



**Council
Communication**
Office of the City Manager

Date

June 19, 2006

Agenda Item No. 52
Roll Call No. 06-
Communication No. 06-363
Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.
City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 114 of the Municipal Code regarding traffic regulation changes as follows:

- A. Proposed traffic modifications for Goodrell Middle School temporary site: Walker Street between E. 14th and E. 15th Streets.
- B. Proposed traffic modifications for East High School: directional flow on E. 13th Street between Maple Street and Buchanan Street; four-way stop at E. 13th Street and Buchanan Street.

SYNOPSIS:

Approval of first reading of the ordinance regarding the traffic regulation changes listed below.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Minor costs.

Funding Source: 2006-2007 Operating Budget, Page 84, Engineering Department Traffic & Transportation – Sign Installation and Maintenance, ENG100413.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- A. Goodrell Middle School, located at 3300 E. 29th Street, will be closed and undergo extensive remodeling in the 2006-2007 school year. The students at that building, which has an enrollment of approximately 600, will be relocated to the school district's Walker Street site for the upcoming year. This building is on the south side of Walker Street between East 14th and East 15th Streets, and has previously been used for East High School students during that school's construction.

Staff met with Des Moines School District representatives in mid-April to identify traffic issues related to anticipated school pick-up and drop-off zones in order to help create a safe environment for the students. Several recommendations were made in order to accomplish this. They are as follows:

1. All-day parking should be eliminated on the north side of Walker Street. East High students attending school currently park in this area. This side of Walker Street should be identified for passenger loading/unloading, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., school days. The School District will widen the north side of Walker Street approximately four feet and relocate the sidewalk directly behind the new curb to facilitate this passenger loading area. The general public will be able to park in this area during other times, such as events at East High School.
2. A mid-block school signal should be installed on Walker Street at the front door of the building to assist students crossing the street to and from the passenger loading area.
3. The south side of Walker Street currently has “no parking 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., school days. This area should be revised to provide for bus loading/unloading. It is expected that 7-10 buses will need to be accommodated in this area. The School District will also reconstruct the sidewalk on this side at Walker Street to accommodate the heavy pedestrian traffic.
4. Students will also be encouraged to be dropped off and picked up in the East High stadium parking lot, east of E. 15th Street. Additional signing, signal, pavement markings, and sidewalk modifications should be done to facilitate the students walking to the building from this area.

These items are proposed to be in place for the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year.

At their May 9, 2006 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee approved staff recommendations that Items 1 through 4 be implemented for the 2006-2007 school year. The following revisions to the Municipal Code are necessary to implement the changes.

Sec. 114-3726. Walker Street--East Twelfth Street to East Fifteenth Street.

~~Walker Street, on the south side, from a point 50 feet west of East Fourteenth Street to a point 65 feet east of East Fourteenth Street, no parking any time.~~

Walker Street, on the south side, from ~~a point 65 feet east of East Fourteenth Street~~ to a point 270 feet east thereof ~~west of Johnson Court,~~ bus loading and unloading no parking 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., school days.

Walker Street, on the south side, from a point 270 feet east of East fourteenth Street to a point 40 feet east thereof, no stopping or standing.

Walker Street, on the south side, from a point 310 feet east of East fourteenth Street to a point 150 feet east thereof, bus loading and unloading 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., school days.

Walker Street, on the north side, from a point 40 feet east of East Fourteenth Street to a point 300 feet east thereof, passenger loading and unloading 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., school days.

Walker Street, on the north side, from a point 340 feet east of East fourteenth Street to a point 30 feet east thereof, no stopping or standing.

Walker Street, on the north side, from a point 370 feet east of East Fourteenth Street to a point 90 feet east thereof, passenger loading and unloading 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., school days.

Walker Street, on the south side, from Johnson Court to a point ~~30~~ 65 feet west thereof, no parking any time.

Walker Street, on the north side, from East Fourteenth Street to a point ~~40~~ 75 feet east thereof, no parking any time.

Sec. 114-1554.05. Walker Street.

Walker Street, on the south side, at a point 355 feet west of East Fourteenth Street, school signal.

- B. A request was received from the principal of East High School relating to traffic patterns along E. 13th Street on the west side of the school building. The request was made to reverse the one-way traffic pattern on E. 13th Street between Maple and Walker Streets. The street is currently a one-way, southbound roadway, and the school has asked to designate it as a one-way, northbound street. This change would allow for passengers from cars and buses to be discharged from the school side of the vehicle. It would also allow motorists heading west to E. 12th Street the opportunity to do so at Walker Street instead of Maple Street, which has restricted sight distance due to its proximity to the bridge over I-235.

East 13th Street is also currently a one-way, southbound street between Walker and Buchanan Streets. If the block between Maple and Walker Streets is reversed to a one-way, northbound operation, the block between Walker and Buchanan Streets should be converted to two-way traffic, and a four-way stop should be installed at the intersection of E. 13th Street and Buchanan Street.

Staff concurred in the request from East High School, and recommends that the following be implemented for the 2006-2007 school year:

1. East 13th Street should be converted to a one-way, northbound street between Maple and Walker Streets.
2. East 13th Street should be converted to two-way operation between Walker and Buchanan Streets.
3. A four-way stop should be installed at the intersection of E. 13th Street and Buchanan Street.

These items are proposed to be in place for the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year.

At their May 9, 2006 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee approved staff recommendations that Items 1 through 3 be implemented for the 2006-2007 school year. Code revisions for Items 1 and 2 are not needed, since the proposed changes will revert the street to its originally ordinances traffic patterns. The following revisions to the Municipal Code are necessary to implement the changes for Item 3.

Sec. 114-319.03. Location of four-way stop intersections.

(3b) Buchanan Street and East Thirteenth Street

Sec. 114-2026. East Thirteenth Street.

East Thirteenth Street, from the north line of Maple Street to the south line of Buchanan Street
~~East University Avenue~~, stop.

East Thirteenth Street, from the north line of Buchanan Street to the south line of east University Avenue, stop.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

Date:

Roll Call Number:

Action:

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date: May 9, 2006

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: Approved staff recommendations.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Second and third readings of ordinance.