

**From:** Less John  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2008 7:07 AM  
**To:** Hanks Alan; LaCroix Lloyd  
**Cc:** Ellis Robert; Tech Dale; Elkins Marcia; Tegethoff Travis; Johns James; Allender Steve  
**Subject:** RE: concern about traffic on Omaha on Farmer's Market days - from Cathie Draine

The following comments are in response to the concerns presented in Ms. Draine's 08/23/08 email:

The backing up of westbound traffic on W. Omaha St. is symptomatic of the larger issue of the adequacy of the current Farmers Market site (an issue which has been raised in the past). Coincidentally, Growth Management is currently processing an 11-6-19 review in response to the Market's request for a 3-year approval of their current site. The adequacy of the site for this use should most properly be addressed as part of the considerations of GM, the Planning Commission and the City Council. A suggested interim mitigation strategy is to require the Market sponsors to place WATCH FOR STOPPED TRAFFIC warning signs on W. Omaha St. in advance of the parking lot entrance. Additionally, it would be valuable if advance signing could be implemented on a real-time basis to advise inbound patrons that the lot is full. Please note that the SDDOT would need to approve any signing placed in the W. Omaha St. right-of-way.

The issue of pedestrians crossing W. Omaha St. is problematic in that a 40 MPH, multi-lane facility is not a candidate for any type of formalized mid-block crossing. Unfortunately, there is not any ordinance that would prohibit pedestrians crossing the street and most importantly, absent any organized plan for addressing overflow parking when the north side lot is full, I do not see how this practice could be halted. Again, this is a symptom of the larger issue of the adequacy of the site. Ms. Draine's suggestion of having the crossing controlled by a guard may have merit if the south side is going to be used regularly.

The approach to the parking lot is marked for two lanes outbound. I could not find any background on why the exit would have been signed in the past as NO LEFT TURN and based on the existing conditions and crash history (none), there is no immediate reason now to do so.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

John

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**From:** Cathie Draine [mailto:cathiedraine@rap.midco.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 23, 2008 11:30 AM  
**To:** Council Group  
**Cc:** Cathie Draine  
**Subject:** concern about traffic on Omaha on Farmer's Market days - from Cathie Draine

Today, August 23, I just happened to be going down Omaha as the Farmer's Market was opening at 9:00.

Imagine my horror to discover that cars wanting to turn in (right hand turn) were still partially out on Omaha because of the large amount of cars. Additionally

there were at least six individuals trying to cross Omaha on foot from where they had parked on the south side of the street, across from the market area.

I solidly support the presence of the Farmer's Market in Rapid City. People value it for the quality of foods that are sold. Rapid City should be, and I hope is, proud that this fresh/local foods event has a place in our town.

The problem is the traffic. A further problem is that not all of the traffic on Omaha is aware of the Farmer's Market and thus may not know what to be on the look out for.

Today there was no sign forbidding a left hand turn when exiting the parking lot. I thought that had been established policy. If it is not, could that be reviewed again?

Thankfully, there was a gentleman helping to direct parking once an individual got in the lot. I have no idea who he was, but I was surely glad to see him.

No one, absolutely no one, wants to have a pedestrian accident on Omaha. I didn't take time to get too scientific about it, but my feeling was that most of the individuals trying to hustle across the road were elderly. That's not good.

Could there be some traffic control there - at least from 8:30 to 10:30 - when it is most busy? Is this a task for the Police Cadets? Could some one with authority act like a school crossing guard when people try to cross the street? Are there parking options that could be considered so NO ONE needs to park across the street and brave Omaha traffic?

I emphatically do not want to see a traffic tragedy (that could be avoided) reflect on the good service to the community of the Farmer's Market.

I anticipate and appreciate your attention to this matter.

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