

July 11, 2005

To The Public Improvements Committee

Subject: Permanent closure of South 14th Street from
West Lincoln Avenue to West Windlake Avenue

Dear Honorable Members:

Due to the diagonal orientation of West Windlake Avenue, the signalized intersection of West Lincoln Avenue and West Windlake Avenue lies in very close proximity to the South 14th Street intersections with both West Windlake Avenue and South 14th Street. Based on our observations, traffic queues from the adjoining signalized intersection will frequently back up to or beyond South 14th Street, particularly on West Lincoln Avenue. These queues not only obstruct the movement of traffic on South 14th Street, but eastbound left turns which may occur onto South 14th Street can obstruct eastbound traffic movement through the signalized intersection, and could potentially gridlock the intersection. Additionally, a safety concern exists in particular for both northbound and southbound left turn and through traffic movements at West Lincoln Avenue, as vehicles will attempt to cross through queues of standing traffic. Of particular concern are the southbound movements at this intersection, where visibility of oncoming traffic may be obstructed by standing traffic.

As a countermeasure to this operational and safety problem, it is proposed to implement a closure of the short segment of South 14th Street from West Windlake Avenue to West Lincoln Avenue. This closure would eliminate the vehicular conflicts described above, and improve the overall traffic operation and safety of the area in general. It is also recommended that this closure be implemented on a trial basis to allow a full assessment of the impacts of the closure on traffic operation and safety prior to implementing permanent changes. The Common Council previously approved the closure under File Number 050259. The attached resolution would authorize the Commissioner of Public Works to now implement the proposed closure on a permanent basis.

If you should have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Bob Bryson of our staff at extension 3244.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey S. Polenske
City Engineer

Jeffrey J. Mantes
Commissioner of Public Works

RWB:lja

Attachments

c: Honorable James Witkowiak, 12th Aldermanic District