

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

98-141

AGENDA:
APRIL 20, 1998

SUBJECT:
CAPITOL PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD
TRAFFIC SAFETY
PLAN- INSTALLATION
OF A TRAFFIC
CALMING DEVICE AT
THE INTERSECTION
OF EAST TWELFTH
AND BUCHANAN
STREETS

TYPE:
RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:
HAROLD SMITH
CITY ENGINEER

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

SYNOPSIS –

As part of the Capitol Park Neighborhood Traffic Safety Plan, several “ traffic calming” devices were recommended for consideration. The Capitol Park Neighborhood Association has worked in cooperation with the Traffic and Transportation Division in determining that a traffic circle should be installed on a trial basis at the intersection of East Twelfth Street and Buchanan Street, and that permanent “ knuckles” be constructed at the intersections on East Twelfth Street at Walker and Fremont Streets. On the April 20, 1998, City Council agenda is a roll call in support of the installation of these devices.

FISCAL IMPACT –

N/A

RECOMMENDATION –

Approval.

BACKGROUND –

In 1995 the Capitol Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) and the City of Des Moines initiated a study to improve residential traffic circulation and parking within the neighborhood. This study was completed in December 1996, and accepted by City Council on January 27, 1997, by Roll Call No. 97-483.

As part of the study, it was determined that “ traffic calming” devices (i.e., traffic circles, traffic chokers) could be beneficial in breaking up through-street sections and reducing speeds along the residential streets. Further analysis

at specific locations was recommended to determine which method, if any, should be employed.

In implementing the recommendations of the study, the CPNA and the City Traffic staff have met to further determine if and where these traffic calming devices should be installed. Because of the through-street nature of East Twelfth Street, both the CPNA and staff recommended that a traffic circle be installed at the intersection of East Twelfth and Buchanan Streets, and that “knuckles” be installed on East Twelfth at Walker and Fremont Streets. A sketch indicating the location of each of these is attached to the roll call, along with a letter of support from the Capitol Park Neighborhood Association.

The use of traffic circles on residential streets is a new concept in the Des Moines area, although they have been implemented in a number of other cities nationwide. Because of this, staff and the CPNA recommend that a temporary traffic circle at East Twelfth and Buchanan be installed on a trial basis. This circle would appear permanent in nature, but would be easily removable. Once installed, a survey will be conducted over a two-month period to determine the neighborhood acceptance of this circle. If there is consensus that it should remain, a permanent circle will be installed. Since the installation of “knuckles” is not a new concept, it is recommended that these be installed on a permanent basis.

The Public Works Department plans to reconstruct the curbing on East Twelfth Street later this summer. The temporary circle would be installed in May 1998, and the permanent circle and knuckles would be installed at the time that the curbing project on East Twelfth Street is done.

This item was reviewed and approved by the Traffic Safety Committee at their April 14, 1998 meeting. On the April 20, 1998, City Council agenda is a roll call in support of the installation of these devices.