June 9, 2004

To the Honorable, the Common Council

Subject: Resolution to close South 15th Street between West Forest Home Avenue and West Burnham Street on a trial basis

Dear Council Members:

At the request of Forest Home Avenue School, we have completed an investigation of measures to improve child crossing safety at the intersections of South 15th Street with West Forest Home Avenue and West Burnham Street during arrival and dismissal times at the school.

Due to the proximity of theses intersections to the intersection of West Forest Home Avenue and West Burnham Street, traffic operation at arrival and dismissal times becomes congested and resulting traffic queuing due to the number of conflicting traffic movements at the three-intersection complex which obstructs traffic movement in the area. This congestion results in difficulty for the Police Department's Safety Division crossing guard to control traffic movement at these intersections, and can make it difficult for children to cross the street even with adult supervision.

Overall traffic operation and child crossing at these intersections can be improved by a reduction in vehicular conflict points in the three-intersection complex which could be created through the closure of the short segment of South 15th Street between West Burnham Street and West Forest Home Avenue. We recommend that this closure be implemented on a trial basis to fully evaluate the impacts of the closure on pedestrian and vehicular traffic circulation in the area prior to the design and construction of a permanent closure. The trial closure would be implemented by means of movable barriers installed on South 15th Street at both intersections.

We have prepared and recommend adoption of the attached resolution, which authorizes and directs the Commissioner of Public Works to implement the proposed street closure of South 15th Street between West Burnham Street and West Forest Home Avenue on a trial basis.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey S. Polenske
City Engineer

James P. Purko
Director of Operations

RWB:lja
Attachments

compdocs/resolutions/closure S15th St (6-09-04)