

CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:

03-172

AGENDA:

APRIL 7, 2003

SUBJECT:

TRAFFIC  
REGULATION  
CHANGES

TYPE:

RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

JEB E. BREWER, P.E.  
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. Allow Parking on the South Side of MTA Lane Near MTA Offices to Allow Additional Visitor Parking.
2. Prohibition of Left Turns—Iowa Highway 5 at Interchanges of Fleur Drive and Iowa Highway 28.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

Minor costs for signing to be paid from the Traffic and Transportation and Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) operating budget.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

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

**BACKGROUND —**

1. The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) has requested that parking be allowed on the south side of MTA Lane near their main office to provide additional visitor parking. Traffic and Transportation staff has reviewed this request and concur. MTA Lane is a dead-end street west of SW 9th Street, and carries traffic only to and from the MTA, so there should be no traffic disruption. The following ordinance changes are necessary to allow parking as requested.

**SEC. 114-3503—MTA LANE—SOUTHWEST NINTH STREET TO DEAD END WEST OF SOUTHWEST NINTH STREET.**

MTA Lane, on ~~both the north~~ sides, from Southwest Ninth Street to a point 870 feet west thereof, no parking any time.

MTA Lane, on the south side, from Southwest Ninth Street to a point 600 feet west thereof, no parking any time.

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2. The IDOT has constructed Iowa Highway 5 around the south side of Des Moines, including interchanges at Fleur Drive and at Highway 28. The design of these interchanges provides for loop ramps in the southwest and northeast quadrants to eliminate the need for vehicles on the busy cross streets to make a left turn to enter Highway 5. Since the interchanges opened, traffic has not fully complied with the ramps as constructed. Some vehicles make left turns across opposing traffic to enter Highway 5 instead of using the loop ramps on the right side of the road.

Traffic and Transportation staff has worked with IDOT staff to install "NO LEFT TURN" signs at these locations to notify motorists that they cannot legally make a left turn to enter these ramps. There are no left turn lanes and no left turn signals, so these left turns are less safe for the motorists and conflict with other traffic in the intersections. The IDOT will install the signs, since they control traffic movements within the interchange. The following ordinance changes are necessary to implement these turn restrictions so that in enforcing the restrictions, the Police can cite the City Code rather than a IDOT Commission resolution restricting the turns.

**SEC. 114-320.01. PROHIBITED LEFT TURNS.**

- (10) At the intersection of Fleur Drive and Iowa Highway 5, prohibiting left turns from southbound Fleur Drive to the eastbound Iowa Highway 5 entrance ramp, and prohibiting left turns from northbound Fleur Drive to the westbound Iowa Highway 5 entrance ramp.
- (11) At the intersection of Iowa Highway 28 and Iowa Highway 5, prohibiting left turns from southbound Iowa Highway 28 to the eastbound Iowa Highway 5 entrance ramp, and prohibiting left turns from northbound Iowa 28 to the westbound Iowa Highway 5 entrance ramp.

