



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date July 9, 2007

Agenda Item No. 54
Roll Call No. 07-
Communication No. 07-395
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. Parking Restriction—North Side of Woodland Avenue from Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway to 24th Street.
- B. Parking Restriction Modification—West Side of 51st Street South of Grand Avenue.
- C. One-Way Street Designation—Maple Street between E 12th and E 13th Streets.
- D. Parking Restriction Modifications—East Side of 47th Street from North of Amick Avenue to North of Euclid Avenue.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of first reading of the ordinance regarding the following traffic regulation changes.

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. The Woodland Heights Organization has requested that the City prohibit parking on the north side of Woodland Avenue from M. L. King, Jr. Parkway west to 24th Street, along the Woodland Cemetery. Because of the configuration of the cemetery along the east side of the neighborhood and I-235 along the north side, Woodland Avenue serves as one of the primary routes into and out of this neighborhood. Because of the limited street width, any vehicles parked on the street make two-way traffic difficult. There is very little parking that occurs on the street, so the restriction will not impose any hardship on the few adjacent residences. In addition, parking is allowed on 22nd, 23rd and 24th Streets.

Staff concurs with the request from the Woodland Heights Board to restrict parking on the north side of Woodland from M. L. King west to 24th Street to improve the traffic flow and safety on this street. The following ordinance change is needed to implement this parking restriction.

Sec. 114-3791. Woodland Avenue--Martin Luther King Jr Parkway to Twenty-eighth Street.

Woodland Avenue, on the north side, from Martin Luther King Jr Parkway to Twenty-fourth Street, no parking any time.

- B. The Traffic and Transportation Division has received a petition from residents on 51st Street south of Grand Avenue requesting that parking be allowed on the west side of the street. Parking is prohibited along the entire east side of the street, and also on a section of the west side of 51st Street. In 1993, this west side parking restriction was implemented at the request of residents to improve visibility at a hillcrest. However, residents have found that the two-sided restriction is a substantial inconvenience, and now request some parking be allowed.

Staff has reviewed this area, and has determined that the restriction could be shortened on the south end to allow some additional parking in front of residences but still provide an area of restricted parking at the hillcrest for safety. The following ordinance change is needed to implement the recommended additional parking.

Sec. 114-2943. Fifty-first Street--Welker Avenue to Aurora Avenue.

Fifty-first Street, on the west side, from a point ~~670~~ 550 feet south of Grand Avenue to a point ~~350~~ 275 feet south thereof, no parking any time.

- C. In the past six months, Traffic and Transportation staff has been involved with the Iowa DOT as a member of a “field review team” looking at visibility issues at the I-235 bridges.

At the East 12th Street bridge, the only visibility problem occurred in the northeast quadrant of the bridge, involving westbound vehicles on Maple Street having limited visibility looking south across the freeway bridge. Since this street serves primarily as a circulation street for East High School, and since East 13th Street is already a one-way street, northbound, the review team recommended that Maple Street be converted to a one-way street, eastbound, between East 12th and East 13th Streets. Traffic circulating around East High School would then exit onto East 12th Street at Walker Street, one block to the north of Maple Street.

This requested change has also been reviewed by the Des Moines School District, including the principal at East High School, and they support this recommendation.

At their June 19, 2007 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee approved staff’s recommendation that Maple Street be converted to a one-way street, eastbound, between East 12th Street and East 13th Street. The following revision to the Municipal Code will designate this section of street as one-way.

Sec. 114-1855.05. Maple Street.

Maple Street, from East Twelfth Street to East Thirteenth Street, eastbound.

- D. In 2005 parking was prohibited on the east side of 47th Street from Amick Avenue north to 200 feet north of Euclid Avenue to improve the sight distance at the intersection of Euclid and the curves north and south of Euclid. Since parking is also prohibited on the west side of 47th Street,

this creates an area about 1½ blocks long with no parking on either side of the street. A resident on the east side of 47th Street has requested some parking be allowed on 47th Street adjacent to her residence.

Traffic and Transportation staff has reviewed this area very carefully and has determined that a small amount of parking could be allowed with very minimal impact to the visibility and safety of this section of 47th Street. Staff recommends the following ordinance changes to allow a limited area of parking on the east side of 47th Street north of Amick Avenue.

Sec. 114-2936. Forty-seventh Street--University Avenue to Aurora Avenue.

Forty-seventh Street, on the east side, from Amick Avenue to a point ~~200~~ 45 feet north of ~~Euclid Avenue~~ thereof, no parking any time.

Forty-seventh Street, on the east side, from a point 150 feet north of Amick Avenue to a point 200 feet north of Euclid Avenue, no parking any time.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date: June 19, 2007

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: Approved staff's recommendation to designate Maple Street as a one-way street from E 12th Street to E 13th Street.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Second and third readings of ordinance.