



TRAFFIC COMMISSION - PUBLIC HEARING

City Hall—Council Chambers, 590 40th Ave NE

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

6:00 PM

AGENDA

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

Members of the public who wish to attend may do so in-person, by calling 1-312-626-6799 and entering meeting ID 857 0257 8216, or by Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85702578216> at the scheduled meeting time. For questions please call the Public Works Department at 763-706-3700.

APPROVE MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF JULY 20, 2021 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. DESIGNATE “NO PARKING” ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF 42ND AVENUE FROM UNIVERSITY AVENUE TO 4TH STREET, NEXT TO PRODEO ACADEMY; AND DESIGNATE “LOADING ZONE 6 AM TO 3 PM SCHOOL DAYS” ON THE WEST SIDE OF 4TH STREET FROM 235’ SOUTH OF 42ND AVENUE TO THE SOUTH PROPERTY LINE OF PRODEO ACADEMY.
3. DESIGNATE “NO PARKING” ON THE EAST SIDE OF HEIGHTS DRIVE BETWEEN THE DRIVEWAY ENTRANCES FOR 4617 HEIGHTS DRIVE AND 4623 HEIGHTS DRIVE

NEW BUSINESS

4. REQUEST FOR STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION OF 6TH STREET AND 41ST AVENUE

REPORTS

City Engineer

Police Chief

Commissioners

ADJOURNMENT

Auxiliary aids or other accommodations for individuals with disabilities are available upon request when the request is made at least 72 hours in advance. Please contact Administration at 763-706-3610 to make arrangements.



TRAFFIC COMMISSION
City Hall—Council Chambers, 590 40th Ave NE
Tuesday, July 20, 2021
6:00 PM

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Schluender at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Ciesynski, Davis, Finkelson, Nekora, Schluender

Staff present: Kathy Young, Assistant City Engineer
Captain Markham, Police

Council Liaison: Amáda Márquez Simula

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Motioned by Davis, seconded by Ciesynski, to approve the minutes of June 7, 2021, with amendment. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Present: Christopher Elsenbast, Prodeo Academy (via Zoom)

2. REQUEST FOR NO PARKING DURING STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIMES ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF 42ND AVENUE AND THE WEST SIDE OF 4TH STREET FOR PRODEO ACADEMY

Prodeo Academy is a new building on University Avenue. Christopher Elsenbast has requested No Parking adjacent to Prodeo Academy on the south side of 42nd Avenue and the west side of 4th Street from 6:00 am to 8:00 am and from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. to facilitate student drop off and pick up. Due to parked cars in the area it's been challenging for parents to drop off and pick up students quickly.

At the last meeting commissioners felt that 42nd Avenue was narrow enough to consider no parking along the south side. However, according to the dismissal diagram for student pickup, they questioned if 4th Street should be designated as no parking or as a loading zone. Item was tabled until the next meeting in July pending more information from the Prodeo representative.

Davis stated that according to the arrival diagram Prodeo is only utilizing the area on 4th Street for dismissal at a different time. He questioned why there's a difference between the arrival and dismissal zones because it seems like this should be consistent. Mr. Elsenbast advised this will be consistent during the upcoming year. Both areas will be used for arrival and dismissal because they won't have distance learning, so a lot more kids will be dropped off and picked up. They plan to build in 4th Street for cars lining up so both streets will be used for the same amount of time at arrival and dismissal. Schluender advised that we have a proposed motion for either no parking or a loading zone. Asked if they are currently using the designated no parking on 4th

Street as a loading zone with cars moving through. Mr. Elsenbast advised this will be used as a loading zone and its high traffic in the afternoon.

There are also approximately 10-15 vans and taxis that pick up the students. Buses are up front in the parking lot and the taxis and vans come through the back. Students do not walk to 42nd Avenue to load; vehicles pull up on 4th Street. The most traffic is in the morning and the beginning of the dismissal time. This is when cars need a holding area until they come through the traffic line.

Young advised we can call a Public Hearing to designate No Parking, but can step down to a loading zone. Mr. Elsenbast stated times for the loading zone would be 6:30 am to 8 am and 1 pm to 3 pm or 6:30 am to 3:30 pm. Davis suggested 6 am to 3 pm. Young advised it will depend on how the residents feel regarding the 6 am to 3 pm; they may want midday parking available to them. Parking will still be allowed on the east side of 4th Street. Commissioners agreed with no parking on 42nd Avenue.

Motion by Davis to call a Public Hearing to designate “No Parking” on the south side of 42nd Avenue from University Avenue to 4th Street, next to Prodeo Academy. Seconded by Schluender. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Davis to call a Public Hearing to designate “Loading Zone 6 AM to 3 PM School Days” on the west side of 4th Street from 42nd Avenue to the south property line of Prodeo Academy. Seconded by Schluender. Motion passed unanimously.

3. REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON RESERVOIR BOULEVARD FROM 37TH AVENUE TO 40TH AVENUE

Carrie Gille had requested traffic calming measures on Reservoir Boulevard from 37th Avenue to 41st Avenue, the concern being traffic speed.

Speed counts collected by the Police Department were reviewed at the June meeting. One traffic calming measure is to add striping to make the travel lane seem narrower. The City Council supported the idea of adding white parking lane and bicycle lane striping at a council meeting. On Reservoir Boulevard this will make the travel lane 10’, bicycle lane 5.5’, and parking lane 7’. Speed counts would be retaken in approximately one year to see if the striping has helped. Staff would also obtain a neighborhood perspective to see if residents feel this has slowed traffic or not.

There will also be upcoming meetings regarding the 37th Avenue project and this could be tied into these meetings to see what people think about the bike lanes. In the meantime, staff will advise residents on Reservoir Boulevard about the striping and allow them to comment. The striping is currently scheduled for August as part of a citywide project. Schluender asked about bicycle counts. These would need to be done manually. Some of the consulting engineers we work with have video equipment, but the tape would then need to be reviewed.

Davis does not feel three blocks of bike lanes are very useful, feels it would make more sense to have them the full length of Reservoir. He understands part of this is Anoka County. He would

like to see some discussion from the City Council as to whether they would want a continuation of the striping and what it would take to work with Anoka County for options and guidance. He knows residents from 40th to 44th have complained about speed on Reservoir Blvd as well.

Finkelson asked if this would be a good opportunity to discuss a crosswalk at 39th Ave and Reservoir Blvd. There's a fair amount of traffic at this intersection making it a good spot for a crosswalk. Young advised we can look at the parameters. There are sidewalks on both sides of Reservoir Blvd but none on 39th Ave; however, this is an offset intersection so we would be running into a landing issue for the crosswalk. Young advised a pedestrian ramp would need to be installed on the opposite side of the street that would point back onto Reservoir Blvd. Finkelson thinks one crosswalk across Reservoir between the two 39th Avenues would be the best, then there would only be one crosswalk and it would be 90 degrees perpendicular to the street. Davis would not feel comfortable with this because this is a common jog for cars-- going from one 39th to the other. He would recommend the north end of the east intersection. He also feels the lighting is insufficient on those corners. There's only one overhead light for the two intersections. Finkelson agrees. Having only one light makes it difficult to see pedestrians.

Motion by Nekora to direct staff to contact property owners on Reservoir Boulevard from 37th Avenue to 40th Avenue regarding plans to stripe bicycle lanes on Reservoir Boulevard. Seconded by Finkelson. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Present: Mike Morris, 4713 Heights Drive

4. REQUEST FOR NO PARKING AT THE INTERSECTION OF HEIGHTS DRIVE AND UPLAND CREST

Mr. Mike Morris has requested NO PARKING along the east side of Heights Drive and Upland Crest, near the intersection. The issue is limited visibility for southbound vehicles on Upland Crest, continuing south on Heights Drive.

Upland Crest intersects with Heights Drive at an angle. Southbound traffic on Upland Crest has a YIELD sign before entering the intersection with Heights Drive. The topography of the intersection combined with the curve on Heights Drive limits visibility for southbound traffic. Drivers must proceed cautiously to continue southbound.

Heights Drive and Upland Crest are both 31' back of curb to back of curb. This width is typical for residential streets in Columbia Heights.

Mr. Morris has lived at 4713 Heights Drive for over 20 years. There hasn't been a lot of parking on this corner until recently, which has caused a visibility issue. He hasn't seen any accidents but drivers need to approach very, very slowly and it's difficult to see traffic coming from Upland Crest. It would help visibility if there was no parking designated between the two driveways on Heights Drive. Schluender questioned the amount of parking in the general area. Overall, the amount of parking in the area is relatively full along Heights Drive between 45th and 49th. There's also quite a bit of parking in the wintertime. When traveling north on Heights Drive drivers need to cross over Upland Crest. Due to parked cars on the right hand side of the curve, you can't see approaching southbound cars from Upland Crest until you're in the intersection, making crossing

over to continue on Heights Drive difficult. There is a yield sign coming from Upland Crest but no other traffic control, so it can be a surprise for both parties. When cars are parked on both sides of Heights Drive it becomes even narrower. However, the only real problem spot is when cars are parked between the two driveways on Heights Drive. Cars parked before or after these driveways don't really affect the visibility.

Motion by Finkelson to call a Public Hearing to designate "No Parking" on the east side of Heights Drive between the driveway entrances for 4617 Heights Drive and 4623 Heights Drive. Seconded by Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

City Engineer

5. SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEXT TO 4003 STINSON BOULEVARD

Public Works added an arrow sign as close to the corner as possible and a flashing light was installed on that arrow sign. A reflective strip was also added to each of the posts.

A disabled parking sign will be installed at 4912 4th Street at the request of the property owner.

Police Chief

None

Commissioners

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Schluender, seconded by Ciesynski to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.



TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Item 2.

AGENDA SECTION	PUBLIC HEARING
MEETING DATE	AUGUST 17, 2021

ITEM:	DESIGNATE “NO PARKING” ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF 42 ND AVENUE FROM UNIVERSITY AVENUE TO 4 TH STREET, NEXT TO PRODEO ACADEMY; AND DESIGNATE “LOADING ZONE 6 AM TO 3 PM SCHOOL DAYS” ON THE WEST SIDE OF 4 TH STREET FROM 235’ SOUTH OF 42 ND AVENUE TO THE SOUTH PROPERTY LINE OF PRODEO ACADEMY.	
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works	BY/DATE: Kathy Young/August 11, 2021

BACKGROUND: At the July Traffic Commission meeting commissioners called for a Public Hearing to designate No Parking/Loading Zone areas next to Prodeo Academy.

Prodeo Academy has requested “No Parking” on the south side of 42nd Avenue and “Loading Zone 6 am to 3 pm School Days” on the west side of 4th Street to facilitate student drop off and pick up. Due to parked cars in the area it’s been challenging for parents to drop off and pick up students quickly.

Next to Prodeo Academy, 42nd Avenue is 24’ wide from back of curb to back of curb and 4th Street is 31’ wide.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: At the last meeting commissioners felt that 42nd Avenue is narrow enough to consider no parking along the south side. Commissioners agreed with designating a loading zone on 4th Street from 6 am to 3 pm on school days. The most traffic is in the morning and the beginning of the dismissal time and this is when cars need a holding area until they come through the traffic line. Parking would still be allowed on the east side of 4th Street.

Staff supports the recommended motions.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):
MOTION: Move to recommend the City Council designate “No Parking” on the south side of 42 nd Avenue from University Avenue to 4 th Street, next to Prodeo Academy.
MOTION: Move to recommend the City Council designate “Loading Zone 6 AM to 3 PM School Days” on the west side of 4 th Street from 235’ south of 42 nd Avenue to the south property line of Prodeo Academy.

ATTACHMENT(S): Aerial
Arrival Diagram
Dismissal Diagram

Prodeo Academy

Item 2.



Parcel Information:

Approx. Acres:
Commissioner:

Owner Information:

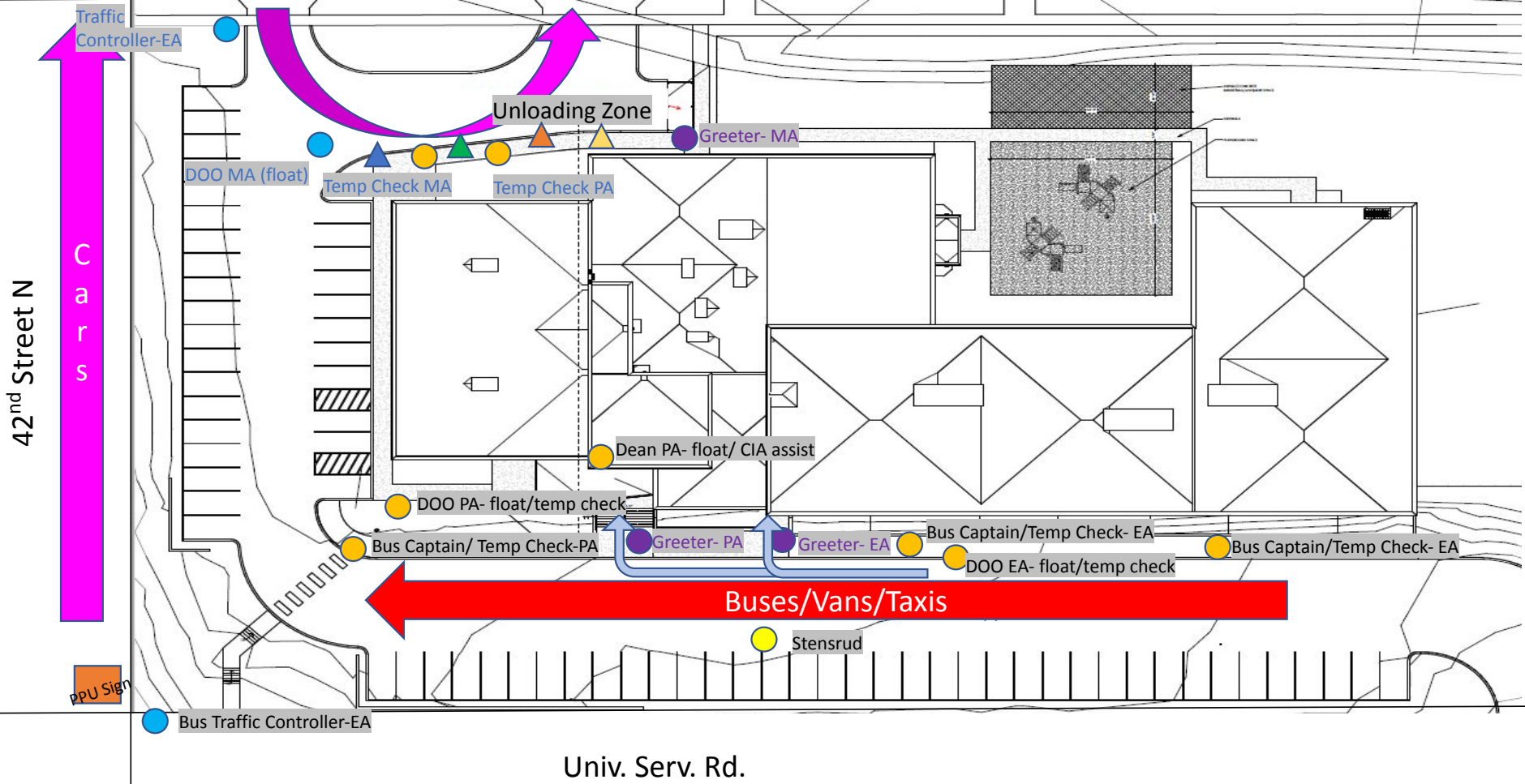


Plat:

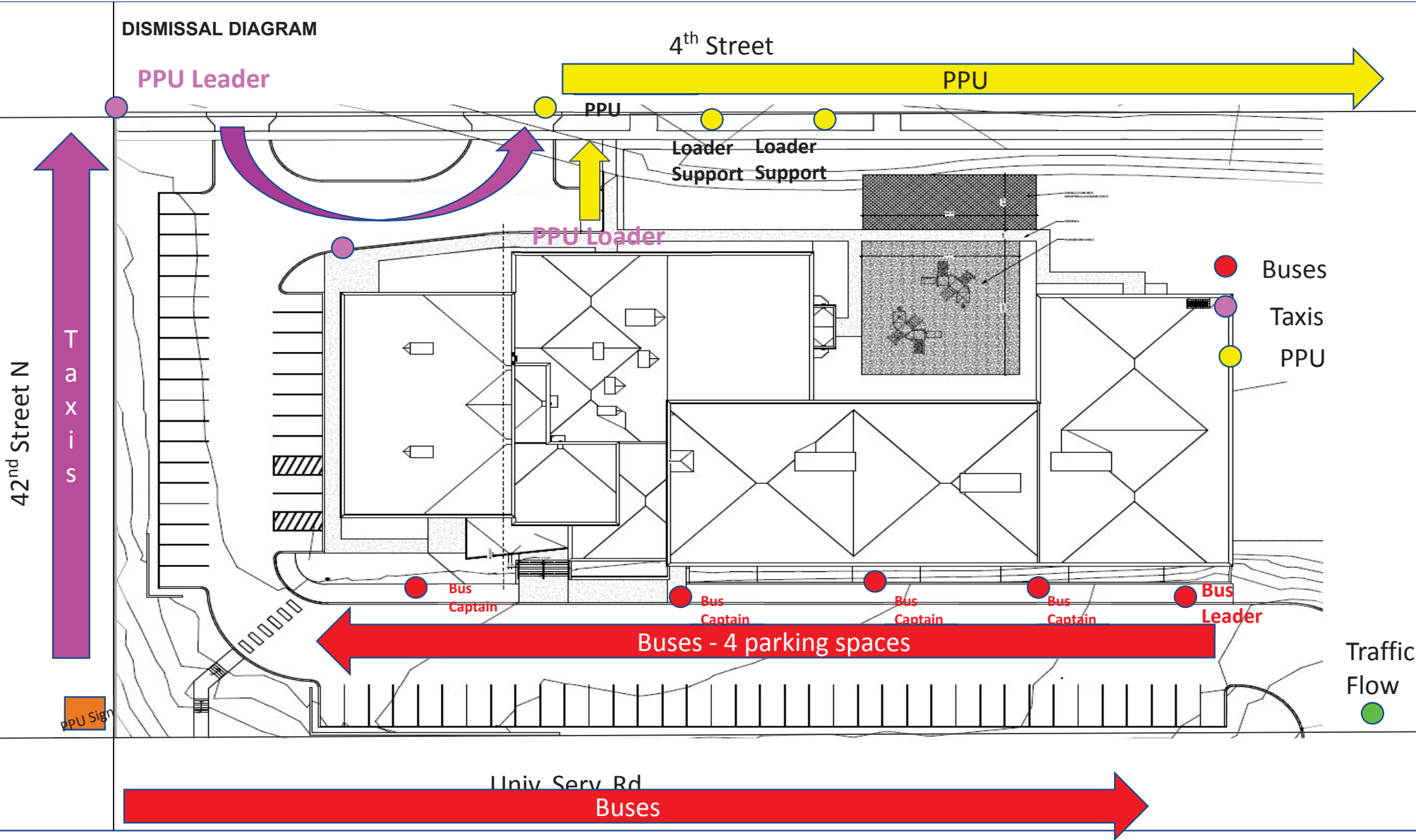
ARRIVAL DIAGRAM

4th Street

- Door/Sanitizer
- Temp Checks/Health
- Traffic Controller



DISMISSAL DIAGRAM





TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Item 3.

AGENDA SECTION	PUBLIC HEARING
MEETING DATE	AUGUST 17, 2021

ITEM:	DESIGNATE “NO PARKING” ON THE EAST SIDE OF HEIGHTS DRIVE BETWEEN THE DRIVEWAY ENTRANCES FOR 4617 HEIGHTS DRIVE AND 4623 HEIGHTS DRIVE	
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works	BY/DATE: Kathy Young/August 11, 2021

BACKGROUND: At the July Traffic Commission meeting commissioners called for a Public Hearing to designate “No Parking” on the east side of Heights Drive between the driveway entrances for 4617 Heights Drive and 4623 Heights Drive.

Upland Crest intersects with Heights Drive at an angle. Southbound traffic on Upland Crest has a YIELD sign before entering the intersection with Heights Drive. The topography of the intersection combined with the curve on Heights Drive limits visibility for southbound traffic. Drivers must proceed cautiously to continue southbound.

At the July meeting it was determined that the only real problem spot is when cars are parked on Heights Drive between the driveway entrances for 4617 and 4623 Heights Drive.

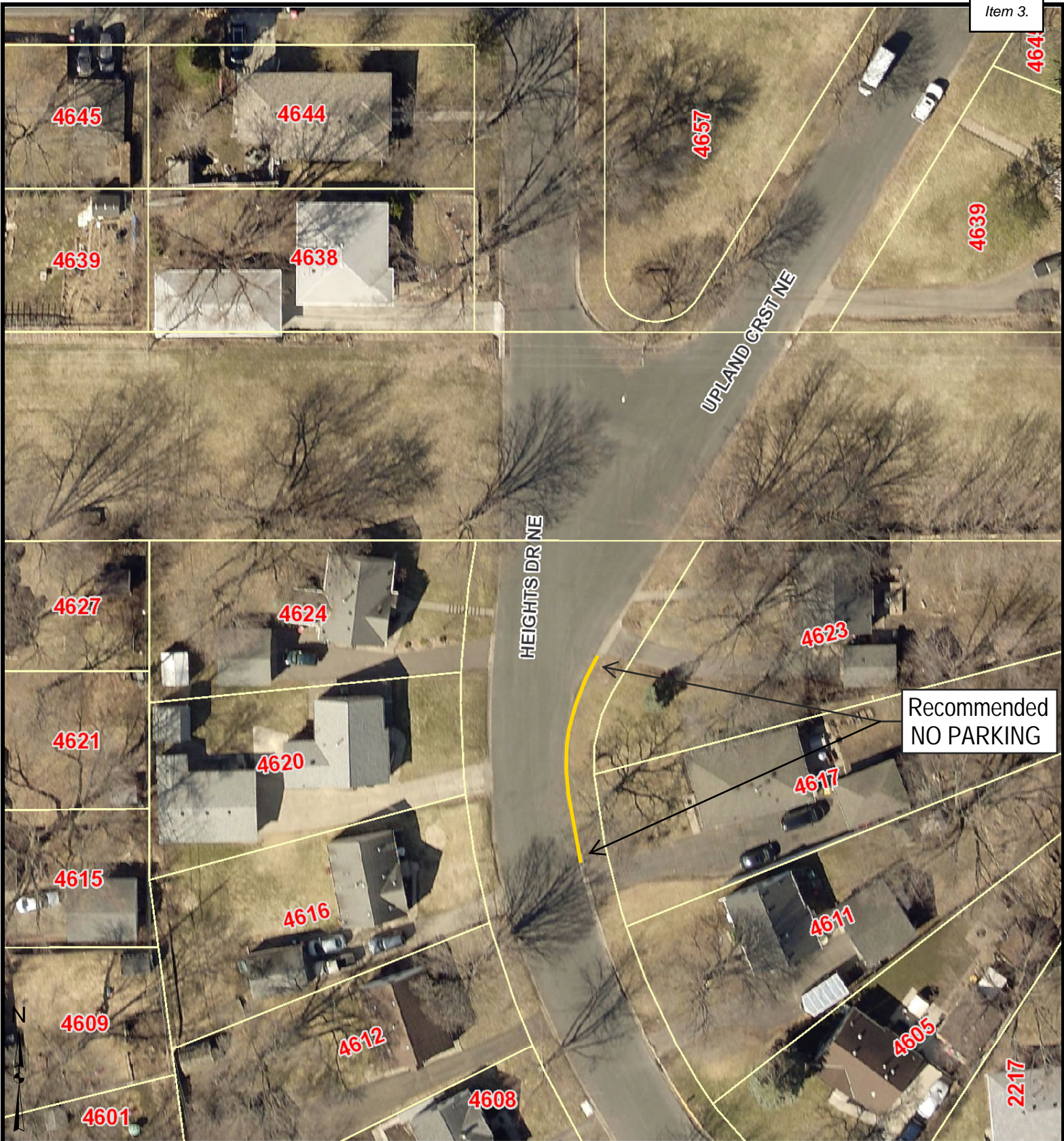
STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the City Council designating No Parking on Heights Drive between the driveway entrances for 4617 and 4623 Heights Drive.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):
MOTION: Move to recommend the City Council designate “No Parking” on the east side of Heights Drive between the driveway entrances for 4617 Heights Drive and 4623 Heights Drive.

ATTACHMENT(S): Aerial

Heights Drive and Upland Crest

Item 3.



Recommended
NO PARKING

Parcel Information:

Approx. Acres:
Commissioner:

Owner Information:



Plat:



TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Item 4.

AGENDA SECTION	NEW BUSINESS
MEETING DATE	AUGUST 17, 2021

ITEM:	REQUEST FOR STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION OF 6TH STREET AND 41ST AVENUE	
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works	BY/DATE: Kathy Young/August 11, 2021

BACKGROUND: Mr. Nathan Maghan and Ms. Erikka Curran have requested stop or yield signs at the intersection of 6th Street and 41st Avenue. The concern is accidents and near misses at the intersection. The email sent by each resident is attached.

The visibility at the intersection is somewhat limited because of the moderate rise in ground elevations behind the sidewalk on the east side of 6th Street, similar to many intersections in Columbia Heights.

On 6th Street, traffic stops at 40th Avenue and 42nd Avenue. On 41st Avenue, traffic stops at 5th Street and Jefferson Street.

The Police Department found one reported accident at this intersection in the previous five years and four reported accidents in the previous 10 years.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends denying the request for stop or yield signs at the intersection of 6th Street and 41st Avenue based on not meeting the MMUTCD guidelines.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):
MOTION: None

ATTACHMENT(S): MMUTCD Guidelines for Stop and Yield Signs
Aerial
E-mail (2)

*MINNESOTA MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES
SEPTEMBER 2020*

The MUTCD guidelines for installing STOP or YIELD signs at intersections are listed below:

Engineering judgment should be used to establish intersection control. The following factors should be considered:

- A. Vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic volumes on all approaches;*
- B. Number and angle of approaches;*
- C. Approach speeds;*
- D. Sight distance available on each approach; and*
- E. Reported crash experience.*

YIELD or STOP signs should be used at an intersection if one or more of the following conditions exist:

- A. An intersection of a less important road with a main road where application of the normal right-of-way rule would not be expected to provide reasonable compliance with the law;*
- B. A street entering a designated through highway or street; and/or*
- C. An unsignalized intersection in a signalized area.*

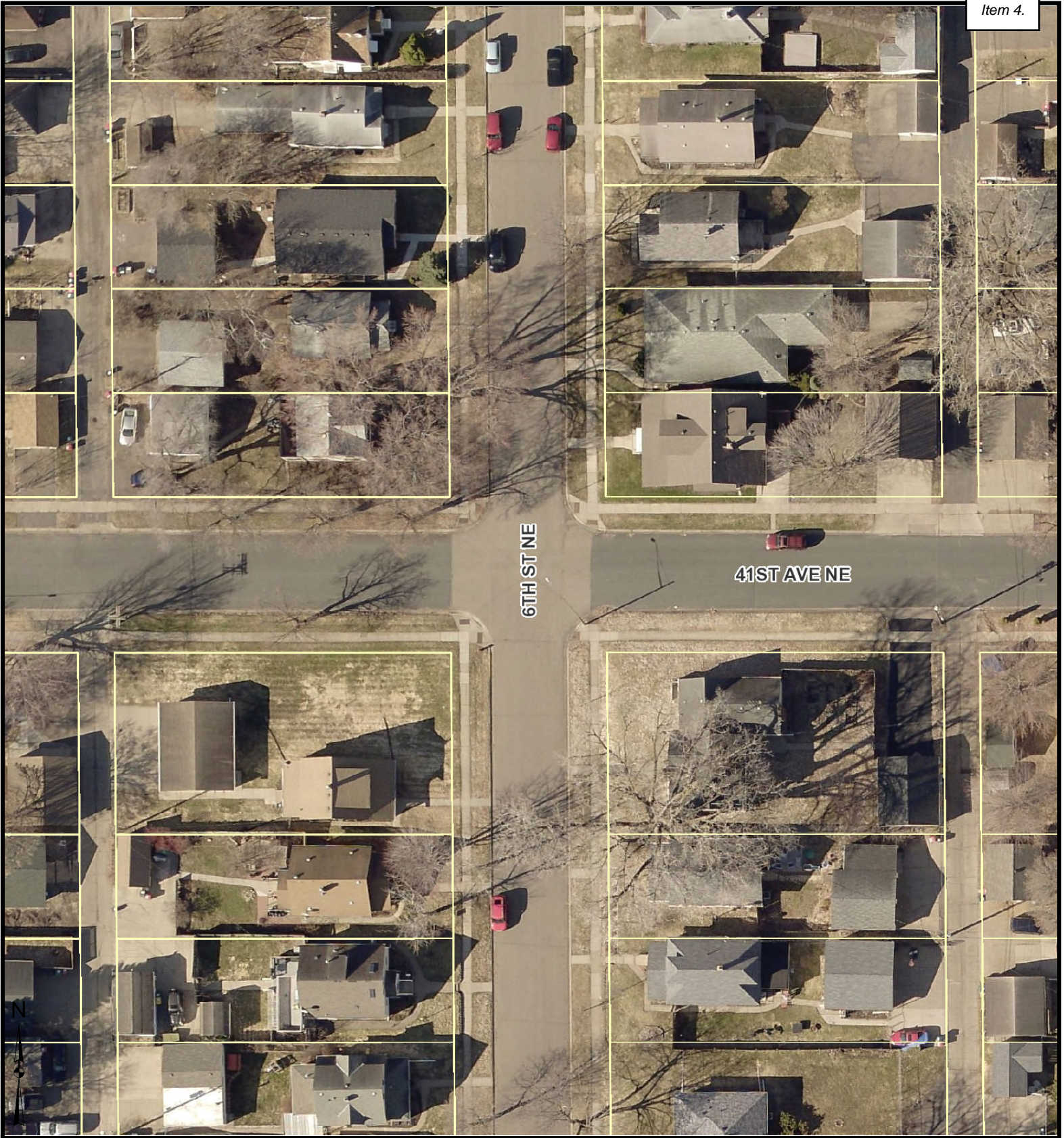
In addition, the use of YIELD or STOP signs should be considered at the intersection of two minor streets or local roads where the intersection has more than three approaches and where one or more of the following conditions exist:

- A. The combined vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian volume entering the intersection from all approaches averages more than 2,000 units per day.*
- B. The ability to see conflicting traffic on an approach is not sufficient to allow a road user to stop or yield in compliance with the normal right-of-way rule if such stopping or yielding is necessary; and/or*
- C. Crash records indicate that five or more crashes that involve the failure to yield the right-of-way at the intersection under the normal right-of-way rule have been reported within a 3-year period, or that three or more such crashes have been reported within a 2- year period.*

YIELD or STOP signs should not be used for speed control.

6th St and 41st Ave

Item 4.



Parcel Information:

Approx. Acres:
Commissioner:

Owner Information:

Plat:



Kathy Young

From: Publicworks
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 7:22 AM
To: Kathy Young
Subject: FW: Request for a stop or yield sign

From: Nathan Maghan [<mailto:nmaghan@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 8:38 PM
To: Publicworks
Subject: Request for a stop or yield sign

*This message originated from outside the City of Columbia Heights email system. Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments. If necessary, contact sender by phone. **WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!***

Please advise who I can contact to have a stop sign or yield sign placed.

Another accident has happened at the intersection of 6th street and 41st ave ne. This is an open intersection that is frequently gone through at high speed from both directions. I would like a yield or stop sign placed here to prevent more accidents, injuries, and possible deaths. This most recent accident involved a child in a car seat.

Regards,
Nathan Maghan

Kathy Young

From: Publicworks
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Kathy Young
Subject: FW: Stop signs

From: Erikka Curran [<mailto:erikkabrooke77@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 8:48 AM
To: Publicworks
Subject: Stop signs

*This message originated from outside the City of Columbia Heights email system. Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments. If necessary, contact sender by phone. **WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!***

Hello,

As part of a Facebook Columbia Heights community group I have become aware of more and more accidents at the intersection of 41st and 6th. This is one block from my house and we often hear the screeching tires as there is no stop sign, not even a yield sign.

How do we get a stop or yield sign? These unmarked intersections dappled across Columbia Heights are an unnecessary danger.

Thank you,
Erikka Curran

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Erikka Curran
Artist

erikkabrooke.com

