



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION—

Agenda Date: 07/18/05
Agenda Item Type: Ordinance

Communication No.: 05-399
Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

SUBJECT—

Traffic Regulation Changes

SYNOPSIS—

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

- A. Corner Clearance to Facilitate Movement of Solid Waste Vehicles—Both Sides of Washington Avenue East of 38th Street.
- B. Corner Clearances—West Side of 29th Street South of Grand Avenue.
- C. Court Avenue Traffic Revisions

FISCAL IMPACT—

Minor costs for signing to be paid from the Traffic and Transportation operating budget.

BACKGROUND—

- A. The Solid Waste Division of the Public Works Department has requested that parking be restricted on Washington Avenue east of 38th Street to eliminate turning conflicts with solid waste vehicles trying to turn east from 38th Street onto Washington Avenue. Because the expressed concern only deals with turning at this intersection, it is not appropriate to eliminate parking on the entire street, especially since this area is very close to Witmer Park. The

following requested ordinance change would implement a corner clearance area on both sides of Washington Avenue, from 38th Street to a point 75 feet east. This would be adequate to provide clearance for the radius of large turning vehicles but provide minimal impact to the availability of on-street parking in this area.

Sec. 114-3755. Washington Avenue—Thirty-fourth Street to College Avenue.

Washington Avenue, both sides, from Thirty-eighth Street to a point 75 feet east thereof, no parking any time.

- B. The Traffic and Transportation Division received a request from a resident regarding turning difficulty due to parked vehicles on 29th Street south of Grand Avenue. In order to provide adequate visibility for vehicles at this intersection, staff recommends that the 75-foot “corner clearance” no parking zone be extended to 125 feet on the west side of 29th Street south of Grand Avenue. The following revision to the Municipal Code is necessary to place this change into effect.

Sec. 114-2857. Twenty-ninth Street—Forest Drive to Aurora Avenue.

Twenty-ninth Street, on the west side, from Grand Avenue to a point ~~75~~ 125 feet south thereof, no parking any time.

- C. The State of Iowa General Services Enterprise Department has been in discussions with the City Traffic and Transportation staff concerning the possible closure of Kasson Street between East Court Avenue and East Walnut Street. This street is considered a “private street” and is under the jurisdiction of the State of Iowa. The request is in conjunction with the State’s development plan that the street be incorporated into the site plan for a parking area and building remodeling and expansion at E. 7th and Court Avenue.

Because Court Avenue and Walnut Street are already being considered for two-way traffic operation, the need for Kasson Street as the “cross-over” roadway is no longer required, and the City staff has agreed with the State’s request that the street be closed. The street was then permanently closed by the State on July 5, 2005.

As a separate project, the City also plans to resurface East Court Avenue between East 7th Street and East 14th Street. Along with this, new durable pavement markings will be installed. Traffic volumes on East Court Avenue are approximately 7,000 vehicles per day, which is in the range where a three-lane roadway would adequately handle the traffic demands. The three-lane concept would considerably enhance the heavily used pedestrian crossings between the State Capitol parking lots and the office buildings, since there would only be one “through” lane of traffic in each direction.

At the time of the resurfacing project, staff proposes that East Court Avenue be restriped to a three-lane roadway between East 7th and East 14th Streets. Court Avenue, between Finkbine and E 7th, should be identified as a two-way street. The west end of this project would match into the future two-way section farther west along Court Avenue, which is planned to provide two eastbound lanes and one westbound lane west of East 7th Street.

At their June 14, 2005 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee concurred with staff's recommendations. The following code revisions are necessary to implement this change.

Sec. 114-1849. Court Avenue.

Court Avenue, from Fifth Avenue to ~~Kasson Street~~ East Seventh Street, eastbound.

Sec. 114-306.01. Traffic lanes allocated.

On East Court Avenue, from a point 500 feet east of East Seventh Street to a point 300 feet west of East Fourteenth Street, one lane eastbound, one lane westbound, and the center lane eastbound and westbound left turn only.