

## **AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET**

**DEPARTMENT:** Capital Projects

**CM/ ACM:** Mario Canizares

**Date:** October 17, 2017

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### **SUBJECT**

Consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton, Texas prohibiting parking on the south side of Congress Street from Bolivar Street to Carroll Boulevard; providing a repealer clause, providing a savings clause; providing for a penalty not to exceed \$500 for violations of this ordinance, providing that violations of this ordinance shall be governed by Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Denton, and providing for an effective date. The Traffic Safety Commission recommends approval (6-0).

### **BACKGROUND**

Recently, City staff received several requests from concerned residents regarding the segment of Congress Street between Bolivar Street and Carroll Boulevard. The primary issue is the narrow street width and the heavy use of on-street parking (both sides) along this section of the roadway.

The segment of Congress Street between Bolivar Street and Carroll Boulevard is approximately 29 feet in width and experiences heavy on-street parking on both sides due to the proximity of the Seven Mile Cafe and other retail/commercial uses. The Fire Code requires a street to be a minimum of 26 feet for on-street parking on one side and 32 feet for on-street parking on both sides. This requirement provides the necessary space essential for access and deployment of fire equipment. The current street width does not provide sufficient capacity to legally permit on-street parking on both sides of Congress Street between Bolivar Street and Carroll Boulevard as it does not satisfy the requirement included in the Fire Code.

Staff has notified the property owners and residents on Congress Street about the proposed discussion item regarding parking on Congress Street to ensure residents and property owners have an opportunity to voice any concerns they may have. Letters were mailed on October 10<sup>th</sup> and door hangers were placed on October 13<sup>th</sup> at commercial and residential addresses on both sides of Congress Street.

Based on review of existing parking conditions and the available street width for two-way traffic along Congress Street between Bolivar Street and Carroll Boulevard and further review of the Fire Department access and response needs, staff recommends restricting parking on one side of the street. This will allow emergency vehicles to respond to public safety calls and allow for the safe deployment of Fire Department equipment. Currently, there are approximately 16 parking

spaces on the north side of Congress Street and 13 parking spaces on the south side between Bolivar Street and Carrol Boulevard. As such, staff recommends restricting parking on the South side of Congress Street in order to minimize the parking impacts. It should be noted that the width of Bolivar Street from University Drive to Parkway Street ranges from 28 feet to 31 feet. Currently, parking is only allowed on one side East side of Bolivar Street between University Drive and Parkway Street.

While considering this recommendation, please note that typically restricting on-street parking reduces the side friction resulting in the possibility of increase in average speeds along this segment of Congress Street.

Staff is aware there are other street segments throughout the community that experience heavy on-street parking and may be in conflict of the Fire Code minimum street width of 26 feet. Majority of these street segments are adjacent to the UNT campus and staff is in the process of developing a long term solutions through the Small Area Plan in and around the campus.

### **OPTIONS**

1. Approval of an ordinance to restrict parking on the south side of Congress Street between Bolivar Street and Carroll Boulevard.
2. Decline recommendation of a no parking zone.
3. Provide staff with additional direction.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff Recommends approval of this ordinance.

### **ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT**

Approximately one (1) month for completion upon Council approval.

### **PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)**

On September 14, 2017 Traffic Safety Commission recommended approval 6-0.

### **FISCAL INFORMATION**

Approximately \$500 in labor and materials will be funded from Traffic operations general budget.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN RELATIONSHIP**

The City of Denton's Strategic Plan is an action-oriented road map that will help the City achieve its vision. The foundation for the plan is the five long-term Key Focus Areas (KFA): Organizational Excellence; Public Infrastructure; Economic Development; Safe, Livable, and Family-Friendly Community; and Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. While individual items may support multiple KFAs, this specific City Council agenda item contributes most directly to the following KFA and goal:

**Related Key Focus Area:** Safe, Liveable & Family-Friendly Community  
**Related Goal:** 4.1 Enhance public safety in the community

## **EXHIBITS**

1. AIS
2. Letter Notices to property owners and residents dated October 11, 2017
3. Door Hanger Notices dated October 13, 2017
4. Map of Congress Street
5. Ordinance

Respectfully submitted:  
Galen Gillum  
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