


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-176	Meeting:	May 18, 2026
	Agenda Item:	38	Roll Call:	26-0638
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 114 of the Municipal Code regarding Traffic Regulation Changes as follows:

- A. Parking Modification – On-street parking changes related to Hanawalt Elementary School
  - 1. 56th Street between SW 58th Drive and Grand Avenue
  - 2. Robertson Drive between 56th Street and 53rd Street
- B. Speed Limit Modification – 28th Street from Ingersoll Avenue to University Avenue
- C. Corner Clearance Parking Restrictions –
  - 1. East Merced Street and East 48th Street
  - 2. Michigan Street and Clark Street
  - 3. Shawnee Avenue and 15th Street

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the staff recommendation and the ordinance regarding the traffic regulation changes. Costs for sign installations and periodic maintenance of signs.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Costs for sign installations and periodic maintenance of signs.

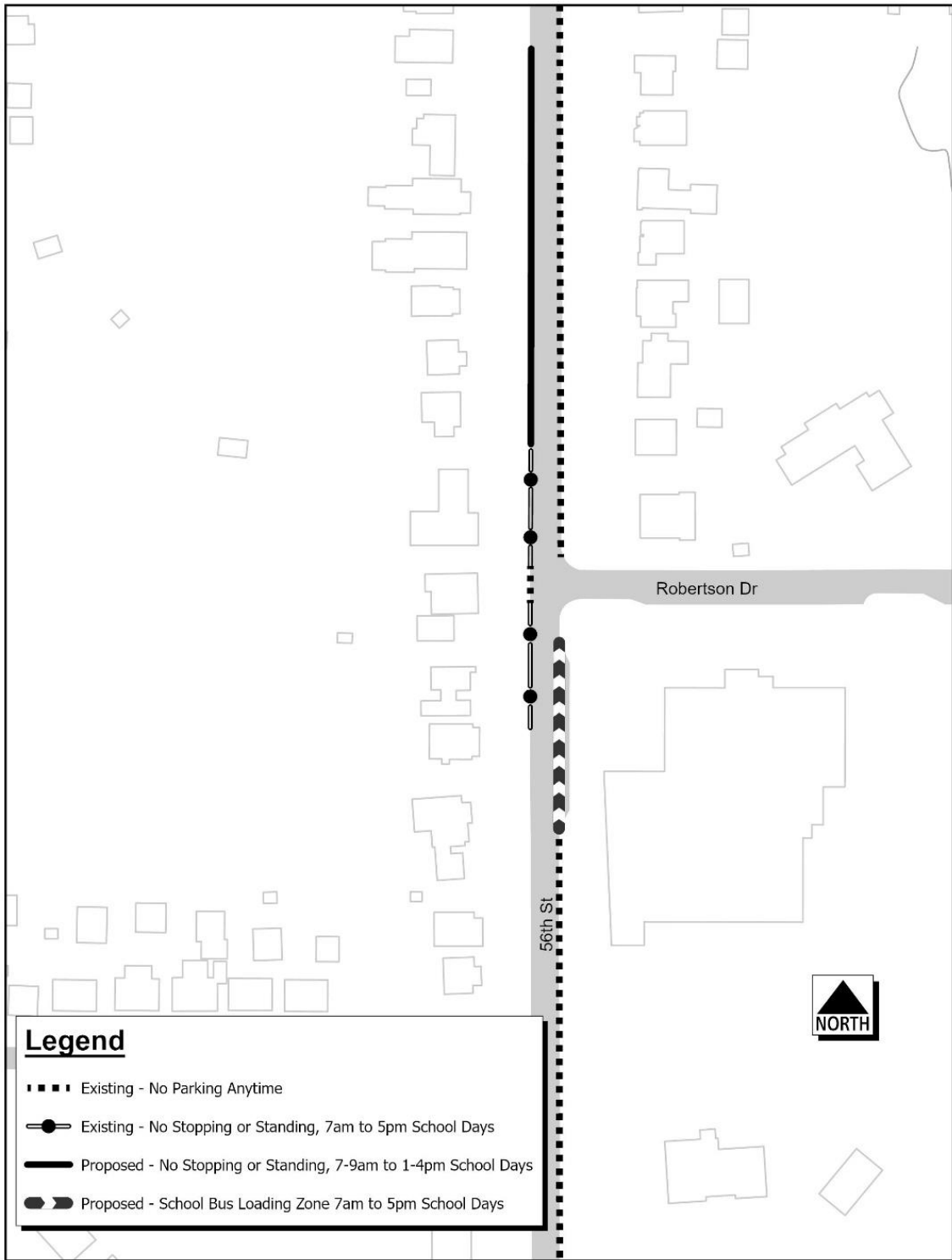
Funding Source: 2026-27 Operating Budget, Page 57, Engineering Department T&T – Sign, Painting, Signal and Lighting, EG062080, Road Use Tax Fund

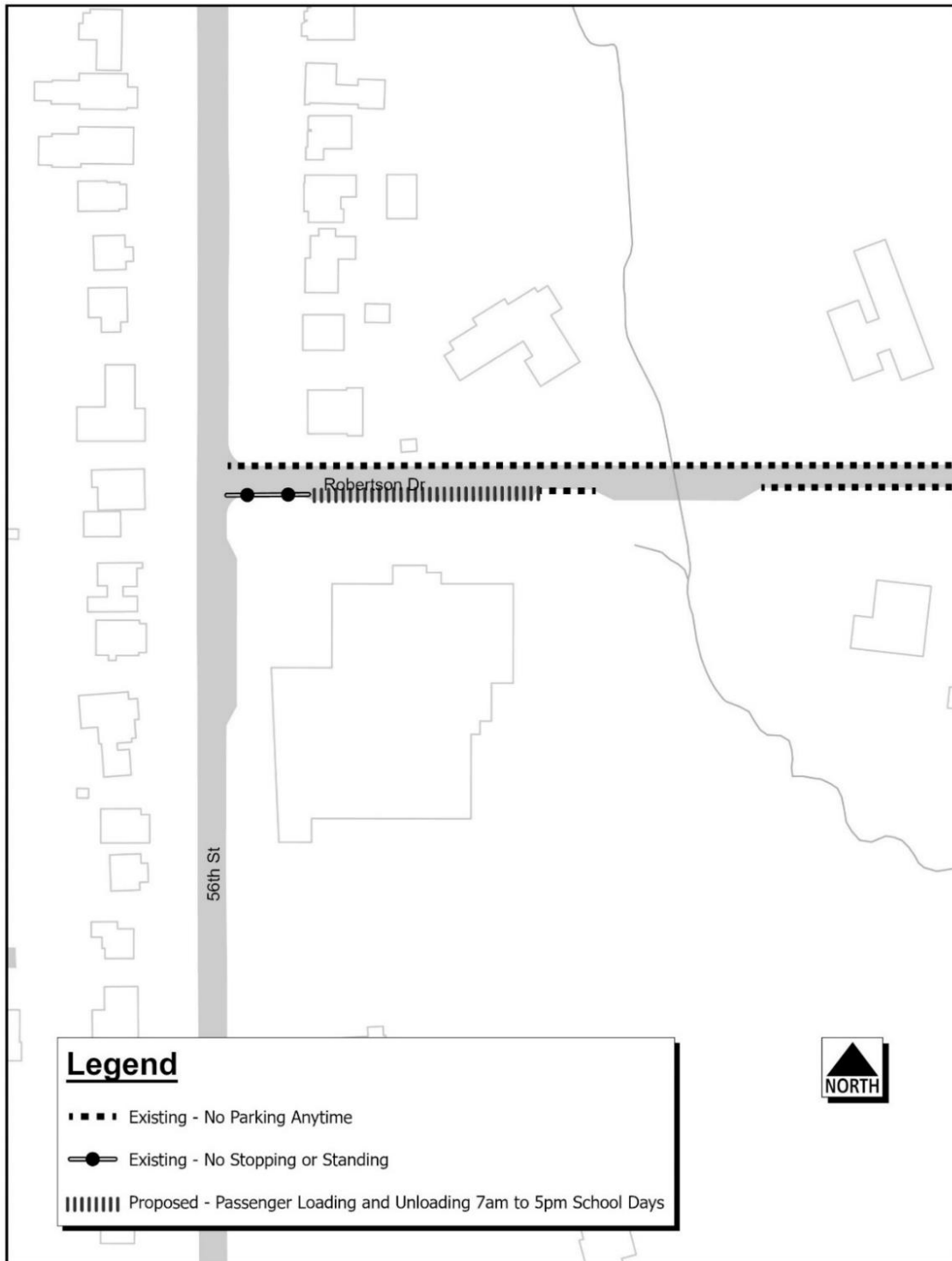
## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Des Moines Public Schools requested a review of on-street parking restrictions adjacent to Hanawalt Elementary School to improve visibility at the school crossing and the all-way stop at the intersection of 56th Street and Robertson Drive. These concerns are driven by congestion and operational challenges during student arrival and dismissal periods.
- A proposal to address these concerns was presented by Des Moines Public Schools at the City Council’s regular meeting on April 6, 2026. While the first ordinance reading was approved, public comments received at that meeting and again at the April 20, 2026, City Council meeting expressed opposition to certain elements of the proposal, particularly the duration of

the time-of-day restrictions along the west side of 56th Street, north of Robertson Drive. In response, City staff reevaluated the proposed restriction hours and are now advancing revisions that reduce the total daily duration of the parking restrictions in this location on school days.

- The proposed changes would modify both the time-of-day restrictions and the extent of existing “no stopping, no standing” zones on the west side of 56th Street, north of Robertson Drive. Specifically, enforcement would apply from 7:00–9:00 a.m. and 1:00–4:00 p.m. on school days, and the restricted area would be extended approximately 250 feet further north to enhance traffic operations and improve sight distance at the crossing.
- In addition, the currently designated passenger loading area on the east side of 56th Street, south of Robertson Drive, would be converted to a school bus loading and unloading zone from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on school days, reflecting current usage patterns.
- Other proposed revisions would align the Municipal Code with existing field conditions along 56th Street.
- On Robertson Drive, the inset area directly adjacent to the school is currently not signed. The Municipal Code indicates this area should be passenger loading on the west end and bus loading on the east end. Des Moines Public Schools has requested the entire inset area be signed for passenger loading and unloading to reflect current operations. All other changes on Robertson Drive are intended to align the Municipal Code with existing field conditions.
- The following modifications to the Municipal Code will place these changes into effect.





Sec. 114-2949. Fifty-sixth Street--North Valley Drive to Aurora Avenue.

Fifty-sixth Street, on the east side, from Robertson Drive to a point ~~120~~200 feet south thereof, ~~passenger loading and unloading 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. school days.~~ school bus loading and unloading 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. school days.

Fifty-sixth Street, on the west side, from Robertson Drive to a point ~~100~~350 feet north thereof, no stopping or standing 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. school days.

Fifty-sixth Street, on the west side, from Robertson Drive to a point ~~400~~110 feet south thereof, no stopping or standing 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. school days.

~~Fifty-sixth Street, on the east side, from Robertson Drive to a point 100 feet north thereof, no stopping or standing.~~

Fifty-sixth Street, on the east side, from a point ~~100 feet north~~ of Robertson Drive to College Avenue, no parking any time.

Sec. 114-3606. Robertson Drive--Fifty-first Street to Fifty-sixth Street.

Robertson Drive, on the south side, from Fifty-first Street to a point ~~225~~ 450 feet east of Fifty-sixth Street, no parking any time.

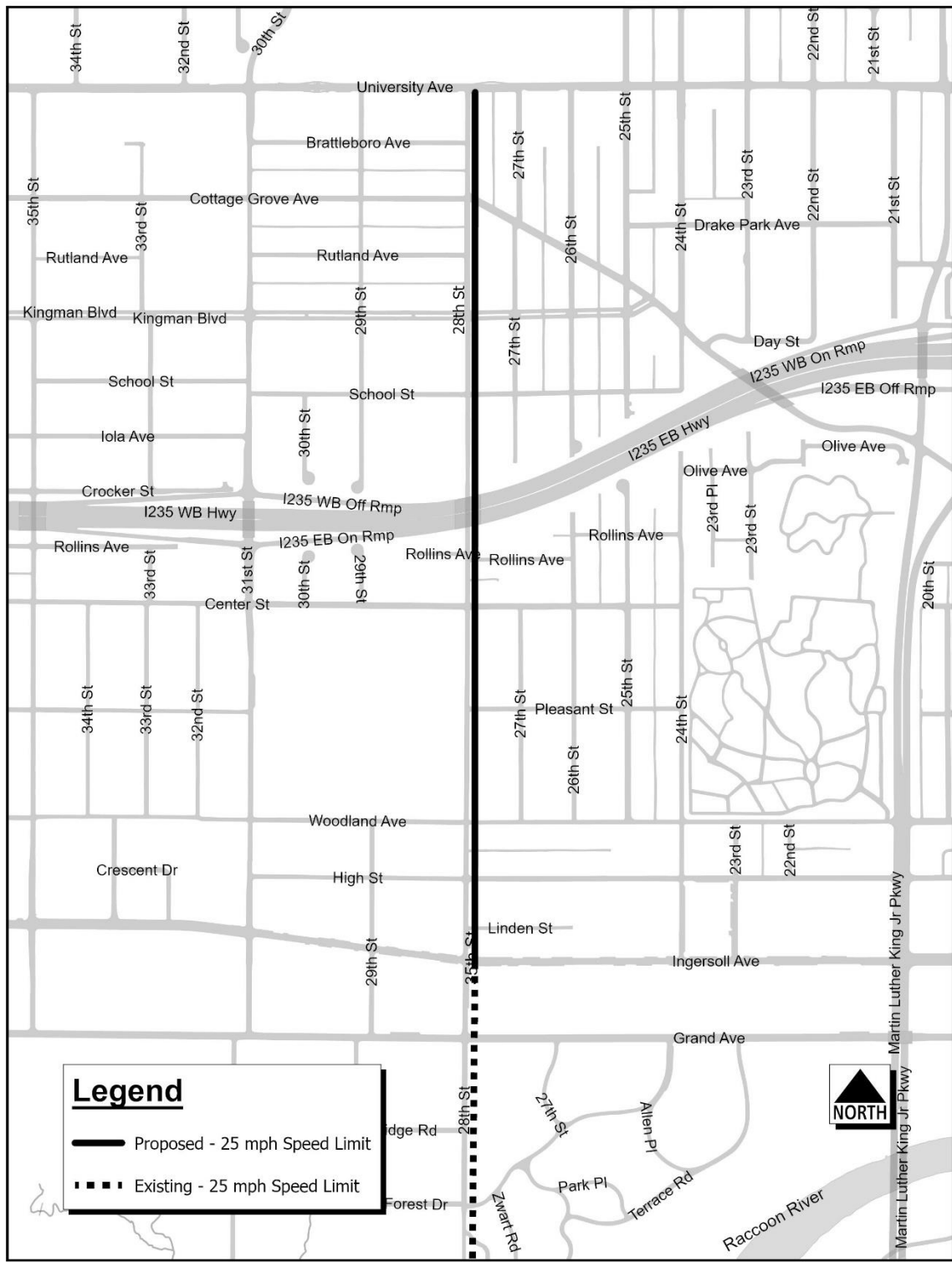
Robertson Drive, on the south side, from a point 75 feet east of Fifty-sixth Street to a point ~~70~~ 150 feet east thereof, passenger loading and unloading 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., school days.

Robertson Drive, on the south side, from a point 225 feet east of Fifty-sixth Street to a point 110 feet east thereof, no parking any time.

~~Robertson Drive, on the south side, from a point 145 feet east of Fifty-sixth Street to a point 80 feet east thereof, bus loading and unloading 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., school days.~~

- A. A credible speed limit review was completed for 28th Street from Ingersoll Avenue to University Avenue. The current speed limit on this section of 28th Street is 30 mph. The speed limit on other sections of 28th Street is 25 mph. The City's speed limit review process uses three different credible speed models that consider traffic volumes, existing vehicle speeds, land use, street context, as well as other factors, to determine the credible speed limit for a street. Based on this analysis, staff recommend reducing the speed limit on 28th Street between Ingersoll Avenue and University Avenue from 30 mph to 25 mph.

The following modifications to the Municipal Code will place this change into effect.



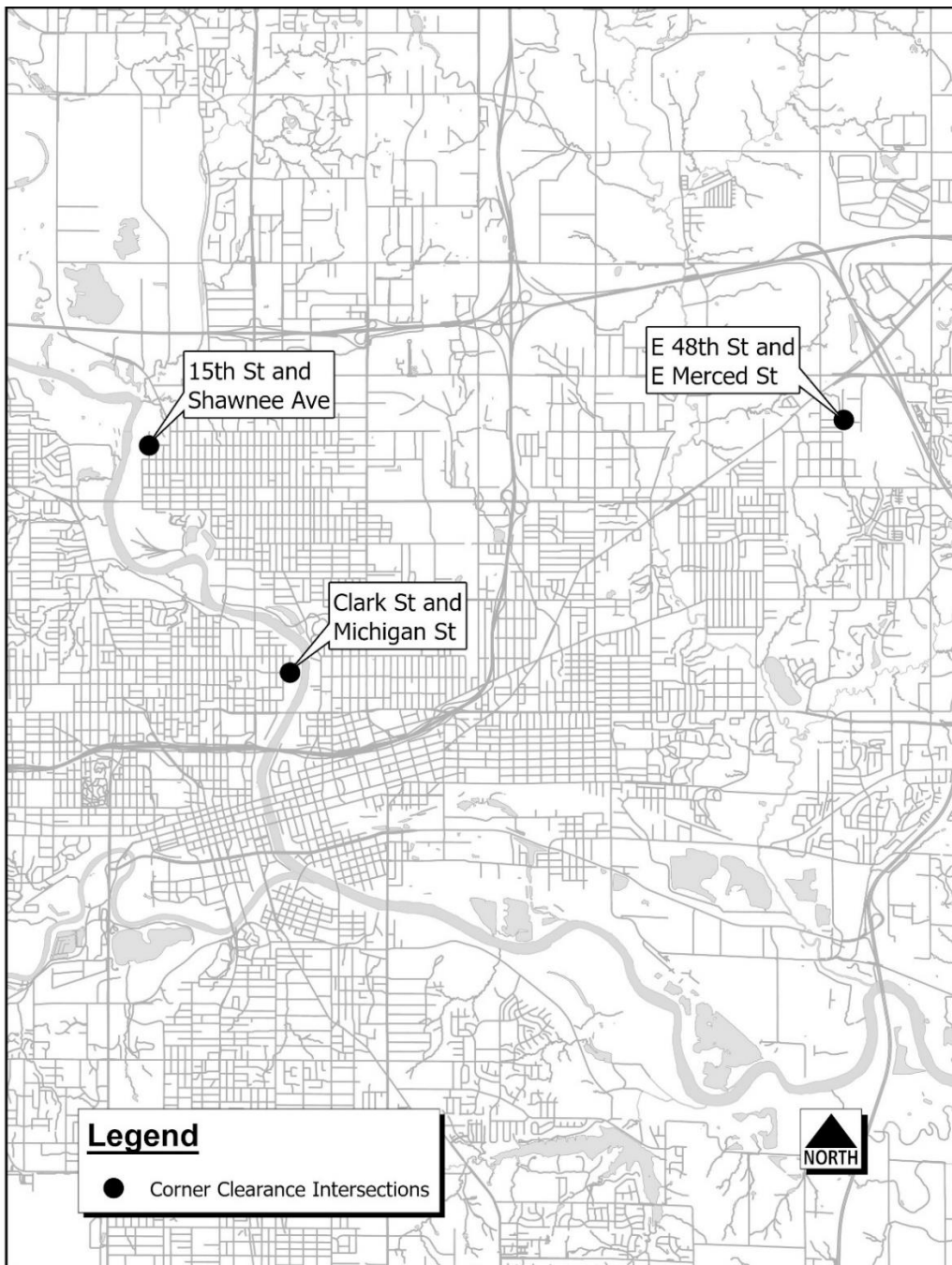
Sec. 114-1259. Twenty-eighth Street.

Twenty-eighth Street, from Ingersoll Avenue to a point 100 feet south of Pleasant Street, 30 miles per hour.

Twenty-eighth Street, from a point 100 feet north of Center Street to University Avenue, 30 miles per hour.

B. A corner clearance is a parking restriction that extends 150 feet or less from an intersection. Corner clearances are typically installed to provide required sight distance at the intersection or facilitate turning movements onto narrow, residential streets where a parked vehicle might prevent two-way traffic. A request for a corner clearance is typically generated from resident concerns. Staff have reviewed the following locations and determined corner clearances are necessary.

1. East Merced Street and East 48th Street
2. Michigan Street and Clark Street
3. Shawnee Avenue and 15th Street



Sec. 114-3488.5. East Merced Street--Northeast Forty-sixth Street to East Forty-eighth Street.

East Merced Street, on the south side, from a point 45 feet west of East Forty-eighth Street to East Forty-eight Street, no parking any time.

Sec. 114-3493. Michigan Street--Forest Avenue to College Avenue.

Michigan Street, on the west side, from Clark Street to a point 50 feet north thereof, no parking any time.

Sec. 114-3632. Shawnee Avenue--First Street to Beaver Avenue.

Shawnee Avenue, on the north side, from a point 60 feet east of Fifteenth Street to Fifteenth Street, no parking any time.

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

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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