



CITY OF RAPID CITY

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Blaise Emerson, Assistant Planning Director

DATE: February 7, 2001

RE: Sight Triangles

A sight triangle is a term used to define a window of visibility on a street corner that allows for the safe operation of vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians through the intersection. In reviewing the Rapid City Municipal Code, Staff has noted that there are a number of different references relating to sight triangles. Many of the references have different standards for calculating a sight triangle. These differences have caused confusion on which sight triangle is applicable depending on the situation. Throughout the Code, a sight triangle is defined by two equal length legs of a triangle (i.e. seventy foot by seventy foot). This type of sight triangle requirement does not take into specific consideration many of the factors impacting sight distance including the type of intersection (controlled or uncontrolled), the speed of traffic, or the type of road design. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has developed sight triangle standards that are based on the type of intersection, road configuration, and speed of traffic.

The draft Ordinance Amendment is currently being reviewed by the legal staff. Staff is recommending to continue this discussion item until the Attorney's Office has had an opportunity to review the ordinance. Staff recommends that the discussion item be continued to the March 8, 2001 Planning Commission meeting.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER