

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: November 21, 2011
	Agenda Item No. 39 Roll Call No. [_____] Communication No. <u>11-710</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. Removal of 6th Avenue as a Truck Route—New York Avenue to North City Limits, and addition of New York Avenue as a Truck Route—2nd Avenue to 6th Avenue
- B. Request for Two-Way Stop—E. 8th Street and Guthrie Avenue

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the staff recommendations, including first reading of the Ordinance regarding the traffic regulation changes.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Minor costs for signing modifications.

Funding Source: 2011-2012 Operating Budget, Page 98, Engineering Department Traffic & Transportation - Sign Installation and Maintenance, ENG100413.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A. The City has received a number of concerns regarding the existing truck route designation on 6th Avenue north of New York Avenue. Most of these concerns involve the intersection of 6th and Euclid, where larger trucks, including semis, have significant difficulty in making turns, and have caused damage to poles and other decorative features that were installed as part of the Highland Park Streetscape project. Also, 6th Avenue north of Euclid goes through a large residential area and travels directly in front of Oak Park Elementary School, located at 6th and Madison.

Farther north, in Polk County, trucks are not encouraged to use 6th Avenue, and the County has posted a number of connecting streets between 6th and 2nd with "NO TRUCKS" signs. Second Avenue, four blocks to the east of 6th Avenue, is also a truck route, and is considered by staff as the desirable route for trucks as they travel through the north side of Des Moines and to connecting points further north, including I-80/35 and on toward Ankeny.

There is an industrial pocket of businesses located along 6th Avenue just north of the Des Moines River that would be affected if 6th Avenue were no longer a truck route north of New York Avenue. Their trucks would be required to use 2nd Avenue via New York Avenue if they were heading to the north.

Trucks from the south would not be affected. Staff notified all of these businesses regarding the proposed 6th Avenue truck route removal, and none of responses indicated that this would cause any difficulty for them. Two businesses asked whether 6th Avenue should be a truck route between New York and Corning, but staff indicated that their trucks could continue to use 6th Avenue to Corning, because that was considered the closest route to and from the truck route.

At their November 8, 2011 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee concurred with staff recommendation that 6th Avenue be removed as a truck route from New York Avenue to the north city limits, and also that New York Avenue be added as a truck route between 2nd Avenue and 6th Avenue. The following revisions to the Municipal Code will place these changes into effect.

Sec. 114-2455. Sixth Avenue.

Sixth Avenue, from Vine Street to ~~the north corporate limits~~ New York Avenue.

Sec. 114-2531.5 New York Avenue.

New York Avenue, from Second Avenue to Sixth Avenue.

B. Staff received a request that stop signs be installed on E. 8th Street at Guthrie Avenue. There are currently no stop signs at this location, and it is considered as an "uncontrolled" intersection. Back in the early 1990s, staff initiated a review of all of the uncontrolled four-way intersections in Des Moines, and two-way stop signs were installed at most of them based on certain criteria. This was done to eliminate a large number of "uncontrolled" intersections because of two reasons: (1) drivers approaching uncontrolled intersections did not appear to be adhering to the requirement of "slowing as they approached, yielding to any driver on their right," and (2) crash histories were three times as high at uncontrolled locations as at two-way stop-controlled locations.

The intersection of E. 8th Street and Guthrie Avenue was not identified as a candidate for stop signs at that time because one of the legs was not paved. Over the more recent years, the leg has been resurfaced, and now fits the criteria to warrant two-way stop signs.

In a review of the crash history, there have been a total of three right-angle crashes in the past 10+ years, which is not considered to be a high rate of crashes.

At their November 8, 2011 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee concurred with staff recommendation that stop signs be installed on E. 8th Street at Guthrie, designating Guthrie as the "through" street at this intersection. The following revision to the Municipal Code will place this stop control into effect.

Sec. 114-2222.1 East Guthrie Avenue

East Guthrie Avenue, at East Eighth Street, stop.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Traffic Safety Committee

Date: November 8, 2011

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Motion by Carl McPherson to approve staff's recommendation that 6th Avenue be removed as a truck route from New York Avenue to the north city limits and that New York Avenue be added as a truck route between 2nd Avenue and 6th Avenue; seconded by Kevin Williamson. Motion passed 6:0.

Motion by Sgt. Jack Beardsley to approve staff's recommendation that stop signs be installed on E 8th Street at Guthrie, designating Guthrie as the "through" street; seconded by Carl McPherson. Motion passed 6:0.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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