



Memo

Date: October 22, 2019

To: Public Works Commission

From: Phillip Peterson, Associate Public Works Engineer

CC: Chapin Spencer, DPW Director
Norm Baldwin PE, City Engineer
Susan Molzon PE, Senior Public Works Engineer

Subject: Narrow Streets Standard Operating Procedure Update

Recommendations to the DPW Commission:

No action is required by the Commission.

Future actions related to potential parking revisions on Narrow Streets may be informed by these policies, so Commission feedback on the applicable guidelines and standards is welcomed.

Purpose & Need:

Based on DPW, Burlington Fire Department (BFD), and Street Maintenance staff feedback, DPW staff are proposing additional considerations to the Narrow Streets policies and procedures. The purpose of these additional considerations is to augment established guidelines and standards for emergency access and snow removal on Narrow Streets with on-street parking. The need for this policy is to ensure equitable consideration of parking needs and public safety specifically on Narrow Streets.

Background

A narrow street offers a place for better human interaction; where neighbors can meet, children can play, and residents can safely use bicycles for transportation. Narrow streets are less expensive to maintain, they reduce runoff and improve water quality, and slow travel speeds. However, street width affects the capability of emergency service vehicles to rapidly reach a fire or medical emergency and for emergency personnel to efficiently set up and use their equipment. The access requirements for emergency response vehicles are driven, in part, by National Fire Protection Codes.

Street width affects the ability of emergency service vehicles to rapidly reach a fire or medical emergency. Emergency service providers and residents have an expectation that neighborhood streets deliver acceptable space for emergency vehicles to quickly reach their destination and for emergency personnel to efficiently set up and use their equipment.

Both DPW staff and the Commission have been challenged to consistently apply parking standards on Narrow Streets. As a result, the Narrow Streets policies and procedures were established by DPW in January 2018. The policy has guided on-street parking considerations as it relates to traffic calming, emergency access and snow removal operations in winter months. These policies were written after consultation with the BFD and the Assistant Director of Street Maintenance at DPW. The intent of these policies is to outline procedures that can be considered when specific issues on Narrow Streets are presented; not to issue new citywide parking standards. Any parking regulation change recommended by staff based on this policy must still be brought to the DPW Commission for your review and approval.

Recommendations:

Staff recommends the following additional considerations to the Narrow Streets policies and procedures:

1. Representatives of DPW's Traffic Division and Engineering Division shall review any and all projects for Narrow Streets.
2. If snow removal and storage is an issue on a narrow street, consider snow storage locations, and whether temporary parking restrictions for snow plowing or storage will be required.
3. Geometric and topographic issues should be a consideration when evaluating each Narrow Street.

Attachments:

1. Policy and Procedures Manual: Narrow Streets
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