

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: REQUESTS FOR CAMPUSTOWN RAIL JAM ON JANUARY 23, 2010**

**BACKGROUND:**

Staff recently met with representatives of the Iowa State University (ISU) Ski and Snowboard Club for planning of the proposed Campustown Rail Jam on the eastern portion of Chamberlain Street. They are also requesting the closure of Chamberlain Street, between Welch Avenue and Stanton Avenue. They have opted to not have an alternative "snow date" this year.

Staff has reviewed the Club's request, and met with representatives of the Club and ISU staff. City staff recommends that the event be held on Chamberlain Street in the requested location.

During previous Rail Jam events, there were a number of difficulties which student organizers, ISU staff, and City staff have discussed. A number of modifications to the planning were made in 2008 to prevent the recurrence of these difficulties, and City staff felt that these modifications made the event safer and more efficient.

Chamberlain Street parking spaces between Welch and Stanton, and the City parking lot Chamberlain Lot Y would be closed at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 23, and the street will be closed shortly thereafter to facilitate the hauling in and/or making of snow on Chamberlain, upon which participants will ski and snowboard. It should be noted that parking enforcement in this same area is requested to be waived beginning at 9:00 a.m. on January 23, 2010. Meters will be covered prior to the event to notify the public and allow for vehicles to be moved. It is anticipated that the street and rest of the area will be reopened for use by Midnight on January 24. The lost revenue to the Parking Fund is approximately \$100.

There may be music provided for the event, and a noise permit will be obtained from the Police Department, should music be provided. Additionally, the Club will contract with the Police Department for two off-duty police officers to provide extra security for the event from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

The Club is also requesting the use of electricity from the box located in Chamberlain Lot Y for possible lighting and a P.A. system, and requests that the City Council waive the cost of electricity required. The cost of that electricity will be relatively minor, less than \$10. A tent will be located near the top of the course, where competitor registration and distribution of free food and drinks will take place.

Event organizers will be responsible for providing adequate interior fencing and hay bales along the course in order to protect participants. Organizers will provide sand bags or similar devices to prevent debris from entering the storm sewer intakes. City and University staff will approve the final safety measures to keep participants from colliding with street lights and parking meters.

Campustown businesses and the neighborhood have indicated their support for this event, and the University is providing insurance coverage for the Club. Participants will be asked to sign liability waivers.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The City Council may approve the requests from the ISU Ski and Snowboard Club for the Campustown Rail Jam to be held on Chamberlain Street:
  - a. Waive parking enforcement on Chamberlain Street between Welch Avenue and Stanton Avenue, and in Chamberlain Lot Y from 9:00 a.m. on January 23, 2010, until 12:00 a.m. on January 24, 2010.
  - b. Close Chamberlain Street between Welch and Stanton, from 8:00 a.m. on January 23, 2010, until 12:00 a.m. on January 24, 2010.
  - c. Close Chamberlain Lot Y from 6:00 a.m. on January 23, 2010, until 12:00 a.m. on January 24, 2010.
  - d. Waive fees for the use of electricity for lighting and a P.A. system during the event.

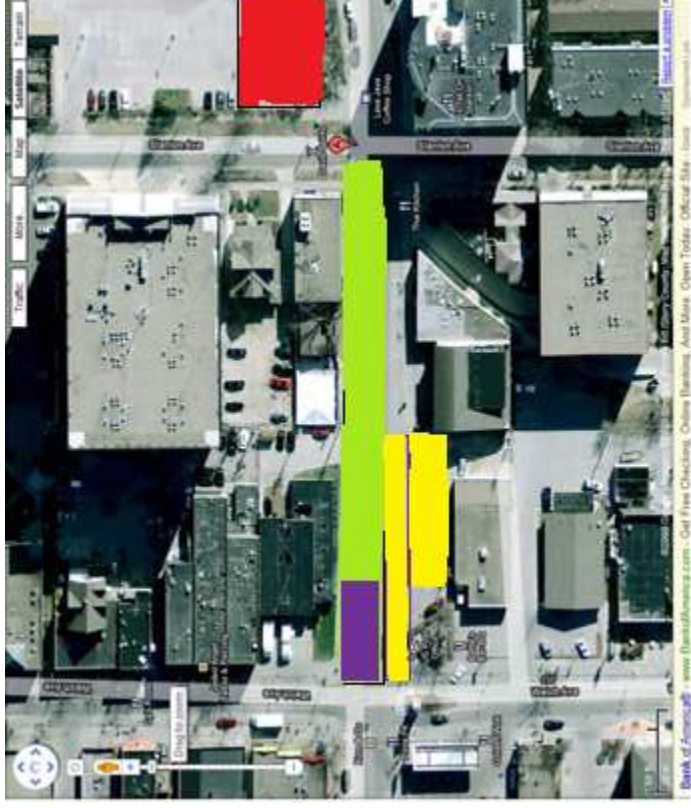
2. The City Council may deny this request.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

In the interest of working with ISU Student Body on events of interest to the students, this is an exciting and different event. It will hopefully draw even more spectators to the Campustown area, and provide a unique and positive experience for participants and spectators alike.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, thereby approving the various requests from the ISU Ski and Snowboard Club at the Chamberlain Street location on January 23, 2010.

# Ames Rail Jam 2010



\*These pictures are taken from Google maps.

-The left picture is taken in the West direction with a view up Chamberlain and Stanton. This is the street on which we will hold the Ames Rail Jam. The event will stop at the pedestrian line.

-The right picture is a rough representation of the event. Lime green is where the snow will be placed. Purple is where Scion and our other major sponsors will be featured. The Yellow is parking lots owned by the city and we are going to ask at the city Council meeting if we can

use those spots for promotion of our event. Red is where we will divert the parking to with the cooperation of St. John's Episcopal Church.