

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

09-0004R

RESOLUTION ORDERING THE PERMANENT CLOSURE OF THE NORTH-
BOUND LANE OF LAKEVIEW DRIVE AT SNIVELY ROAD.

CITY PROPOSAL:

RESOLVED, that the city council directs the public works and utilities department to physically close the northbound lane of Lakeview Drive at Snively Road, the exact location and design to be determined by appropriate city personnel. Improvements to be funded from the Permanent Improvement Fund 0411, with final approval of a construction contract therefor by resolution.

Approved:

Approved for presentation to council:

Department Director

Chief Administrative Officer

Approved as to form:

Approved:

Attorney

Auditor

ENG CJV: jh 12/17/2008

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution orders the permanent closure of Lakeview Drive at Snively Road.

Permanent street closures, although extreme, are one method of traffic calming. Traffic calming is generally a physical method to alter driver behavior, such as speed. The city of Duluth's "comprehensive land use plan" adopted in 2006 states that the city will evaluate traffic calming strategies where requested by residents.

This was a resident request. The perception of some neighborhood residents was that an inordinate amount of non-neighborhood traffic was using Lakeview Drive as a cut-through route from Wallace Avenue and Vermilion Road to Snively Road.

In response to the request, the engineering division conducted a comprehensive traffic analysis in the spring of 2006. A review of vehicle speeds and volumes in an area bounded by Woodland Avenue, Lakeview Drive, Wallace Avenue and Snively road was conducted. The traffic analysis determined that the volume of traffic on Lakeview Drive did indicate that a large number of motorists were using Lakeview Drive as a cut-through route from Wallace Avenue to Snively Road. Although the increase by non-local traffic was larger than what one might expect on a residential street, the volume is still below the upper limit of 2,000 vehicles per day. The traffic analysis done in 2006 also determined that speeds are similar to other parts of the city.

In June of 2006 the previous city planning director and previous city engineer recommended that the northbound lane of Lakeview Drive be temporarily closed to traffic at Snively Road. On June 12, 2006 the city council adopted Resolution 06-0414 approving the temporary closure.

As directed by the previous resolution, the city planning and engineering departments conducted a survey of residents after the closure had been in use. Of the 253 residents who responded, 62 were in favor of keeping the closure and 67 were not. In addition, based on the traffic counts, the closure has been effective at reducing the volume of vehicles using Lakeview Drive as a cut-through route, with only a slight increase in traffic on Vermilion Road.

The results of the follow-up study of the neighborhood in 2008 showed a slight increase in traffic volumes on Vermilion Road: 550 vehicles per day compared to 490 prior to the closure. A speed study was also conducted, and the average speed on Vermilion Road was 24 mph.

If approved by council, funds will need to be budgeted for the improvements necessary to permanently modify the intersection. We estimate that the construction cost for the permanent closure will be around \$30,000 and recommend using permanent improvement funds.