

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**99-035**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

JANUARY 25, 1999

A request for traffic control modifications along 12th Street between Euclid Avenue and Aurora Avenue has been reviewed by staff and the Traffic Safety Committee and recommended for approval.

**SUBJECT:**

12TH STREET  
BETWEEN EUCLID  
AVENUE AND  
AURORA AVENUE  
TRAFFIC CONTROL  
MODIFICATIONS

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

N/A

**TYPE:**

RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
*RECEIVE/FILE*

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Receive, file, and approve the recommendations of the Traffic Safety Committee and to refer to the Legal Department for proper legislation for the four-way stop at 12th Street and Douglas Avenue.**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.  
ACTING CITY  
ENGINEER

**BACKGROUND -**

At the October 26, 1998, City Council meeting, an oral request was received from Council Member McPherson asking that consideration be given to installing four-way stops at the intersections of 12th Street with Douglas Avenue and Seneca Avenue. Concern had been expressed from the Oak Park Neighborhood Association regarding the speed and volume of traffic on 12th Street between Aurora and Euclid Avenues, and that trucks are using this street, which is not a designated truck route. By Roll Call No. 98-3382, this item was referred to the Traffic Safety committee for review and recommendation.

In previous correspondence from the neighborhood association, concerns were also expressed that the MTA route was moved from 11th Street to 12th Street a few years ago, and that 12th Street is becoming a main feeder from Des Moines to the

Saylorville Lake area.

Twelfth Street between Aurora and Euclid Avenues is a 24-foot wide roadway, with parking allowed on the west side of the street. A four-way stop is in place at the intersection of 12th Street and Madison Avenue.

Staff has conducted a traffic study that included volume, speed, and vehicle classification data, as well as a review of the accident history within this area of 12th Street. Traffic counts were taken on 12th Street at Seneca Avenue and at Shawnee Avenue. The results of this data are as follows:

<b>Location on 12th Street</b>	<b>@ Seneca</b>	<b>@ Shawnee</b>
Volume	2,200 veh/day	1,850 veh/day
Average Speed	28 mph	29 mph
85% Speed	33 mph	36 mph
Percent of Trucks	1.7%	2.3%

The review of the accident history indicates that from January 1994 to November 1998 there have been a total of 12 reported accidents along this section of 12th Street, or approximately 2.5 accidents per year. This does not include the 12th/Euclid intersection, which had 21 reported accidents over the same period.

This information was compared to the warrants for four-way stop as prescribed in the Iowa Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Based on the volumes and accident history, four-way stops are not warranted on 12th Street at either Seneca or Douglas Avenues. The manual further indicates that stop signs should not to be installed for speed control.

Although 12th Street is a collector-type street, it warrants consideration for "traffic calming" because of the residential character of the street and on-street parking that is present. It is proposed that staff work with the neighborhood association to designate locations where possible "traffic calming" measures might be considered. Possibilities include placement of a traffic circle on 12th Street at Douglas Avenue, and/or narrowing the pavement at Seneca Avenue.

The Traffic Safety Committee reviewed this item at their December 8, 1998 meeting, and recommended that the following actions be taken by staff:

1. Discussion should take place with the Oak Park Neighborhood Association concerning "traffic calming" possibilities on 12th Street between Aurora and Euclid Avenues.
2. Install additional "25 mph" signs on 12th Street southbound at Aurora Avenue and northbound at Madison Avenue.
3. Request that Polk County install a "reduced speed ahead" sign for motorists southbound on Morningstar Drive as they approach Aurora Avenue.
4. Discuss with Public Works and the Metropolitan Transit Authority the possibility of relocating the bus route from 12th Street back to 11th Street. The route was changed to 12th Street several years ago in order to consolidate the "snow route" onto one street, instead of on two parallel adjacent streets.
5. Install truck route signing at 12th and Euclid to notify drivers on Euclid that the truck route does not include 12th Street; install a "No Trucks" sign on 12th Street southbound at Aurora Avenue; and request that Polk County install advance signing southbound on NW 26th Street (Morningstar Drive) at NW 66th Avenue, indicating that the road is not a truck route once it enters Des Moines.

On January 8, 1999, Council Member McPherson requested that 12th Street and Douglas Avenue be designated a four-way stop, and to move ahead with the other recommendations regarding traffic calming on 12th Street. If the Oak Park Neighborhood Association desires to proceed, and a traffic circle or other traffic calming device is installed at 12th and Douglas, it is recommended that the four-way stop be reviewed to determine if it should remain in addition to the traffic calming device, or be removed to evaluate the effectiveness of the traffic calming device alone in controlling traffic flow and reducing vehicle speeds on 12th Street. The following ordinance change is needed to implement the four-way stop control at 12th Street and Douglas Avenue.

**SEC. 27-319.03. FOUR-WAY STOP INTERSECTIONS-  
LOCATIONS DESIGNATED.**

21a. Douglas Avenue and Twelfth Street.

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