

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date	February 23, 2009
	Agenda Item No. 53 Roll Call No. <u>09-</u> Communication No. <u>09-102</u> 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. Conversion to Two-Way Traffic—13th Street from Locust Street to Walnut Street
- B. Delete Scott Avenue as a Truck Route

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the Traffic and Transportation Division staff recommendations for minor parking adjustments, including first reading of the Ordinance regarding the traffic regulation changes.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Minor costs

Funding Source: 2008-2009 Operating Budget, Page 131, Engineering Department Traffic & Transportation—Sign Installation and Maintenance, ENG100413.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- A. Traffic and Transportation Division staff received requests from area businesses asking that the City consider converting 13th Street between Locust and Walnut Streets to two-way traffic. Currently it is designated for one-way operation, southbound, within this block. The remaining blocks, between Grand Avenue and Locust Street, and between Walnut and Mulberry Streets, are open to two-way traffic.

Historically, 12th Street and 13th Street have operated as a one-way pair in the west area of downtown. Twelfth Street has retained its importance as a one-way northbound street, with the construction of the Allied/Nationwide complex and its associated parking structures. However, 13th Street has had several projects occur that have lessened its importance as a “southbound only” street. The construction of the Gateway Park and the Pappajohn Center created a need to provide northbound circulating flow on 13th Street between Grand and Locust, especially for school buses accessing this area. The Wellmark development closed 13th Street between Grand and High Street for their headquarters building. The recent Allied/Nationwide parking structure closed the section of 13th Street between Mulberry and Cherry, and due to remaining local circulation, necessitated that 13th Street between Walnut and Mulberry become a two-way street.

With these changes, there currently remains only one block of 13th, between Locust and Walnut Streets, that is designated for one-way southbound traffic flow. In the summer of 2008, this block was widened as part of the Allied/Nationwide building expansion in order to better match the alignment of 13th Street to the north and south. Since then, there has been some confusion by drivers who are unaware that this block is a one-way street.

In order to alleviate this confusion and also to provide more consistent traffic flow along 13th Street, staff recommends that the remaining block, from Locust to Walnut Streets, be designated for two-way traffic flow. In order to provide safe operation at the 13th and Locust intersection, signal indications will need to be installed for northbound traffic.

As the Western Gateway area continues to redevelop, there may someday be a need to revisit whether 13th Street should be converted back to one-way southbound operation, between Grand Avenue and Mulberry Street.

At their February 10, 2009 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee unanimously approved staff's recommendation to designate 13th Street between Locust and Walnut Street as a two-way street.

Sec. 114-1948. Thirteenth Street.

~~Thirteenth Street, from Mulberry Street to Locust Avenue, southbound.~~

- B. At the October 27, 2008 meeting, by Roll Call No. 08-1877, City Council amended Chapter 114 of the Municipal Code to remove the truck route designation on SE 28th Street from Market Street to Scott Avenue. This was approved following considerable review by staff and the Traffic Safety Committee relating to Scott Avenue in the vicinity of SE 28th Street. This followed a fatal accident that occurred on June 17, 2008, involving a five-year-old boy riding his bicycle who was struck by a turning truck at the intersection.

At their February 10, 2009 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee again reviewed this item, and further recommended that Scott Avenue from SE 25th Street to SE 30th Street also be removed as an official truck route. The Committee indicated that their original discussion last fall was to remove both Scott Avenue and SE 28th Street from designated truck routes.

Staff concurs with this additional change in the truck route ordinance to remove Scott Avenue as a truck route. Currently, there are no businesses that are affected by this change, and it should also alleviate any confusion for truck drivers who currently turn onto Scott Avenue from SE 30th Street, only to realize that they have no other legal option other than to turn around and travel back out to SE 30th Street.

The following revision to the Municipal Code is necessary to authorize this change:

Sec. 114-2538. Scott Avenue.

~~Scott Avenue, from Southeast Twenty-fifth Street to Southeast Thirtieth Street.~~

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: October 27, 2008

Roll Call Number: 08-1877

Action: Amending Chapter 114 of the Municipal Code submitting traffic regulation changes to remove the truck route designation on SE 28th Street from Market to Scott, and to create a four-way stop at the intersection of SE 28th and Scott. (Council Communication No. 08-647) Moved by Meyer that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage; refer the remainder of the requests back to the Traffic Safety Committee for further review. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: October 27, 2008

Roll Call Number: 08-1878

Action: Communication from Dorothy Spotts, 606 SE 28th Street, regarding traffic regulations in the vicinity of SE 28th Street and Scott Avenue. Moved by Meyer to receive and file. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date: February 10, 2009

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: Moved by Mary Conlow that Scott Avenue from SE 25th Street to SE 30th Street also be removed as an official truck route. Seconded by Kevin Williamson. George Robinson abstained from voting. Motion passed 9:1.

Date: February 10, 2009

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: Moved by Jim Windsor to approve staff recommendation to convert 13th Street from Locust to Walnut to a two-way street. Seconded by Bob Saf. Motion passed unanimously.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Second and third readings of ordinance.

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