

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

10-013-0

REPLACEMENT

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF BUS ONLY LANES ON STREETS AND ALLOWING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOURS WHEN SUCH DESIGNATION SHALL BE IN EFFECT, ADDING A NEW SECTION 33-19 OF THE CODE.

CITY PROPOSAL:

The city of Duluth does ordain:

Section 1. That Article I of Chapter 33 of the Duluth City Code, 1959, as amended, is hereby amended by the addition of a new Section 33-19 thereof, which reads as follows:

Sec. 33-19. Bus only lanes.

The city council is hereby authorized to establish and designate, by resolution, lanes of streets having four or more lanes, including parking lanes, as "bus only" lanes during specified times and on specified days. During such times when such designation is in effect, such lanes shall be available for use only to buses owned and operated by the duluth transit authority, buses being used to transport primary and secondary school students when being so used and other buses licensed by the State of Minnesota or the government of the United States of America to transport members of the public upon payment of a fare while so engaged. In order to be effective the city shall be required to post signs in a manner complying with the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices notifying the public of the designation and of the hours and days when such designation is in effect.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall take effect 30 days after its passage and publication.

Approved:

Approved for presentation to council:

Department Director

Chief Administrative Officer

Approved as to form:

Approved:

Attorney

Auditor

DPD/ATTY REA:cjk 2/22/2010

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this ordinance is to authorize the creation of "bus only" lanes during specified times which will be available only public transit buses during those times.

In line with the general impetus in cities to encourage the use of mass transit, many communities establish bus only lanes, especially during rush hour times. In Duluth's case, the potential utility of this tool will be enhanced by the upcoming construction work on I-35 which will materially restrict traffic flow through the westerly portions of the city and is expected to have a significant impact on commuting times to the Downtown area. It is hoped that by providing lanes dedicated to mass transit during the morning and evening commutes that many persons who would otherwise drive Downtown from the west will be encouraged to either take the bus directly or to engage in "park and ride" usage, thereby alleviating some of the likely congestion resulting from construction.

This ordinance will create the means to effectuate this plan. The present intent is to seek "bus only" designations on the easterly parking lane of Grand Avenue from Carlton Avenue West to Central Avenue West in the morning and on the parallel westerly parking lane of Grand Avenue in the evening, at least during the term of the freeway reconstruction. As the city gains more experience with using bus-only lanes, that designation could be extended and a similar designation could be considered for other arterial streets.