

STAFF REPORT

June 20, 2002

No. 02OA009 - Ordinance Amendment - Sight Triangles

ITEM 23

GENERAL INFORMATION:

PETITIONER	City of Rapid City
REQUEST	No. 02OA009 - Ordinance Amendment - Sight Triangles
EXISTING LEGAL DESCRIPTION	An Ordinance to change the requirements for sight triangles at controlled intersections by amending Section 17.50.335 of the Rapid City Municipal Code
DATE OF APPLICATION	05/24/2002
REPORT BY	Trish Anderson

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Ordinance Amendment to modify the requirements for sight triangles at controlled intersections be approved.

GENERAL COMMENTS: As discussed in the May 9, 2002 Planning Commission meeting, a minor change in the language of the sight triangle ordinance is necessary. A sight triangle is the term used to define a window of visibility at a street intersection that allows for the safe operation of vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians through the intersection. The ordinance was amended on December 23, 2001 to establish one specific section in the Zoning Ordinance defining and setting standards for sight triangles. Previously, there were various sections of the Municipal Code addressing sight triangles. Further, the definition of sight triangles didn't allow for consideration of the type of intersection (controlled or uncontrolled), the speed of traffic, or the type of road design. The necessary clarification to the sight triangle ordinance concerns the definition of "Uncontrolled Intersections". That definition reads as follows with the proposed changes in bold:

Chapter - 17.50.335

D. Uncontrolled Intersections – Each uncontrolled intersection shall have a sight triangle of seventy (70) feet on each leg **except the intersection of two alleys may have a sight triangle of twenty-five (25) feet on each leg.**

STAFF REVIEW: The seventy-foot sight triangle was intended for residential street intersections with high speeds. The Engineering staff has indicated that it is excessive for an alley/alley intersection where the speed limit is 10 miles per hour. This oversight was brought to staff's attention when a customer requested sight triangle requirements before installing a six-foot privacy fence on a lot that bordered an alley on both sides. Staff is recommending approval of the Ordinance Amendment.