DES MOINES TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 8, 2019  
MINUTES

The Des Moines Transportation Safety Committee met at 7:30 a.m. October 8, 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:

Tom DeSio  
Luis Montoya  
Meg Schneider  
Carl Voss  
Jim Windsor  
Robin Witt

Members Absent: Scott Bents, Blake Hanson, Anne Pham, and Chad Zimmerman

Staff Present: Steve Naber, John Davis, Jennifer Dakovich, Jeff Wiggins, and Michelle Schomer.

Guests Present: Mark Johnson, 1089 44th Street, Observer  
Randi Watson, 917 California Drive, Item #1  
Kevin Saunders, 920 43rd Street, Item #1  
Doug Jotzke, 1730 7th Street, Item #2

The Transportation Safety Committee welcomed the new City Traffic Engineer, John Davis, and also Tom DeSio as a new Committee Member representing Ward I.

Approval of Agenda

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of September Minutes

MOTION was made by Robin Witt to approve the September minutes; seconded by Jim Windsor. Motion passed 6:0.

2. Other Old Business

There was no Other Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. California Drive, 43rd Street, and Crocker Street—Petition for Parking Restriction between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., School Days

Jennifer Dakovich presented this item as follows. Randi Watson of 917 California Drive and Kevin Saunders of 920 43rd Street were guests present for this item.
Staff received petitions from property owners on California Drive, 43rd Street, and Crocker Street, asking that the current parking restriction be changed to restrict parking on California Drive, 43rd Street, and Crocker Street between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. during school days. The petitions are attached and made a part of these minutes.

Prior to 2010, parking restrictions were in place prohibiting parking between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., school days, on the east/south side of California Drive, the west side of 43rd Street, and the west side of Crocker Street. Parking is prohibited at all times on the opposite side of the street. This was done at the request of residents in an effort to help prevent parking in the neighborhood by students attending Roosevelt High School.
In 2012, a resident in this area circulated a petition to change the restriction to no parking between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. for a short distance on California Drive, adjacent to two properties, to allow more parking options for his residence. This item was brought before the Transportation Safety Committee and the recommendation to change the restriction in front of the two properties was approved. However, the item that went to City Council for approval was to change the parking restriction along the entire length of the block. This was approved by City Council and the parking restriction was changed to restrict parking from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. during school days along the east/south side of California Drive and the west side of 43rd Street and Crocker Street.

The current petition would return these streets to the original restriction, prior to 2012. Parking would be restricted from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., school days, on the east/south side of California Drive, the west side of 43rd Street, and the west side of Crocker Street. Parking would remain restricted at all times on the opposite side of the streets.

The City's Parking Restriction Policy allows for the consideration of parking restrictions initiated by residents if a petition has been signed by a majority of the adjacent property owners. Historically, the City has defined "majority" as 60 percent.

As the request met the petition requirements, staff recommended the current parking restriction be modified to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., school days.

Jennifer Dakovich received written comments from the neighborhood via email that she provided to the Committee. The comments received are attached and made a part of these minutes.

Randi Watson identified herself as the neighbor responsible for canvassing the petition. She has been a resident of this area since 1961. She said that high school students seem to come and go throughout the entire school day, which includes entering and exiting their parking spaces in her neighborhood. She said when the students park along California Drive, it is difficult to maneuver at the intersections and very difficult for Public Works to remove snow and collect garbage. She mentioned that the students sometimes park too close to the alley entrances in an attempt to occupy one last parking space. She also finds it very difficult to get in and out of her driveway because of the tightly-parked vehicles. She believes the parked vehicles create an unsafe situation for the younger kids who play in the center circle and for those who ride their bikes through the neighborhood.

Carl Voss asked for the width of the street. Jennifer Dakovich responded that the narrowest point is 22 feet wide.

Kevin Saunders said he was supportive of the proposal. He did believe there is an enforcement issue in the neighborhood that needs to be addressed. He has placed several calls to the Police Department with very little success. Mr. Saunders asked the Committee for some advice regarding where service providers could park their vehicles. In the past, he said some service providers have received illegal parking tickets for parking near the center circle. It would be his preference that no one park in the center circle, including the service providers.

*MOTION* was made by Robin Witt to approve staff recommendation; seconded by Jim Windsor. Motion passed 6:0.
2. **7th Street and Jefferson Avenue—All-Way Stop Request**

Jennifer Dakovich presented this item as follows. Doug Jotzke of 1730 7th Street was a guest present for this item.

Staff received a request in late 2018 from a resident, through the Ward Councilmember, that an all-way stop control be installed at the intersection of 7th Street and Jefferson Avenue due to the number of crashes and speeding in the area.

The intersection of 7th Street and Jefferson Avenue is currently two-way stop controlled, with 7th Street traffic required to stop. Both 7th Street and Jefferson Avenue are local, residential streets with a speed limit of 25 mph. The map below shows the existing traffic control in the area. The intersection of 7th Street and Jefferson Avenue has been highlighted.
November 2018: Traffic counts were collected at the 7th Street and Jefferson Avenue intersection. The data shows the intersection is a low volume intersection with 300 vehicles per day on 7th Street and 800 vehicles per day on Jefferson Avenue.

January 2019: Councilmember Gray requested that the data at the intersection be reviewed for installation of an all-way stop. The City uses the criteria outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to determine if all-way stops are warranted at an intersection. Staff reviewed the traffic volumes, crash data, intersection visibility, and current stop sign placement.

- Traffic Volumes: In order for the all-way stop criteria to be met, the hourly entering volume must be as follows:
  - The major street (Jefferson Avenue) must be at least 300 vehicles per hour for any eight hours of the day. This threshold was not met for any hour of the day.
  - The minor street (7th Street) must be 200 vehicles and pedestrians per hour for the same eight hours. This threshold was not met for any hour of the day.

- Crash Data: In order for the all-way stop criteria to be met based on crashes, five or more reported crashes must occur within a 12-month period at the intersection. These crashes must be considered correctable with the addition of an all-way stop. A five-year period was used for the crash analysis. Ten crashes occurred during the five-year analysis period. The highest number of correctable crashes to occur within a 12-month period was two.

- Intersection Visibility: The intersection was reviewed to determine if the vision clearance requirements outlined in the Municipal Code were met at this intersection. The review found one bush located in the southwest corner of the intersection that needed trimmed to be compliant. Notice was sent to the property owner to mitigate the issue.

- Stop Sign Size and Placement: The placement and size of the stop signs were reviewed. The placement of the signing was appropriate but, the sign size did not meet current City standards. A work order was issued to City crews to replace the existing stops signs with 30-inch stop signs.

Based on the data collected and the analysis, an all-way stop was not warranted at this intersection. This information was shared with Councilmember Gray.

The concern regarding speeding was forwarded to the Police Traffic Unit.

July 2019: Councilmember Gray requested that the intersection be reviewed for all-way stop control again due to a crash that had occurred at the intersection. An additional crash had occurred in the six months since the review. MUTCD criteria for an all-way stop was still not met and an all-way stop was not warranted at this intersection.

August 2019: The City Manager asked staff to take the request for an all-way stop at the intersection of 7th Street and Jefferson Avenue to the Transportation Safety Committee for review and recommendation.

The Transportation Safety Committee is being asked to further review the all-way stop request and provide recommendation to the City Council.

Staff does not recommend the installation of an all-way stop at the intersection of 7th Street and Jefferson Avenue. The traffic volumes and crash history do not meet the criteria outlined in the MUTCD for the installation of all-way stop control. All-way stop
control is not effective in reducing speeds and the addition of unwarranted traffic control can increase crashes due to disregard of the traffic control.

Jim Windsor said that he agreed with staff. The intersection of 7th and Jefferson does not warrant an all-way stop.

Carl Voss said there is a lot of construction in this area right now. There is storm and sanitary sewer construction and streetscape work on 6th Avenue.

Meg Schneider said the recently-observed behavior may be due to the construction.

Jennifer Dakovich agreed that the neighborhood is likely seeing additional traffic due to the 6th Avenue streetscape construction.

Steve Naber said the sewer separation work has also contributed to driving the traffic counts up.

Carl Voss asked when the projects would be completed. Steve Naber said that the Franklin project is pretty far along now, but there are several phases of the sewer separation project. Construction on the sewer project will continue for another year.

Tom DeSio said historically, Jefferson Avenue has a speeding problem, but installing stop signs will not solve that.

Meg Schneider asked if there were temporary measures that could be taken during construction.

Jennifer Dakovich said she would speak with the Des Moines Police Department regarding speed enforcement and the possibility of installing temporary mobile feedback signs similar to those on Martin Luther King Jr Parkway.

Doug Jotzke said he has lived on the street for 7 years. He said there have been many severe accidents at the intersection—rollovers, motorcycle, and a skateboarder. Mr. Jotzke said there are a number of school-aged kids who walk along Jefferson Avenue. He assumes that a large number of the kids are non-English speaking. He believes that fender benders at the intersection go vastly unreported, since he believes most residents in the neighborhood, especially those who do not speak English, are afraid to call the police. He said only the more severe accidents get reported.

In response to a comment that Jefferson and 7th has the highest number of crashes in this area, Jennifer Dakovich related that a review of other intersections in this neighborhood that are two-way stop controlled show similar numbers of crashes being reported.

Carl Voss explained that the City follows guidelines within certain standards, or warrants. If the City makes exceptions, we are going to find the same exceptions occurring all over the city. Carl asked what would be the point of standards if we were to make these exceptions?

Luis Montoya said that if stop signs are installed where they are not warranted, they are less likely to be obeyed. To have motorists roll through stop signs would be worse.

Carl Voss asked if there were any traffic calming measures that would work here.
Jennifer Dakovich said the first step in traffic calming is through a request from the neighborhood association, the ward councilmember, or 60% petition.

Jim Windsor asked if it would help to stop the traffic on Jefferson Avenue, instead of stopping traffic on 7th Street.

Jennifer Dakovich said that two-way stop signs are placed on the minor street, which in this case would be 7th Street.

Jennifer said this issue is scheduled to be presented at the October 14 City Council meeting.

**MOTION** was made by Luis Montoya to approve staff recommendation; seconded by Robin Witt. Motion passed 6:0.

3. **Other New Business**

Carl Voss asked Jeff Wiggins to provide a brief overview of his NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) trip to Toronto, Ontario CANADA. Jeff Wiggins provided NACTO conference highlights to the Committee that included the Vision Zero Network. The Vision Zero Network seeks to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries nationwide, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.

Carl Voss asked John Davis to consider beginning discussions regarding Des Moines investing in and playing an active role in NACTO. Carl also urged the Committee Members to Google Vision Zero in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to get an idea of what they have done nearby.

Adjourned at 8:42 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, October 8, 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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark Johnson</td>
<td>1289 44th</td>
<td><a href="mailto:phonejohnson89@gmail.com">phonejohnson89@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>277-3054</td>
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<td>Randi Smith</td>
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<td>778-1185</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Saunders</td>
<td>920 43rd St</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kevin.kay.kay@yahoo.com">kevin.kay.kay@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>419-1302</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doug Jotzke</td>
<td>1730 7th St</td>
<td><a href="mailto:djotzke@yahoo.com">djotzke@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>8978892</td>
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ADVISORY PETITION FOR A NO PARKING RESTRICTION 8AM TO 3PM SCHOOL DAYS
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION DIVISION
City of Des Moines
400 Robert D. Ray Drive, 2nd Floor North
Des Moines, IA 50309

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING OWNERS OF PROPERTY ON CALIFORNIA DRIVE, 43RD STREET & CROCKER STREET FROM 911 CALIFORNIA DRIVE TO 4305 CROCKER STREET DO RESPECTFULLY PETITION THE DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL TO RESTRICT PARKING 8AM TO 3PM SCHOOL DAYS ON THE EAST AND SOUTH SIDE OF CALIFORNIA DRIVE FROM 911 CALIFORNIA DRIVE TO 4312 CALIFORNIA DRIVE, THE WEST SIDE OF 43RD STREET FROM 924 43RD STREET TO 920 43RD STREET, AND THE WEST SIDE OF CROCKER STREET FROM 4303 CROCKER STREET TO 4305 CROCKER STREET, AS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT.

OWNER'S NAME and SIGNATURE ADDRESS

DAVID HIGGINS 911 CALIFORNIA DRIVE
WILLIAM WATSON 917 CALIFORNIA DRIVE
TANNER KINZLER 4400 CALIFORNIA DRIVE
FRANK YACAVONE 4324 CALIFORNIA DRIVE
BENJAMIN FOECKE 4320 CALIFORNIA DRIVE
JOHN VENTURINI 4312 CALIFORNIA DRIVE
TOD MILLER 924 43RD STREET
KEVIN SAUNDERS 920 43RD STREET
Megan Ross 4303 CROCKER STREET
PEGGY RUSSELL 4305 CROCKER STREET
Holly E. Perez 9257 CALIFORNIA DR

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West and North Sides of California Dr. Residents

Restrict Parking 8AM to 3PM School Days on the east and south side of California Dr.

Ananda Spadt 900 California Dr.

Michael Treinen 906 California Dr.

Jeffrey Morgan Ann Morgan 912 California Dr.

Christ Naumann Elizabeth Presutti 920 California Dr.

Brandon Klinge Wendy Gray-Klinge 924 California Dr.

Deborah Symonds Melissa Cano 928 California Dr.

Nancy Knutson

Bradley/Nancy Knutson 4405 California Dr.

Ricci Silvestrini Ann Wilson 4325 California Dr.

Karen Lawler 4321 California Dr.

Bryan O'Neil Kathleen O'Neil 4315 California Dr.

Steve Gradelmann Jill Myers Gradelmann 4160 California Dr.
To the Committee-

We live at 4320 California Drive. We signed the petition to restrict parking between 8am - 3pm on school days. We have a concern, however, that I believe we may share with other residents around "the circle"—we have limited parking in the rear of our homes. We have 2 spots in to park in our garage. While that is fine today, someday, our young children—like many other families who have recently moved to this neighborhood—will have a car. They will need somewhere to park and the only place to park additional vehicles will be on the street.

We understand the point of the parking restriction is to relieve the congestion of students parking on California Drive during school hours—and we support that effort. However, we ask the committee to grant free permits to residents for any address impacted by this restriction, based on the address registered to the vehicle.

Thank you!

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BEN FOECKE
C: (515) 490-8363
@benfoecke
Hello my name is Alicia Peña I am not able to attend the traffic, transportation and safety meeting scheduled for October 8, 2019 so I am by email.

I have resided at 901 California Dr. Des Moines, Iowa for 16-years. These past few years parking on my street has been difficult with students parking close to the entrance drive where I have to enter in order to get to my garage, congested parking on California Drive, in the high speed of students as they drive to park or leave where they been parked.

There of been many times where I have concern for my safety when leaving the west entrance entering onto California Drive, not being able to see cars coming from the north or south of the street.

My concern is about safety and being hit as I’m entering onto California Drive. Students begin parking in front of my home around 8:00 AM. I have Come home and have found students parked on the sidewalk. I called authorities and they did take care of it. In the meantime it can destroy my sidewalk.

My other concern is emergency vehicles being able to get through the street congested with so many cars parked bumper-to-bumper.

I have included a few pictures from the other day to give an example of cars parked in the no parking zone area and partly on the curb.

There was a time I’m not recalling what year it was, no parking was allowed during school hours and it made safer.

Thank you for giving our neighborhood the opportunity to express our concerns. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Alicia Peña