

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF BLOOMINGTON ROAD FOR GAS MAIN INSTALLATION (ALLIANT ENERGY)

BACKGROUND:

On December 19, 2008, Alliant Energy contacted City staff to take out a Street and Right-of-Way/Excavation Permit in response to development of Northridge Heights Subdivision, 12th Addition. Alliant indicated that the existing gas main located at the southwestern corner of Stange Road and Bloomington Road would need to be extended north into the subdivision in order to serve this new development.

Initially the installation of the gas main was to be done by directional boring underneath the roadway, assuming the work could be done safely around a large communication line owned by Qwest which is located approximately in the center of Bloomington Road. Although several attempts were made by Alliant to determine the actual depth of the communication line, they were unsuccessful in locating it using conventional methods. To ensure that Qwest's line is undamaged during the gas main installation, Alliant now needs to expose the communication line. This will require that both lanes of Bloomington Road be closed to traffic for an estimated time period of three days.

Bloomington Road is classified as a Minor Arterial according to the City Functional Classification Map. According to the City Code, temporary closure of streets with this classification require approval by City Council. Staff has conveyed in recent discussions with Alliant Energy the need to properly notify the public in advance of the closure. In addition to standard traffic control measures, Alliant will also be placing electronic message boards approximately 7 to 10 days prior to closing the street.

In order to minimize the impact of closing Bloomington Road, City staff has advocated for the work to be preformed during the week of March 16th, which is spring break when Iowa State University will not be in session. Alliant Energy is also in favor of conducting their work during spring break. The lower traffic volumes should provide a safer working environment for all those involved.

Staff recommends that City Council authorize temporary closure of Bloomington Road for installation of the gas main into Northridge Heights Subdivision, 12th Addition, and delegate timing of that closure to staff. Every effort will be made to perform the work during spring break. However, as with all construction, it is contingent upon suitable weather. By delegating this authority, staff will be able to be responsive to our customers in the timeliest manner possible.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize temporary closure of Bloomington Road for installation of a gas main into Northridge Heights Subdivision, 12th Addition, and delegate timing of that closure to City staff.
2. Approve the temporary closure of Bloomington Road for the installation of a gas main into Northridge Heights Subdivision, 12th Addition for specific dates determined by City Council.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By approving the temporary closure of Bloomington Road, City Council will ensure that current and future developments in Northridge Heights can be served with all vital utilities.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby authorizing temporary closure of Bloomington Road for installation of the gas main into Northridge Heights Subdivision, 12th Addition, and delegating the timing of that closure to City staff.