

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: September 27, 2010
	Agenda Item No. 42 Roll Call No. <u>10-1580</u> Communication No. <u>10-573</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. Petition to Allow Parking—E Maple Street East of E 18th Street.
- B. Request from Madison Elementary School for Traffic Modifications.
- C. Request for Revised Speed Limit—SW 9th Street South of Iowa 5.
- D. Request from Cattell Elementary School for Traffic Modifications.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the Traffic Safety Committee recommendations, including first reading of the Ordinance regarding the traffic regulation changes.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Minor costs for signing modifications.

Funding Source: 2009-2010 Operating Budget, Page 93, Engineering Department Traffic & Transportation - Sign Installation and Maintenance, ENG100413.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- A. Staff received a neighborhood petition from residents along E Maple Street requesting that parking be allowed on the north side of the street between E 18th Street and E 19th Street. Parking is currently prohibited in the western 150 feet of this block, but is allowed farther to the east.

A notification letter was sent to each of the directly-affected residents regarding this parking request. Staff relayed all comments received from the residents at the meeting.

At their September 14, 2010 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee unanimously approved staff’s recommendation that the proposed parking modification be approved. A 50-foot “corner clearance” no parking area should be retained immediately east of E 18th Street. The following revision to the Municipal Code is necessary to place this parking allowance into effect.

Sec. 114-3461. Maple Street--East Second Street to Knob Hill Drive.

Maple Street, on the north side, from East Eighteenth Street to a point 50 ~~450~~ feet east thereof, no parking any time.

- B. Prior to school starting this fall, staff received a traffic concern from the Principal at Madison Elementary School, regarding traffic safety and congestion along the south side of their school on Hoffman Avenue. The north side of Hoffman adjacent to the school is used for passenger loading/unloading, and during school dismissal times the parent pick-up line, which stacks westbound, extends east along Hoffman and south along East 9th Street to Seneca Avenue. The remaining traffic lane on Hoffman is not wide enough for both westbound and eastbound traffic.

Staff met with the principal regarding possible changes in traffic patterns that would alleviate these difficulties. The proposed change would designate Hoffman Avenue as a one-way street westbound, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., school days. During other times, and on non-school days, Hoffman would remain as a two-way street. The change would be similar to what was successfully done at Morris Elementary School (SW 14th/Geil) approximately eight years ago, and is still in effect there and the recent change that was made at Cattell School. Having these restrictions in effect only during the school arrival and dismissal times has helped with the traffic flow and congestion at the school, but minimized the inconvenience for the neighbors at these other locations.

In order to implement this change on a trial basis at the beginning of the school year, turn restriction signs have been installed at the intersection of E 8th and Hoffman, indicating that traffic cannot turn to go eastbound on Hoffman during the school times. However, these restrictions will not be made permanent until they have been approved by the City Council.

At their September 14, 2010 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee unanimously approved staff's recommendation that left and right turns be prohibited at the intersection of E 8th and Hoffman between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., school days, to create one-way westbound traffic on Hoffman Avenue. The following revision to the Municipal Code is necessary to place this traffic modification into effect.

Sec. 114-1811.1 Hoffman Avenue.

Hoffman Avenue, from East Eighth Street east for a distance of 100 feet, westbound, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.; school days.

- C. Staff received a request from the Northern Warren Fire Department, regarding traffic safety and speed concerns along SW 9th Street by their new fire station. Fire officials expressed concern about the current speed limit adjacent to the station, and the difficulty seeing the station due to trees and the terrain. They request the speed limit be reduced, and warning signs installed in advance of the station.

The existing speed limit on SW 9th is 35 mph from McKinley Avenue to a point 1,970 south of County Line Road; 45 mph from there to the south ramp at Iowa 5; and then 55 mph to the south city limits. This station is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of SW 9th and Bronze Street, which is just outside the Des Moines city limits as extended by the recent annexation. The east half of SW 9th Street is within the City approximately ¼ mile south of the

station, so northbound traffic approaching the station is inside the City and under our authority to establish the speed limit. The west half of the street is Warren County road R-63.

At their September 14, 2010 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee unanimously approved staff's recommendation that the 45 mph speed limit be extended from Iowa 5 south to a point south of Bronze Street and the fire station, and that standard warning signs be installed on both sides of SW 9th Street in advance of the station. The following revisions to the Municipal Code are necessary to place the extension of the 45 mph speed limit into effect.

Sec. 114-1248. Southwest Ninth Street.

Southwest Ninth Street, from a point 1970 feet south of County Line Road to ~~Iowa Highway 5 south exit ramp, 45 miles per hour.~~

~~Southwest Ninth Street, from Iowa Highway 5 south exit ramp to south city limits, 45~~ 55 miles per hour.

D. At the April 13, 2010 Traffic Safety Committee meeting, the Committee approved, on a trial basis, two changes in traffic patterns at Cattell Elementary School, which is located on East 12th Street between Hull Avenue and Tiffin Avenue. These changes were:

1. Designate East 12th Street from Hull Avenue to Tiffin Avenue as a one-way street, northbound, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., school days.
2. Reverse the parking on East 12th Street between Tiffin Avenue and Ovid Avenue, to allow parking on the east side of the street instead of the west side.

These changes were implemented on Monday, April 26, 2010, and were to be reviewed following the completion of the 2009-10 school year. In late June, staff received an email from the outgoing principal at Cattell, Deb Gregor. Below is a quote from her email:

“Next Wednesday, June 30, is my last day with the district. I wanted to make sure that I had a chance to confirm that the changes we made with traffic have made a world of difference and have been very positively received by parents and staff. It's been very helpful to have the occasional reinforcement by DMPD—think the woman getting the ticket for going the wrong way on the one-way portion made an impression on several folks.”

Staff also reviewed the conditions on several occasions following the traffic changes, and concurs with the principal's assessment. Staff also visited with the school staff for the current school year, and they are in agreement that the changes have had a positive impact on traffic conditions around the school.

At their September 14, 2010 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee unanimously approved staff's recommendation that the two trial traffic changes be retained, and that the necessary ordinances be forwarded to City Council to authorize them as permanent installations. The following revision to the Municipal Code is necessary to place this traffic modification into effect.

Sec. 114-1901.1 East Twelfth Street.

East Twelfth Street, from Tiffin Avenue south for a distance of 100 feet, northbound, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.; school days.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Date: September 14, 2010

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: (A) A motion was made by Carl Voss to approve staff's recommendation that parking be allowed on the north side of the street between E 18th Street and E 19th Street be approved. A 50-foot "corner clearance" no parking area should be retained immediately east of E 18th Street; seconded by John Morrissey. Motion passed 7:0.

Action: (B) A motion was made by John Morrissey to approve staff's recommendation that left and right turns be prohibited at the intersection of E 8th and Hoffman between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., school days, to create one-way westbound traffic on Hoffman Avenue; seconded by Kevin Williamson. Motion passed 7:0.

Action: (C) A motion was made by George Robinson to approve staff's recommendation that the 45 mph speed limit be extended from Iowa 5 south to a point south of Bronze Street and the fire station, and that standard warning signs be installed on both sides of SW 9th Street in advance of the station; seconded by Kevin Williamson. Motion passed 6:0. (Carl Voss was not present for the vote on this item.)

Action: (D) A motion was made by George Robinson to approve staff's recommendation to designate E 12th Street from Hull Avenue to Tiffin Avenue as a one-way street, northbound, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., school days, and reverse the parking on E 12th Street between Tiffin Avenue and Ovid Avenue, to allow parking on the east side of the street instead of the west side; seconded by John Morrissey. Motion passed 6:0. (Scott Galenbeck was not present for the vote on this item.)

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Second and third readings of Ordinance.

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