

 <h1 style="text-align: center;">Council Communication</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date</b>	December 22, 2008
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <b>9C</b> <b>Roll Call No.</b> <b><u>08-</u></b> <b>Communication No.</b> <b><u>08-750</u></b> <b>Submitted by:</b> <b>Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.</b> <span style="padding-left: 100px;"><b>City Engineer</b></span>	

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approving permanent closure of a portion of West River Drive at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval of the permanent closure of the southern 400 feet of West River Drive at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to allow the construction of the Principal Riverwalk.

**FISCAL IMPACT: NONE**

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Corps of Engineers has Greenbelt funding available for Principal Riverwalk construction. The Corps of Engineers is currently putting together a contract bid package for Spring 2009. Construction of the permanent approaches and trail connections to the Center Street Pedestrian Bridge is expected to begin by next summer. The Principal Riverwalk plans include the permanent closure of West River Drive and construction of a parking area and cul-de-sac that will serve people visiting the Riverwalk and Iowa Events Center. Construction of the permanent approaches and trail connection on the west end of the Center Street Pedestrian Bridge will require closure of the southern 400 feet of West River Drive just north of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. West River Drive will remain open from the north to provide access, but will no longer be a through street extending from Illinois Street on the north to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue on the south. The Corps of Engineers construction project will include the permanent trail connections to the Center Street Pedestrian Bridge and permanent removal of the southern-most portion of West River Drive. In order for the construction to proceed, the permanent closure of West River Drive must be resolved.

Following Council’s action on March 12, 2007, by Roll Call 07-489, to refer the permanent closure of a portion of West River Drive to the City Manager for review, input was sought from the following stakeholders.

- Central Place Business Association - Correspondence was sent to representatives of the Central Place Business Association soliciting their concerns regarding the permanent closure of the street. No response was received.
- Park and Recreation Board - The permanent closure of West River Drive was presented to the Park and Recreation Board for consideration on January 22, 2008. The Park and Recreation Board recommended the permanent closure of the southern-most portion of West River Drive.
- Des Moines Riverfront Development Authority (RDA) – The closure of West River Drive was most recently discussed at the January 8, 2008 RDA meeting. The Board of Directors of the

RDA provided a letter supporting the proposed closure of West River Drive.

The southern-most portion of West River Drive has been closed to traffic since August 13, 2007 as it is within the contractor's work zone for the Center Street Pedestrian Bridge. Since that time, there have been no noted affects to the traveling public.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: November 19, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-2267

Action: Project Cooperation Agreement with Department of the Army for construction of Phase I of the Principal Riverwalk and approving agreement with Principal Life Insurance Company and The Des Moines River Front Development Authority for responsibility of Non-Federal Sponsor financial obligations and work related to the Principal Riverwalk. (Council Communication No. 07-680) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: March 12, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-488

Action: Recommendation from Plan and Zoning Commission. Moved by Mahaffey to receive and file. Motion Carried 6-1.

Date: March 12, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-489

Action: Resolution regarding closure of a portion of West River Drive. Moved by Mahaffey to refer to the City Manager to review the need for a permanent street closure. Motion Carried 6-1.

Date: November 3, 2003

Roll Call Number: 03-2508

Action: Approving proposed amendments to the Des Moines 2020 Community Character Plan to amend the future land use plan and text regarding the planned uses within the downtown riverfront area; and to adopt the proposed Riverfront Master Plan as a reference to the Community Character Plan. Moved by Coleman to adopt and approve the proposed amendments. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Date: January 22, 2008

Roll Call Number: 08-08

Action: Park Board recommended permanent closure of the southern-most portion of West River Drive.

Date: March 1, 2007

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: City Plan and Zoning Commission approved request from City Engineer to permanently close the southern 400 feet of West River Drive to through vehicular traffic at a point east of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue near the Center Street Dam as part of the Center Street Bridge project in furtherance of the Rediscovering the Rivers Master Plan subject to provision of signage and barricades on West River Drive at the intersection with Illinois Street (11-2007-1.06)

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Normal Council actions on construction contracts.

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