

From:

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 12:13 PM

To: citycouncil

Subject: Agenda Item 11.1 for the City Council's May 1, 2023, Meeting

Albany City Council,

I would like to comment on Item 11.1 on the agenda for the Council's May 1, 2023, meeting. Here, Council member Preston Jordan is proposing that the City Attorney work with Assembly member Buffy Wicks' staff to draft legislative language to carve out an exception to State law permitting wrong way parking on the recently installed Kains Avenue and Adams St. bikeways.

I am puzzled by the timing of this proposal. The Kains/Adams bike ways were approved as a one-year "pilot project". After one year, the City will evaluate some unspecified set of data to determine the success or failure of the project. It would certainly appear that officially contacting the legislature and expending resources to seek a change in state law to facilitate the permanent installation of the project could prejudice the City's decisions on the pilot project.

Preston proposes that the city rely on his simple-minded comparisons with parking on several barricaded, two-way streets in Berkeley. As I have noted several times in the past there are number of differences between Albany and Berkeley here. Kains and Adams are much narrower, more intensely parked streets than the blocks in Berkeley. The Kains/Adams bikeways create nine blocks where wrong way parking would be permitted as compared to four such blocks in Berkeley. Wrong way parking is inherently dangerous and that's why it's against the law.

In his screed, Preston noted that staff had recommended approval of the bikeway project including normal enforcement of State parking law. At the time, staff noted that it would evaluate parking behavior and make a determination whether the normal parking rules and the need for three-point turn arounds on Kains and Adams proved to be problematic. Clearly, the plan described by the City included an evaluation of the impact of the bikeways on parking on Kains and Adams. In fact, the description of the bikeway project on the City's website (<https://www.albanyca.org/departments/public-works/transportation/current-completed-transportation-projects/kains-adams-bikeway-feasibility-study>) states that state parking law will be enforced but notes that "the Albany Police Department will provide a warning period for a minimum of 30 days as drivers adjust to the new parking requirement. Following the warning period, vehicles parked in the wrong direction may be cited." It does not appear that this plan has been implemented. I don't believe that any warnings were ever issued. As a consequence, the City is apparently not collecting data to evaluate the real impact of the pilot project on

parking. The Council should ask city staff to clarify the situation here.

Clay Larson

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