

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP
JULY 24, 2007 AGENDA

| SUBJECT: | TYPE: | SUBMITTED BY: |
|--|--|--|
| Authorization to Request Temporary Road Closure of Prince St. and Grant St. during North High School Student Dismissals | ✓ Resolution Ordinance Motion Discussion Only | Robin Weaver Interim Director of Public Works |

SYNOPSIS

An ordinance has been prepared to temporarily close Prince Street, between Lincoln Avenue and Sherman Street (South) and Grant Street, between Saratoga Avenue and Prince Street, for a period beginning 20 minutes prior to the dismissal bell and 40 minutes after the dismissal bell at North High School during the school year when school is in session.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Vision for 2021 identified *Unique Neighborhoods*. A supporting objective of this statement is *Top Quality Infrastructure Tailored to Each Neighborhood*.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY07 General Fund budget provides fund for signage installation.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval on the August 7, 2007 active agenda.

BACKGROUND

A neighborhood meeting was held on January 30, 2007, followed by a Parking & Traffic Commission meeting on May 9, 2007, to address bus on-street parking issues, intersection enforcement issues and the need for appropriate closure of both Prince Street and Grant Street adjacent to North High School. Staff has worked with school leaders and neighbors to determine what actions are required to resolve the parking, safety and vehicular access issues related to student dismissals for the Prince Street exit.

With literally hundreds of students exiting at one time, the placement of school buses is critical to maintaining both a safe exit for students as well as a clear passage for emergency vehicles. From discussions with the Parking & Traffic Commission, staff has determined that the most efficient alternate is a temporary road closure of both Prince Street and Grant Street adjacent to the school. The closure period will begin 20 minutes before the school bell rings and extend to 40 minutes after the bell to allow all students to safely vacate the immediate area around the school or to reach their school buses. In addition, *Local Traffic Only* signs will be installed to allow affected area residents to access their homes during this time.

Staff has worked with school leaders to direct the on-street placement of the school's 20 buses that are present on a daily basis. Staff will be installing reflectorized bus markers in the parkway to positively delineate the physical location of each bus regardless of weather conditions. The outcome will both keep buses parked away from the neighbors' residences on the east side and also keep the buses from parking within the Prince Street and Grant Street intersection.

Staff is completing one additional task which arose from the neighborhood meeting in January. Staff discovered that there are many scholastic groups within the state of Illinois that use North High School

throughout the school year for programs beginning after 4:00p.m. and have no direction as to where to park their buses. Staff has determined on-street locations and is fabricating *Overflow Bus Parking* signs for placement on area streets around North High School and has also created an *Overflow Parking* map for the school to place on its web site. It is expected that these actions will inform and guide bus operators to a designated parking area and prevent them from parking in front of residences.

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance

Parking & Traffic Commission meeting minutes dated May 9, 2007

CADD Exhibit

Temporary Road Closures

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

BE IT ORDAINED by the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove in DuPage County, Illinois, as follows: (Additions are indicated by ~~shading~~/underline; deletions by ~~strikeout~~):

Section 1. That Section 14.4.01. is hereby added to read as follows:

14.4.01. Temporary Road Closures.

The following roadways shall be closed on a temporary basis:

a. School Zones. To coincide with the afternoon dismissal of high school students, as described below:

Grant Street, Saratoga Avenue to Prince Street, shall be closed to through traffic from 20 minutes before and 40 minutes after high school dismissal, Mondays through Fridays, during the school year and on days when school is in session, but allow the passage of local traffic such that residents are permitted access to their own properties.

Prince Street, Lincoln Avenue to Sherman Street (South), shall be closed to through traffic from 20 minutes before and 40 minutes after high school dismissal, Mondays through Fridays, during the school year and on days when school is in session, but allow the passage of local traffic such that residents are permitted access to their own properties.

Section 2. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

Mayor

Passed:

Published:

Attest: _____

Village Clerk

**Village of Downers Grove
Parking & Traffic Commission
May 9, 2007 Meeting**

File #13-07 Prince Street, Lincoln Ave. to Sherman St., and Grant St., Prince Street to Saratoga Avenue - North School Afternoon Road Closures. Chairman Johnson reported that the current road closure was working well and staff recommended that it be legalized by inserting it into the ordinance. However, he asked that input be received from the residents.

Mr. Fera stated he spoke to the high school about the situation and he observed the process. He stated he was trying to work with the school to align the buses in a better place, which was a previous discussion by this commission. **Mr. Fera** has also developed a parking map and specific overflow bus parking signage that will be placed on the street in designated areas to park the buses away from the neighborhood. This is a new concern that has arisen from buses having no direction of where to park for those activities that took place beyond Monday through Friday after school hours. North High School officials are contacting Herrick Middle School as a potential overflow location for those after hours bus parking needs.

Chairman Johnson opened up the meeting to the public.

Ms. Barb Miller, 4524 Prince Street, stated staff needed to convey that the neighbors have been very pro-active and were team players throughout the discussions. She clarified the school bell rings at 3:20 p.m. and not 3:00 p.m. Additionally, she noted that staff was not considering those days that included early dismissals. She would like to be provided a list of those days from the school.

Mr. Paul Svoboda, 4528 Prince Street, voice concern about the buses and parents parking next to the stop signs because they were not seen. He stated some close calls have occurred.

Chairman Johnson asked if it would be inappropriate to place stop signs on both sides of the street, wherein **Mr. Fera** stated that generally dual Stop sign installations are reserved for wider boulevards. However, for this situation, it appears to be a possible solution.

Mr. Brian Madigan, 4500 Prince Street, also agreed buses were parking close to the stop signs and vehicles were bypassing the signs. Parents were also parking on Grant and waiting. He suggested notifying the parents to park in the parking lot to make the Prince and Grant intersection safer. He thanked the Police Department for coming out when he calls them.

Sgt. Harrison stated the issue has been discussed with the school, flyers have been sent to the parents, and it was a matter of the parents cooperating.

Discussion followed that the village should speak to the bus company about parking away from the stop signs. **Mr. Fera** stated he will work with the school to specifically determine where the buses should park in order to address that situation.

Ms. Laurie Holstein, 4532 Prince, asked whether the buses would be located ahead of the sign or behind the sign, wherein **Mr. Fera** stated the buses would not be located within the intersection, but rather north of Grant up to Sherman.

Mr. Fera confirmed no school representatives were present but he would forward to the school any recommendations made tonight.

COMMISSIONER WENDT MADE A MOTION TO MAKE A POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL AND CREATE A NEW SECTION 14.8.02 "SCHOOL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES" AND ADD THE FOLLOWING ROADWAYS:

1) PRINCE STREET, LINCOLN AVENUE TO SHERMAN STREET (SOUTH), FROM 20 MINUTES BEFORE AND 40 MINUTES AFTER HIGH SCHOOL DISMISSAL, MONDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS, DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR AND ON DAYS WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION;

2) GRANT STREET, SARATOGA AVENUE TO PRINCE STREET, FROM 20 MINUTES BEFORE AND 40 MINUTES AFTER HIGH SCHOOL DISMISSAL, ON DAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS, DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR AND ON DAYS WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION.

COMMISSIONER YEKSIGIAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: MR. WENDT, MR. YEKSIGIAN, MR. CARLQUIST, MR. KREN, MR. STAPLETON, MR. THURSTON, CHAIRMAN JOHNSON

NAY: NONE

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 7-0

PRINCE ST – LINCOLN AV TO SHERMAN ST (S) ROAD CLOSURE P&T FILE #13-07

EXHIBIT 1

