



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

September 14, 2009

Agenda Item No. 48  
Roll Call No. 09-  
Communication No. 09-662  
Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.  
City Engineer

## AGENDA HEADING:

Proposed restriping of Ingersoll Avenue to a three-lane roadway, including bicycle lanes and additional parking to be implemented in April of 2010.

## SYNOPSIS:

Staff recommends approval of the Traffic Safety Committee recommendation that Ingersoll Avenue be restriped to a three-lane roadway, including bike lanes and some additional parking, between Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway and Polk Boulevard, including third reading of the Ordinance regarding the traffic regulation changes.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$7,500 for pavement marking removals. Minor costs for pavement marking and signing modifications.

Funding Source: 2009-2010 Operating Budget, page 93, Engineering Department Traffic & Transportation - Sign Installation and Maintenance, ENG100413, and Street Markings Maintenance, ENG100416. Pavement marking removals from 2009-2010 CIP Traffic Control Improvements, page 5—Citywide Signals, Channelization, and School Crossing Protection Program, TFC091.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

At their January 5, 2009 meeting, by Roll Call No. 09-021, the City Council directed that a review and analysis be conducted of parking conditions along Ingersoll Avenue. The business community along Ingersoll Avenue has requested that the number of on-street parking spaces be maximized. Also, the Ingersoll Avenue corridor has been identified as a high priority by the Des Moines bicycling community for the addition of bicycle lanes.

Staff has conducted this study, and more specifically has reviewed an alternative to restripe Ingersoll Avenue between Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway and Polk Boulevard to a three-lane roadway (one-lane in each direction along with a center turn lane), adding bike lanes on each side, and increasing the number of on-street parking spaces.

At the August 10, 2009 meeting, by Roll Call No. 09-1474, the City Council passed the first reading of the ordinance changes for implementing the three-lane roadway and directed that a follow-up meeting be held to provide additional information, answer questions, and receive additional input

from primarily the businesses along Ingersoll Avenue and also from area residents. This meeting was held on August 19 at the Plymouth Congregational Church, 4126 Ingersoll Avenue.

At the August 24, 2009 meeting, by Roll Call No. 09-1578, the City Council passed the second reading of the ordinance changes for implementing the three-lane roadway effective in April of 2010, and directed staff to meet with a small group of Ingersoll stakeholders to determine criteria the City will use to evaluate whether the changes are working or not. This meeting was held on Thursday, September 3 at City Hall. The stakeholders recommended that the evaluation should include an objective analysis of the traffic conditions, as well as some measure of the acceptance of the changes by the businesses and public. After approximately six months of operation, staff will conduct a detailed analysis of the overall traffic conditions and operations, including bicycles and buses. Staff has received approval from the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) to borrow (for up to a year) one or two of their special full-time automated traffic recording units to collect traffic speeds, volume, and occupancy on an ongoing basis, which will allow much more complete tracking of the traffic conditions on Ingersoll over the evaluation period.

Any of the following traffic conditions would warrant changing Ingersoll back to the current four-lane configuration:

1. Traffic congestion and delays substantially higher than are currently projected.
2. Substantial diversion of traffic from Ingersoll to Grand or other parallel streets.
3. Substantial increase in traffic crashes, including pedestrian, bicycle, or bus crashes (although this will be difficult to measure effectively due to the limited operation period and the delay in crash data being available through the state's computerized crash records system).
4. Other significant traffic problems that cannot be resolved by some other methods.

The stakeholders also recommended that the best way to measure the acceptance of the changes by the businesses and public is through a survey, with some assistance in the development and analysis by polling experts to assure that the questions, and the reported results, are unbiased. Staff will continue to work to develop specific survey questions, incorporating the suggestions made at the stakeholder meeting, and will coordinate with a polling expert or group as recommended by the stakeholders.

In addition to the evaluation that will be conducted, if business owners or others experience problems or concerns about safety or access to/from their property, they can contact the Traffic and Transportation Division at 283-4973, or Michelle Schomer at [mischomer@dmgov.org](mailto:mischomer@dmgov.org), and traffic staff will promptly contact and work with the person to try to resolve the problem or concern.

Based on a thorough analysis of all of the traffic conditions, staff believes that the proposed alternative to reduce Ingersoll Avenue to a three-lane roadway with a center turn lane and bike lanes will provide additional parking; significant safety benefits from the left-turn lane, bike lanes and traffic calming effects of only one through lane in each direction; create a complete street for this section of Ingersoll; provide a more pedestrian-friendly environment that encourages business vitality; and provide an adequate level of service for vehicular traffic during peak periods.

The following revision to the Municipal Code is necessary to designate the three-lane concept on Ingersoll.

Sec. 114-306.01. Traffic lanes allocated.

(15) On Ingersoll Avenue, from a point 300 feet west of Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway to a point 150 feet east of Polk Boulevard, one lane eastbound, one lane westbound, and the center lane eastbound and westbound left turn only.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: August 24, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-1578

Action: Amending Chapter 114 of the Municipal Code regarding proposal for a three-lane restriping project including bicycle lanes and additional parking on Ingersoll Avenue. (Council Communication No. 09-594) Moved by Hensley that this ordinance be considered and given second vote for passage; refer to the City Manager to form a committee of Ingersoll business owners to work with the City on creation of an Exit Strategy, if necessary. The City Manager will work on a plan to help educate the community about Complete Streets. This ordinance will go into effect in spring 2010. Motion Carried 6-0. Mayor Cownie declares a conflict of interest and abstains from voting.

Date: August 10, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-1474

Action: Amending Chapter 114 of the Municipal Code regarding proposal for a three-lane restriping project including bicycle lanes and additional parking on Ingersoll Avenue. (Council Communication No. 09-554) Moved by Hensley that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage; refer to Traffic and Transportation to report back with data on current traffic counts, schedule a meeting with business owners to view computer model and submit a written evaluation after 6 months. Motion Carried 6-0. Mayor Cownie declares a conflict of interest and abstains from voting.

Date: January 5, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-021

Action: Amending Chapter 114 of the Municipal Code submitting traffic regulation changes as follows: (Council Communication No. 09-001) Moved by Hensley that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage; refer item (A) back to City Manager, Planning and Traffic and Transportation for review and recommendation. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Date: August 5, 2009

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: Motion was made by Carl McPherson to accept staff's recommendation regarding the proposed three-lane configuration, including bike lanes and additional parking spaces, for Ingersoll Avenue between Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway and Polk Boulevard; seconded by Bob Saf. Motion passed 6:1.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Third reading of ordinance. Additional parking regulations to be brought to City Council for consideration at a future meeting.

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