

# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>22-302</b>	Meeting:	<b>June 27, 2022</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>83</b>	Roll Call:	<b>22-1100</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 114 of the Municipal Code to amend the definition of school district as it pertains to establishing school speed zones.

## SYNOPSIS:

The proposed traffic regulation modifies the definition of “school district” to other school facilities where students are present. The purpose of this change is to allow school speed zones to include other school areas where school children may be walking to/from, such as stadiums or practice fields.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

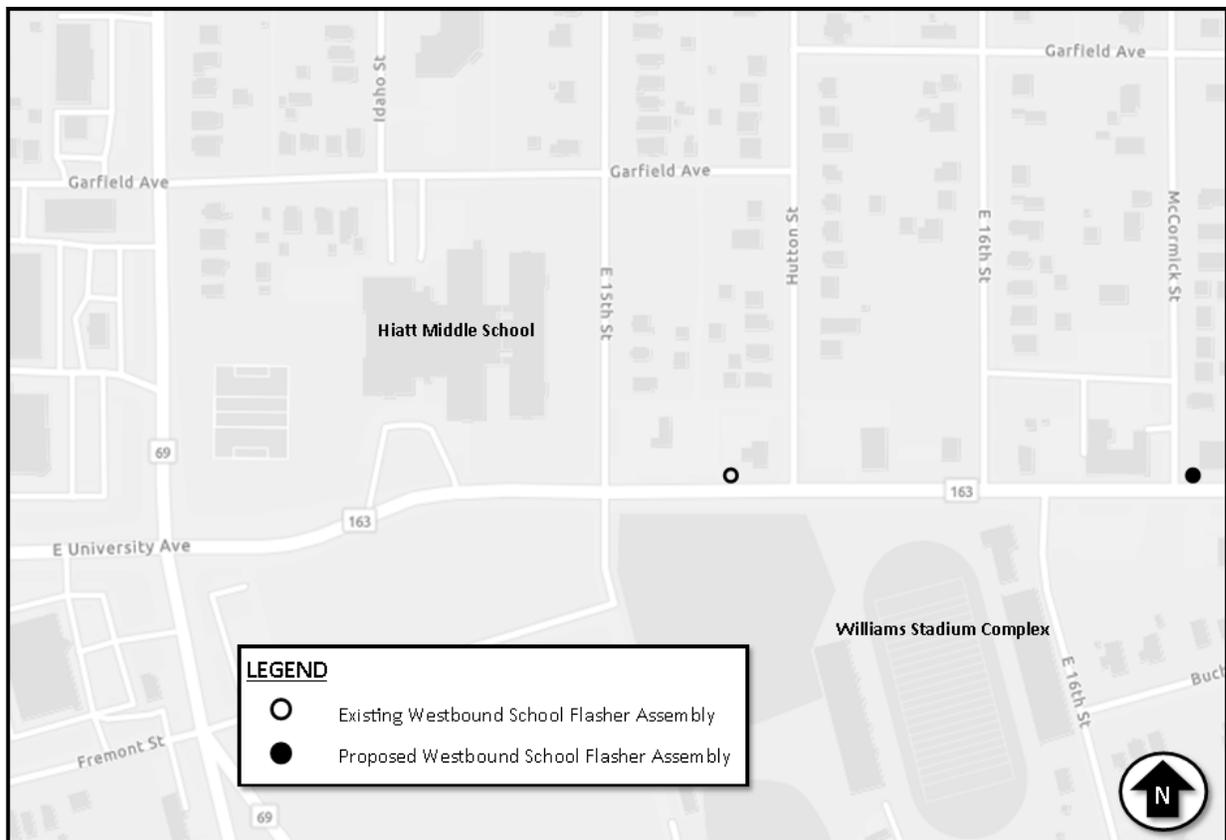
Amount: \$6,000 for school speed zone change on E. University Avenue near McCormick Street.

Funding Source: 2022-2023 Operating Budget, Page 60, Engineering Department, T&T – Signal Installation and Maintenance, EG062079, Road Use Tax Fund.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Staff received a request from a resident at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Neighborhood Association meeting on May 17, 2022, to extend the school speed zone on E. University Avenue/IA 163 for Hiatt Middle School further east in response to a traffic fatality and student walking patterns.
- Section 114-285.01 of the Municipal Code allows for the installation of school speed limit signs and beacons in established school districts. A school district is currently defined in the Municipal Code as up to 200 feet in either direction from a “schoolhouse.”
- East High School has a situation unique from the other high schools, where the stadium and practice fields are not directly adjacent or across from the school building. In addition, Hiatt Middle School is within this same area. This expands the area of student activity typically seen near the school building to further along the corridor.
- To address this issue, staff proposes to modify the Municipal Code to define a school district based on a school facility rather than “schoolhouse” to include school properties with facilities where students may be present and may walk to, such as stadiums or practice fields.

- This change would allow moving the east limit of the existing school speed zone on E. University Avenue/IA 163, in the vicinity of Hiatt Middle School, from near Hutton Street to near McCormick Street.
- If this change is approved by Council, Engineering staff will relocate the existing school flasher equipment for westbound E. University Ave/IA 163 traffic to the proposed location near McCormick Street. The estimated cost to complete this work is \$6,000 and it is anticipated that this work could be completed by the fall of 2022.
- Additional changes to the school flasher assemblies are proposed as part of a proposed larger project in the future which would include the items listed below. Pending funding availability, lead time on signal equipment and coordination with private utilities for potential conflicts with utilities, these changes are anticipated to be constructed starting in 2024:
  - Upgrading the school flasher assemblies on E. University Avenue/IA 163 to the new school flasher assembly standard with speed feedback signs.
  - Replacing the existing midblock pedestrian signal west of E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street with a new High Intensity Activated CrossWalk (HAWK) signal located at the intersection of E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street and E. University Avenue/IA 163.
  - Adding a new HAWK signal at the intersection of E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street/US 69 and Garfield Avenue.
  - Adding a new HAWK signal in the vicinity of E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street and E University/IA 163.
  - Modifying the medians at the intersection of E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street/US 69 and E. University Avenue/IA 163 to make the west and south approaches of the intersection accessible.
  - Filling the sidewalk gap on E. University/IA163 in the vicinity of McCormick Street.



- The following code changes will modify the school district definition and allow for the modification of the school speed zone on E. University Avenue/IA 163.  
Sec. 114-1. Definitions.

*School district* means the territory contiguous to and including a highway for a distance of 200 feet in either direction from a ~~schoolhouse~~ school facility.

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

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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