

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Brymer, City Manager
FROM: Charles McLemore, Acting Director of Public Works
DATE: December 8, 2004
SUBJECT: Southside Neighborhood Traffic Calming

This memorandum is in response to the concerns raised by Mr. Morgan at the November 9, 2004 council meeting.

The following is a sequence of key events leading up to the removal of parking along Dexter Drive.

- The area in the immediate vicinity of Dexter Drive was selected as the first neighborhood traffic calming study area in 2001. A "Citizen Working Group" comprised of eleven residents and property owners from within the study area were chosen from a list of volunteers. Following seven months of work, a plan was developed by the committee and presented to all residents and property owners at two public meetings in March and April 2003. This plan was approved by sixty eight percent (68%) with sixty percent (60%) of households participating in the vote.
- On May 22, 2003 the City Council approved the Southside Traffic Calming plan.
- Detailed construction plans conforming to the Committee plan were developed in-house and advertised for bids. On December 18, 2003, the construction contract for the project was approved by Council.
- During construction Mr. Carl Landis, who lives at 803 Dexter Drive, raised public safety concerns about a planned center median island located in front of his residence. These concerns were discussed with the chair of the Citizens Working Group.
- As a result of these discussions it was agreed that the center median could be shortened and still comply with the intent of the plan. Additionally the curb of the center median island was changed from a six inch vertical curb to a four inch lay down curb in order to minimize damage to vehicles, in the event they ran into the median. This change represents a field change order and was made based upon the engineer's judgment while in the field.
- In addition, Mr. Landis, whose wife is an invalid, was told that he could continue to utilize an on-street parallel parking space in front of his residence for daily caregiver parking.

The agenda item brought to the council on November 9, 2004 was to establish no parking zones along both sides of South Dexter Street ending 350 feet north of the intersection with Thomas Street. This item is one of nine measures taken in the identified project area and included in the construction plans.

The removal of parking was done due to the width of the travel lanes after the installation of the medians and markings. The road also curves slightly to the northwest and parking is proposed to be removed from the inner (west side) radius because of sight distance problems that would be created if parking is allowed on this side of the street.

The measures taken thus far seem to be having an effect. Preliminary data indicates average speed in the South Dexter area has dropped.

I will be bringing the South Dexter No Parking ordinance to council in the near future.