


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	25-003	Meeting:	January 13, 2025
	Agenda Item:	47	Roll Call:	25-0071
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Amending the Municipal Code Section 114-358(a) regarding places to stop, stand, or park a vehicle.

SYNOPSIS:

The proposal amends the Municipal Code Section 114-358(a) to increase the distances of parking restrictions to provide greater visibility of pedestrians as well as other users at intersections and crosswalks to enhance the safe mobility of all users.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- An objective of the City Council through the City's Transportation Safety Action Plan and Transportation Master Plan is to enhance the safe mobility of all users of the city's streets, roads and trails. To work towards this objective, this code modification proposes to increase the distance where parking would be restricted from an intersection, marked mid-block crosswalks as well as the distance in advance of any flashing beacon, stop sign, and traffic control signal.
- According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), restricting parking near intersections can reduce pedestrian crashes by 30% ([Source](#), PDF). Removing parked cars reduces blind spots giving drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists a better view of the intersection resulting in better response time to approaching road users. Adding curb extensions prevents parking in the restricted area and helps to slow turning vehicles so they are more likely to see and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- The proposal amends the Municipal Code Section 114-358 as follows:

Sec. 114-358. Prohibited in specified places.

(a) No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid a conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic control device, in any of the following places:

 - (1) On a sidewalk.
 - (2) In front of or within two (2) feet of a public or private driveway.

- (3) Within an intersection.
- (4) On a crosswalk.
- (5) Within ~~ten~~ 25 feet upon the approach to any flashing beacon, stop sign or traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway.
- (6) Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within ten feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone.
- (7) Within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing, except when parked parallel with such rail and not exhibiting a red light.
- (8) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when such stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic.
- (9) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street.
- (10) Adjacent to or on the center parkway or dividing area of any divided street.
- (11) In front of a curb cut or ramp which is located on public or private property in a manner which blocks access to the curb cut or ramp.
- (12) Adjacent to or in front of a curb bump-out when such stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic.
- (13) Within a minimum of 40 feet approaching an intersection and within 25 feet following an intersection.
- (14) Within a minimum of 25 feet of a marked crosswalk not located within an intersection.

A person who violates any provision of subsection (a) shall pay a \$15.00 fine.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.