



**TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

<b>AGENDA SECTION</b>	<b>REPORTS</b>
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>JULY 19, 2022</b>

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>City Engineer’s Report</b>	
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Public Works	<b>BY/DATE:</b> Kathy Young/July 12, 2022

5. MN STATE STATUTE CHAPTER 169. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Attached are the definitions for Crosswalk and Intersection in Chapter 169. Each definition is displayed on an aerial.

*Staff interpretation of definitions:*

- At every intersection, a pedestrian has the right-of-way when crossing the street.
- For other sections within State Statute Chapter 169 (such as 169.34 Prohibitions; Stopping; Parking) “crosswalk” is defined as a location where sidewalk or pavement marking is present.

169.21 PEDESTRIAN. and 169.34 PROHIBITIONS; STOPPING, PARKING. have been mentioned in previous meetings and are also attached for your reference.

6. REQUESTS CONCERNING TRAFFIC ISSUES

At a previous Traffic Commission meeting, Commissioners requested copies of requests concerning traffic issues. One email was directed to staff.

- Request for 4-way stop signs at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Arthur Street  
The concern is traffic not stopping at the stop signs on 41st Avenue at Arthur Street (2-way stop) and the speed of traffic on Arthur Street.

Currently traffic stops on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue at Arthur Street. Cross Traffic Does Not Stop signs are mounted below the stop signs on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue. In addition, flashing red lights are being installed on the stop signs.

The Police Department reviewed the accident records for the intersection. There have been three reported accidents in the previous five years, two in 2019 and one in 2020. Slippery road conditions were a contributing factor in two accidents. The applicable MMUTCD guideline for multi-way stop is:

*B. Five or more reported crashes in a 12-month period that are susceptible to correction by a multi-way stop installation.*

Mr. Huebner also noted that most near misses tend to involve southbound and westbound traffic. This is reflected in the accident data. The following was also considered.

*Other criteria that may be considered in an engineering study include:*

*C. Locations where a road user, after stopping, cannot see conflicting traffic and is not able to negotiate the intersection unless conflicting cross traffic is also required to stop;*

In staffs’ opinion, a driver stopped at the stop sign for westbound traffic has adequate visibility of southbound traffic to decide whether to proceed into the intersection. Visibility is hampered more by vehicles parked on the east side of Arthur Street than by the topography at the intersection.

The resident was informed that the intersection at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Arthur Street did not meet guidelines for multi-way stop.

The Police Department has placed the speed trailer in the area.

#### 7. PUBLIC MEETINGS

- A. An open house is being planned for the 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue reconstruction project during the week of July 25<sup>th</sup>. Property owners and residents between Central Avenue and Stinson Boulevard from 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue are being notified of the meeting by mail. Information will also be available on the website. Staff will provide Commission members with a copy of the mailing at the meeting.
  
- B. Share Your Vision for University and Central Avenues  
MnDOT will hold eight public meetings (four in-person and four on Zoom) from July 12-28 to hear from residents. MnDOT wants to get reactions from people and businesses on new concepts that are being developed to improve safety for people who walk, bike, and drive along these roads. Your voice will make a difference in the future of these roads and how they support our community. [Visit the study webpage to find a meeting near you.](#)

#### 8. CHANGE IN STAFF LIASON

Kathy Young is retiring at the end of July. Mr. Sulmaan Khan has accepted the Assistant City Engineer position and will be the new staff liaison. Mr. Khan was working for MnDOT prior to accepting the position with the City of Columbia Heights.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** MN State Statute 169.011 Definitions. Excerpts for Crosswalk and Intersection  
MN State Statute 169.21 Pedestrians.  
MN State Statute 169.34 Prohibitions; Stopping, Parking.  
Email (1)  
MUTCD Guidelines for Multi-way Stop  
Traffic accidents at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Arthur Street