESILIENCY

OBJECTIVES:

- ♦ Identify resources and options to enhance code enforcement programs

Status: Consultant retained to prepare a comprehensive update to the City's administrative citation procedures. Code enforcement ongoing to several priority locations throughout the city, oftentimes in coordination with legal counsel.

- ♦ Continue preparation efforts and community engagement regarding disaster preparedness

Status: Emergency Operations Plan adopted by Council 10/2024. Revisions to the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in response to feedback from California Office of Emergency Services and recently released FEMA guidance. Completion is expected in spring 2025.

- ♦ Continue training opportunities to enhance preparedness and resiliency

Status: Training ongoing including development of scenario-based training that will be conducted in 2025. Recent events including the Tsunami emergency alert provide additional exposure and learning opportunities across departments. Ongoing partnership with CERT Inc and the City's CERT training program.

- ♦ Adopt mandatory seismic retrofit ordinance

Status: Ordinance adopted in 2023. Implementation currently underway with the first tier of retrofits to be completed in late 2025.

Guiding City Plans: *The City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies potential hazard and disaster risks that could impact the City. The City's Emergency Operations Plan details the organizational approach and resources to prepare and respond to emergencies within the City.*

