

CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:

03-048

AGENDA:

JANUARY 27, 2003

SUBJECT:

TRAFFIC
REGULATION
CHANGES

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

JOHN F. MCKEE, P.E.
ACTING CITY
ENGINEER

ITEM _____

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

SYNOPSIS —

The following traffic regulation changes have been reviewed by staff and are recommended for approval.

1. Corner Clearance--East Side of 32nd Street North of University Avenue.
2. Two-Sided Parking Restriction--Both Sides of Washington Avenue between 9th Street and 10th Street.
3. One-Sided Parking Restriction--East Side of 26th Street between Kingman Boulevard and University Avenue.
4. Temporary Traffic Control Devices--Crocker Street at 6th Avenue and 7th Street.

FISCAL IMPACT —

Minor costs for signing to be paid from the Traffic and Transportation Operating Budget.

RECOMMENDATION —

Receive, file, and refer to Legal Department for proper legislation.

BACKGROUND —

1. The Traffic and Transportation Division received a request from a resident regarding turning difficulties due to parked vehicles on 32nd Street at the intersection of University Avenue. In order to provide adequate visibility for vehicles at this intersection, staff recommends that a 60-foot corner clearance no parking zone be established on the east side of 32nd Street north of University Avenue. The following revision to the Municipal Code is necessary to place this restriction into effect.

**SEC. 114-2875. THIRTY-SECOND STREET—WOODLAND AVENUE
TO HICKMAN ROAD.**

Thirty-second Street, on the east side, from University Avenue to a point
60 feet north thereof, no parking any time.

2. At the request of John Peek, Des Moines Public Works Department,

Solid Waste Division, the Traffic and Transportation Division is recommending the restriction of parking on both sides of Washington Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets on Tuesdays. This parking restriction will allow clearance for Solid Waste vehicles doing weekly solid waste and recycling pickup in this area. The following requested ordinance change would provide sufficient clearance for Solid Waste vehicles in this area.

SEC. 114-3754. WASHINGTON AVENUE—MICHIGAN STREET TO TWENTY-FOURTH STREET.

Washington Avenue, on both sides, from Ninth Street to Tenth Street, no parking any time, 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday.

3. Staff received a petition from the residents of 26th Street, requesting that parking be prohibited on the east side of the street from Kingman Boulevard to University Avenue. Parking is currently allowed on both sides of the street. The petition was signed by 19 of the 28 (64 percent) residents directly affected, including Drake University. A letter of support was also received from the Drake Neighborhood Association. At their November 12, 2002 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee referred this item back to the Drake Neighborhood Association in order to reach a compromise with a group of apartment dwellers opposing the parking restriction.

The item was again presented to the Traffic Safety Committee at their January 14, 2003 meeting. Carl McPherson, representing the Drake Neighborhood Association, again asked that the Traffic Safety Committee recommend parking be prohibited on the east side of 26th Street between Kingman Boulevard and University Avenue. Mr. McPherson cited the continued support of 64 percent of the residents directly affected, Drake University, and the Drake Neighborhood Association. The Traffic Safety Committee unanimously concurred with the Drake Neighborhood Association request.

The following revision to the Municipal Code is necessary to place this parking restriction into effect.

SEC. 114-2836. TWENTY-SIXTH STREET—WOODLAND AVENUE TO ASHBY AVENUE.

Twenty-sixth Street, on the east side, from Kingman Boulevard to University Avenue, no parking any time.

4. Traffic and Transportation staff has received a number of concerns over the past few years regarding the intersections on Crocker Avenue at 6th Avenue and at 7th Street. These concerns included difficulties for pedestrians crossing these major streets, as well as motorists having problems crossing the streets. Currently, 6th Avenue and 7th Street are carrying a large amount of additional traffic with the closing of 2nd/3rd Streets at Interstate 235 (I-235) for the interchange reconstruction.

The I-235 reconstruction will provide changes in intersection flows, along with new traffic signals on School Street at 6th and 7th. Also, the new Events Center and Exhibit Hall will have a major affect on traffic flows in the north area of downtown. Based on this, staff has evaluated the installation of traffic signals at the intersections of 6th/Crocker and 7th/Crocker to assist with both existing traffic conditions, as well as future needs in this area.

Following the closing of the 2nd/3rd Interchange, 6th Avenue now carries 25,000 vehicles per day, and 7th Street handles 20,400 vehicles per day. Previous counts (taken in 2000 when 2nd/3rd were open) indicated 15,800 vehicles/day on 6th Avenue, and 11,300 vehicles/day on 7th Street. Current Crocker Street volumes are 1,720 vehicles/day at 7th Street and 6,500 vehicles/day at 6th Avenue.

The warrants for traffic signals are currently met at the intersection of 6th and Crocker. It is expected with future development that the warrants for signals at 7th and Crocker will also be met in the near future. These signals will be interconnected into the downtown signal system, which will also assist to provide better traffic platooning and speed control along both 7th Street and 6th Avenue.

At their January 14, 2003 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee approved a staff recommendation that temporary span-wire mounted traffic signals be installed at these two intersections as soon as possible. These signals will be necessary to help control the traffic flows into and out of Vets Auditorium during the upcoming state tournaments, which begin in late February. These temporary signals should remain in place until completion of the Events Center and I-235 to allow future traffic patterns to stabilize. The intersections would then be evaluated for conversion to permanent signals as funding allows.

The following ordinance changes are necessary to implement these temporary traffic signals.

SEC. 114-1441. CROCKER STREET.

Crocker Street and Sixth Avenue, traffic control signal.

Crocker Street and Seventh Street, traffic control signal.

