The Des Moines Transportation Safety Committee met at 7:30 a.m. on August 13, 2019, in the MacCrae Conference Room (Room 129) at the Municipal Service Center, 1551 E Martin Luther King Jr Parkway. Those members in attendance were:

Scott Bents  Luis Montoya
Dave Ferree  Carl Voss
Blake Hanson  Jim Windsor

Members Absent: Anne Pham, Meg Schneider, Robin Witt, and Chad Zimmerman

Staff Present: Jennifer Dakovich, Jeff Wiggins, and Michelle Schomer.

Guests Present: Mark Johnson, 1089 44th Street, Observer
Rob Haaland, Bolton and Menk, Observer
Ross Harris, SEH Inc., 5414 NW 88th Street, Observer

Approval of Agenda

MOTION was made by Carl Voss to approve the agenda; seconded by Jim Windsor. Motion passed 6:0.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of July Minutes

MOTION was made by Luis Montoya to approve the July minutes; seconded by Blake Hanson. Motion passed 6:0.

2. Other Old Business

Jeff Wiggins updated the Committee regarding a traffic calming issue on E 29th Street. He said that the ACCENT Neighborhood Association had requested a study to stop speeding on the roadway. There were survey cards mailed to 75 property owners on E 29th Street. The choices on the survey card were: (A) I support narrowing the roadway and, subject to City funding availability, support a shared use path on the west side of the roadway; (B) I support narrowing the roadway, but do not support a shared use path on the west side of the roadway; and (C) I prefer that E 29th Street stay as it is. Forty-four responses were received, with the majority (38) of those property owners voting to keep E 29th Street as it is, and 6 property owners responding in support of narrowing the roadway and, subject to City funding availability, supporting a shared use path on the west side of the roadway.

Jeff Wiggins provided an update on the Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association request for Lay Street traffic calming. The problematic corner was identified as Lay Street and E Douglas Avenue. This neighborhood request qualifies as eligible for traffic calming. For their consideration, staff will provide Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association with traffic calming options in the fall.

Jeff Wiggins said that the Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association requested traffic calming for Stanton Avenue between McKinley Avenue and Fleur Drive. Staff took speed data on Stanton Avenue to the east of SW 26th Street and to the west of SW 26th Street. Cut-through traffic was one of the concerns of the neighborhood. This fall, staff
will discuss options that will be appropriate for the area with the Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association.

Jeff Wiggins reported that two speed tables are expected to be constructed this week on SW 14th Street between Creston and Park.

Carl Voss asked what the posted speed limit is on SW 14th Street. He said part of it is posted as 30 mph. If considered a quiet street, why 30 mph?

Jennifer Dakovich said that the 30 mph section of SW 14th Street is designated as a collector route.

Jeff Wiggins added that the quiet portion of SW 14th Street was set at 25 mph to deter cut-through traffic.

Jennifer Dakovich said that the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) met and determined that they would support the E Euclid Avenue Pilot Project as presented. The project is scheduled to be implemented in June 2020. The pilot project will be evaluated after one year. The City will be meeting with the IDOT to determine who will be doing what on E Euclid Avenue.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Cherry Street Restriping—5th Avenue to 12th Street**

Jeff Wiggins presented this item as follows.

Cherry Street is a one-half mile (7-block) long street on the south edge of downtown that connects 5th Avenue to 12th Street. Notable landmarks include West End Salvage (9th Street), overhead viaducts (8th and 9th Streets), DART Station (6th Avenue), and the Polk County Courthouse (5th Avenue). Existing pavement markings provide a variety of lane configurations, peak-hour restricted parking in some areas, and dedicated parking in other areas. In 2017, Public Works identified the need to resurface Cherry Street. This presented the opportunity to review how the street currently operates and whether it could be utilized more efficiently.
Traffic and Transportation Division staff studied existing conditions and coordinated with stakeholders along the corridor. The street carries 2,000-3,650 vehicles per day. Metered on-street parking is virtually unused except near the courthouse. Traffic signals under the viaducts at 8th and 9th Streets do not meet MUTCD traffic signal warrant criteria. Incorporating Connect Downtown recommendations and Complete Street elements, Traffic and Transportation Division staff proposes the following reuse of the existing pavec section:

- One lane of vehicular traffic each direction
- Center continuous left-turn lane 7th Street to 9th Street adjacent to structured parking.
- Bike lane on each side of the street.
- Parking 5th Avenue to 7th Street (south side) and 9th Street to 10th Street (north side)
- Adjustments to parking surrounding Polk County Complex and Megabus bus stop.
- Removal of traffic signals and addition of all stop controls at 8th Street and 9th Street.

This creates a uniform and predictable vehicular pattern, preserves parking at critical locations, and creates an important link in the downtown on-street bicycle network.

Staff recommended proceeding with the proposed restriping as part of the resurfacing project.

Carl Voss asked what the cost savings would be for removal of the traffic signals.

Jennifer Dakovich said there will be energy savings and savings on responsive maintenance. Staff discussed with the Mayor his concern that the 4-way stops may increase vehicle emissions. In the peak hour, there are one to two seconds more idling time at the 4-way stop. All other hours of the day have less idling time than a traffic signal. While the 4-way stops are not required, the location at 9th and Cherry (West End Salvage) has a visibility issue; at 8th and Cherry, all of the surface parking is on the south side of the street so there is heavy pedestrian crossing movement. The 4-way stop at 8th and Cherry would be a controlled crossing for pedestrians.

Luis Montoya said that DART is concerned with safety and interactions with buses and bicyclists. Because of the north and south one-way streets, the buses are limited in their circulation. The buses make a lot of left turns to get into the facility. DART has much
heavier traffic on 6th and 7th – 35 buses making the 6th-Cherry-7th turns. Buses must wait for gaps in traffic. DART is requesting protected left turns. DART is very concerned with bicyclist and pedestrian conflicts. Luis said overall it is a good project, but he would like to see additional changes to address safety concerns since he believes that the improvement on Cherry Street may increase the potential for conflict with bicyclists. DART would like to see the bike lanes stop at 7th Street.

Jennifer Dakovich said that DART is a destination. This area will likely have bikes on Cherry whether we paint the bike lane or not. Painting the lane increases the safety because it draws the motorists’ attention. Staff does not want to send the message that buses and bicycles don’t mix. The next step is presenting the proposed project to the City Council at their September meeting for them to approve the plan and give staff direction to move forward. Once approved, staff will continue with design.

**MOTION** was made by Luis Montoya to approve the overall restriping plan, but with the additional recommendation that staff look at ways to mitigate potential conflicts with DART buses along Cherry Street from 5th Avenue to 12th Street; seconded by Scott Bents. Motion passed 6:0.

2. **Meeting Time Survey**

Carl Voss requested that the City send out a survey to the Transportation Safety Committee members to determine if there is a different day/time board members would prefer the committee to meet.

Jennifer Dakovich said she met with Steve Naber to work out what times that would not conflict with other meetings and available meeting space. The current time and location worked for 6 out of the 8 members who responded. No response was received from 2 members. A survey reminder will be sent out to get a response from the remaining members.

This item was for information only. No action was required.

3. **Other New Business**

Adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Schomer
Recording Secretary

Attachments
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# TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

## GUEST ATTENDANCE

MacRae Conference Room  
1551 E Martin Luther King Jr Parkway, Room 129  
Tuesday, August 13, 2019

PLEASE SIGN IN IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE MAILINGS ON THE TOPIC OF THIS MEETING. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THIS INFORMATION MAY BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST.

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<tr>
<td>Ross Harris</td>
<td>5414 NW 88th St Portland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Harris@sehinc.com">Harris@sehinc.com</a></td>
<td>503-608-6006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Haaland</td>
<td>309 E 5th St #202</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rob.haaland@buiton-mack.com">rob.haaland@buiton-mack.com</a></td>
<td>515-259-9490</td>
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