

 <div style="text-align: center;"> <h1 style="margin: 0;">Council Communication</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Office of the City Manager</p> </div>	<b>Date:</b>	February 27, 2012
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>41</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	[_____]
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>12-075</u></b>
	<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Jeb E. Brewer, P.E. City Engineer</b>

## AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 114 of the Municipal Code regarding traffic regulation changes as follows:

- A. Traffic Control at SW 26th Street and Thornton Avenue
- B. School Loading and Unloading Area on Grand Avenue West of 17th Street.

## 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. Staff received a request through the Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association regarding the intersection of SW 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Thornton Avenue. Concerns were expressed about the safety of this intersection due to the lack of any traffic controls and the proximity of Watrous Elementary School, which is located approximately two blocks to the south. A number of children walk through this intersection on their way to and from school.

This location is a “T” intersection, with SW 26<sup>th</sup> Street ending at Thornton Avenue. The west and south legs are improved residential streets. The east leg is an unimproved “asphalt-stabilized” roadway. Traffic approaching from the south is going uphill toward the intersection. In a review of the crash history, there were no reported crashes at this location in the past 10 years.

Because the south and west legs are paved, there may be a tendency by motorists to assume that these are the “through” streets and that the east (unimproved) leg should yield. Due to this possible confusion, it would be beneficial to install signing to designate an appropriate right-of-way. Staff recommended that Thornton Avenue be identified as the “through” street. Because traffic approaching the intersection from the south (SW 26<sup>th</sup> Street) is going uphill, and may have difficulty starting and stopping on an incline, a yield sign is recommended for this leg instead of a stop sign.

At their February 14, 2012 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee concurred with staff recommendation that a yield sign be installed on SW 26<sup>th</sup> Street at Thornton Avenue. The following revision to the Municipal Code is necessary to place this yield sign into effect.

B. A request was received from the Principal of the Downtown School (now located at Central Campus, 1800 Grand Avenue), to review the area on the south side of Grand Avenue west of 17<sup>th</sup> Street for a passenger loading and unloading area. Principal Johnson explained that there is limited area for cars to pull in and stop on the actual grounds of the school. Traffic and Transportation reviewed the surrounding area and believes that the area on the south side of Grand Avenue west of 17<sup>th</sup> Street would meet the schools needs. Currently, there are painted crosswalks crossing Fleur Drive to the school property. This area is currently no parking anytime and is used as queuing space for one of the two dual left-turn lanes toward Fleur Drive. With the opening of Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, the westbound traffic patterns have changed and the left turn volume has reduced, which now makes this type of use feasible. Since the school loading and unloading ends prior to the evening rush hour, there would be no impact on the outbound evening traffic. The recommended ordinance change to implement the installation of a loading and unloading area for the Downtown School is as follows.

Sec. 114-3259. Grand Avenue--Seventeenth Street to Eighteenth Street.

~~Grand Avenue, on the south side, from a point 25 feet east of Seventeenth Street to Eighteenth Street, no parking anytime.~~

Grand Avenue, on the south side, from Seventeenth Street to a point 200 feet west thereof, school loading and unloading, 30 minute limit, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Thirty minute limit for all school passenger loading & unloading. A school issued identification placard is required to identify authorized vehicles dropping off and picking up during the restricted hours, on school days.

Grand Avenue, on the south side, from a point 225 feet west of Seventeenth Street to Fleur Drive, no parking anytime

#### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

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

Board: Traffic Safety Committee

Date: February 14, 2012

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Motion by Jim Windsor to approve staff's recommendation that a yield sign be installed on SW 26th Street at Thornton Avenue; seconded by George Robinson. Motion passed 7:0.

#### **ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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