

STAFF REPORT
May 8, 2008

No. 08OA003 - Ordinance Amendment to amend Section 17.50.335 ITEM 40
"Sight Triangles" of the Rapid City Municipal Code

GENERAL INFORMATION:

APPLICANT/AGENT	City of Rapid City
REQUEST	No. 08OA003 - Ordinance Amendment to amend Section 17.50.335 "Sight Triangles" of the Rapid City Municipal Code
DATE OF APPLICATION	4/11/2008
REVIEWED BY	Monica Heller / Mary Bosworth

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Ordinance Amendment to amend Section 16.50.335 "Sight Triangles " of the Rapid City Municipal Code be approved.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The City received a request to review the requirement for sight triangles as defined in Section 17.50.335 of the Rapid City Municipal Code, especially as it is applied in the Central Business District. On April 10, 2008, the Planning Commission directed staff to prepare an Ordinance Amendment to amend Section 17.50.335 "Sight Triangles" .

STAFF REVIEW:

Staff has reviewed the requirements in Chapter 17.50.335 of the Rapid City Municipal Code and found an inconsistency between the City's existing code and the current American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets. 17.50.335.C defines the Point of Measurement - all distance herein shall be measured from the curb or, where there is no curb, from the end of the pavement or gravel, unless otherwise specified. AASHTO recommends the point of measurement be from the edge of travel way instead of the curb. In most instances the edge of travel way and the curb are close to being the same, but where there is on-street parking, as is the case on most of the downtown streets, it can vary by as much as 18 feet. The difference in the point of measurement makes many of the downtown intersections noncompliant with the existing sight triangle requirements in Section 17.50.335. If the point of measurement was defined consistent with AASHTO, there would be adequate sight distance.

Staff recommends that the Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 17.50.335 be approved in accordance with the attached ordinance.