



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-5035

Growth Management Department


300 Sixth Street

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Works Committee

FROM: Bob Dominicak, Development Service Center Coordinator
Growth Management Department 

DATE: November 14, 2006

RE: Brentwood Subdivision
06EX074, 06PL170
Exception to Increase the Maximum Street Grade

A request was submitted on October 12, 2006, requesting an exception to Section 3.2.2 of the City of Rapid City Street Design Criteria Manual to increase the maximum street grade from 10 percent to 15 percent.

Section 3.2.2 states "On collector streets, the gradient shall not exceed 10 percent, although a gradient of less than 7 percent is preferable. In areas with severe icing conditions, maximum grades of 8 percent should be considered." The Request for Exception to Rapid City Design Criteria is to allow a portion of the proposed Sun Ridge Road to be constructed at a 15 percent grade, which exceeds the maximum street grade of 10 percent per Section 3.2.2 of the Street Design Criteria Manual. Sun Ridge Road is classified as a proposed Collector on the City's Major Street Plan. The Street Design Criteria Manual recommends a gradient less than 7 percent and the gradient shall not exceed 10 percent. Although the street will currently have limited use, the usage will increase as the surrounding area becomes developed.

The Fire Department is not in support of an exception to allow a gradient of 15 percent on Sun Ridge Road. The fire code requires a maximum grade not to exceed 10 percent. Going to a gradient of 15 percent far exceeds the fire code allowable maximum.

Comments received from Pennington County Highway Department state that the 15 percent road grade shown on the plans appears to exceed the maximum grade allowed. The configuration of the 15 percent grade as it dead ends at the end of the property with a "hammerhead" type turnaround will be very hazardous in winter conditions. The Pennington County Highway Department does not support the exception of grade requirements and recommends denial of any such request.



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Public Works Committee
November 14, 2006
Page 2

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends denial of the request to increase the maximum street grade from 10 percent to 15 percent on a Collector Street.

Robert H. Dominicak, P.E./L.S.
Development Services Center Coordinator