



CITY OF RAPID CITY

Engineering Division

300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701-2724
Telephone: 605-394-5377- 227
FAX: 605-394-6636
Douglas Adelman
doug.adelman@rcgov.org

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ST03-1317: Stevens Traffic Study
Informational item to the Public Works Committee of the Rapid City Council

LAST COUNCIL ACTION

The last Council action on subject study was during the June 2, 2003 Council meeting. The request to authorize Mayor and Finance officer to sign a Professional Service Agreement with HKM Engineering, Inc. was denied. Minutes of the Council meeting indicate the timing of the school year was a reason for denial. This informational item is intended to provide some background for the proposed study in the event the Council decides to proceed with a professional services agreement when school is back in session this September.

BACKGROUND

Rob Schlimgen contacted me because he had received complaints regarding traffic issues at Stevens High. One particular request was to make Range Rd/Raider Rd an all-way stop controlled intersection. We observed dismissal traffic at the intersection (and the parking lot to the south) one day. During our observation, Rob indicated he had some school funds (about \$90,000) that he could appropriate for a project to improve the traffic flow around Stevens. Rob indicated that the school was contemplating an additional access to 44th Street as one potential improvement. At that point, I suggested that we perform a comprehensive study of the campus traffic for two primary reasons:

- 1) To evaluate the need for a school access to 44th Street: A school access directly to 44th Street could have a significant negative impact on the existing and future functioning of 44th Street. Because of this potential negative impact, a demonstrated need for this access should be shown before considering construction. To properly evaluate the need for this additional access, the study would evaluate the traffic at all the school accesses. The study would also compare this proposed access to potential improvements at existing accesses in light of cost/benefit and safety considerations and impacts to the surrounding street network.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

- 2) To consider and evaluate the cost/benefit of other potential improvements (for example at Range/Raider intersection): My preliminary analysis indicated that an all-way stop is not warranted at this intersection and is probably not the best solution here. However, there are other options for this intersection that could be explored. Cost estimates and resulting benefits would be identified for any potential improvement.

CITY INVOLVEMENT

The traffic issues at Stevens High School may not be a top priority from the City's perspective; however, with the school contemplating improvements in the area, a traffic study is desirable for several reasons:

- 1) Increasing safety around our schools is an objective shared by both the City and School District.
- 2) A study provides the proper planning and evaluation to ensure that solutions are mutually beneficial to both the School District and the City.
- 3) There are some drainage and water issues along Raider road that are not "top of the list" priorities, but if a proposed school improvement would include City roadway work, then it would make sense to consider including any pertinent utility work in the same project.

SCHEDULE

The School District is hoping to begin final design for a proposed improvement this year. The construction project would be bid in the spring of 2004, and constructed during summer 2004. This proposed study would provide a prioritized list of potential improvements and the associated costs. From this list, the School District and the City would decide on a course of action, potentially leading to final design this year for a construction project during the summer of 2004.

Respectfully,

Douglas Adelman, Project Manager, Traffic

Cc: Randy Nelson, Rob Schlimgen