



CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Bruce K. Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

**FROM:** William R. Gray, P. E., Public Works Director

**DATE:** February 8, 2007

**RE:** *University of Illinois' Request to Approve the Use of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles on City Streets in the University District.*

**INTRODUCTION**

The City of Urbana has received a request from the University of Illinois to permit neighborhood electric vehicles (*see attached memorandum and photos*) to be operated on city streets within the University District. The University District is bound by *University Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, St. Mary's Road, and Neil Street* (*see attached map with city-owned streets*). Per the Illinois Vehicle Code, such vehicles require specific approval from the agency that has jurisdiction over the streets in question. The University has been using these vehicles since March of 2004 on University-owned streets and grounds. The vehicle's maximum speed is 25 miles per hour and can travel up to 40 miles before recharging. It is the Police and Public Works Departments' opinion that use of these vehicles in the locations identified should not be a safety problem and electric vehicle use is to be encouraged.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There will be no fiscal impact to the City of Urbana.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LOCAL TRAFFIC CODE (CHAPTER 23) BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 23-38 (Neighborhood Electric Vehicles)** be approved.

WRG:kf

Attachments:

Ordinance  
U. of I. Memorandum of Understanding and Electric Vehicle Photos  
Map of University District Boundaries

ADMINISTRATION · ARBOR · ENGINEERING · ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
EQUIPMENT SERVICES · OPERATIONS · PUBLIC FACILITIES

This Ordinance: Amending the Local Traffic Code (Chapter 23) by adding Section 23-38.  
AMENDS the Code of Ordinances.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-02-024**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LOCAL TRAFFIC CODE (CHAPTER 23) BY  
ADDING A NEW SECTION 23-38**

(Neighborhood Electric Vehicles)

WHEREAS, the City Council, after having considered the volume, speed, and character of traffic on streets located within the City's University District as defined herein, finds that neighborhood electric vehicles as defined herein, may safely travel on and across streets in said District if they are operated in accordance with the regulations set forth herein, and that the public safety will not be jeopardized by operation of said vehicles in accordance with said regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

**Section 1.** A new Section 23-38 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

"Section 23-38. Neighborhood Electric Vehicles.

a. "*Neighborhood electric vehicle* shall mean a self-propelled, electronically powered four-wheeled vehicle which is capable of attaining in one mile, a speed of more than 20 miles per hour, but not more than 25 miles per hour, and which conforms to federal regulations under Title 49 C.F.R Part 571.500."

b. *University District* is defined of the area enclosed by the following boundary: University Avenue, Neil Street, St. Mary's Road, and Lincoln Avenue.

c. General prohibition. Except as expressly authorized in this Section, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate a neighborhood electric vehicle on any street in the City.

d. Authorized in University District. A person may operate a neighborhood electric vehicle on streets located within the University District in accordance with the following rules and conditions:

(1) No person shall operate a neighborhood electric vehicle on any street having a posted speed limit exceeding 35 miles per hour, provided that nothing herein shall prohibit a person from driving a neighborhood electric vehicle across a street with a posted speed limit exceeding 35 miles per hours.

(2) All persons operating neighborhood electric vehicles shall comply with all applicable requirements of section 11-1426.1 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/1-100 et seq., hereinafter referred to as the "Illinois Vehicle Code."

(3) Required equipment. No neighborhood electric vehicle may be operated on a street unless, at a minimum, it has the following: brakes, a steering apparatus, tires, a rearview mirror, red reflectorized warning devices in the front and rear, a slow moving emblem (as required of other vehicles in Section 12-709 of the Illinois Vehicle Code) on the rear of the neighborhood electric vehicle, a headlight that emits a white light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front, a tail lamp that emits a red light visible from at least 100 feet from the rear, brake light, and turn signals. When operated on a roadway, a neighborhood electric

vehicle shall have its headlight and tail lamps lighted as required by Section 12-201 of the Illinois Vehicle Code."

**Section 2.** The City Clerk is directed to publish this Ordinance in pamphlet form by authority of the corporate authorities, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in accordance with Section 1-2-4 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

This Ordinance is hereby passed by the affirmative vote, the "ayes" and "nays" being called, of a majority of the members of the Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, at a meeting of said Council.

PASSED by the City Council this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laurel Prussing, Mayor

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM

I, Phyllis Clark, certify that I am the duly elected and acting Municipal Clerk of the City of Urbana, Champaign County, Illinois.

I certify that on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, the corporate authorities of the City of Urbana passed and approved Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_, entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LOCAL TRAFFIC CODE (CHAPTER 23) BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 23-38.** (Neighborhood Electric Vehicles), which provided by its terms that it should be published in pamphlet form.

The pamphlet form of the Ordinance was prepared, and a copy of such Ordinance was posted in the Urbana City Building commencing on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and continuing for at least ten (10) days thereafter. Copies of such Ordinance were also available for public inspection upon request at the Office of the City Clerk.

DATED at Urbana, Illinois, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis Clark, CITY CLERK

To: Steve Carter, City of Champaign  
Bruce Walden, City of Urbana

From: Jack Dempsey, Executive Director of Facilities & Services

Re: Memorandum of Understanding regarding University of Illinois at Urbana -  
Champaign use of 'mini-trucks' within the University District

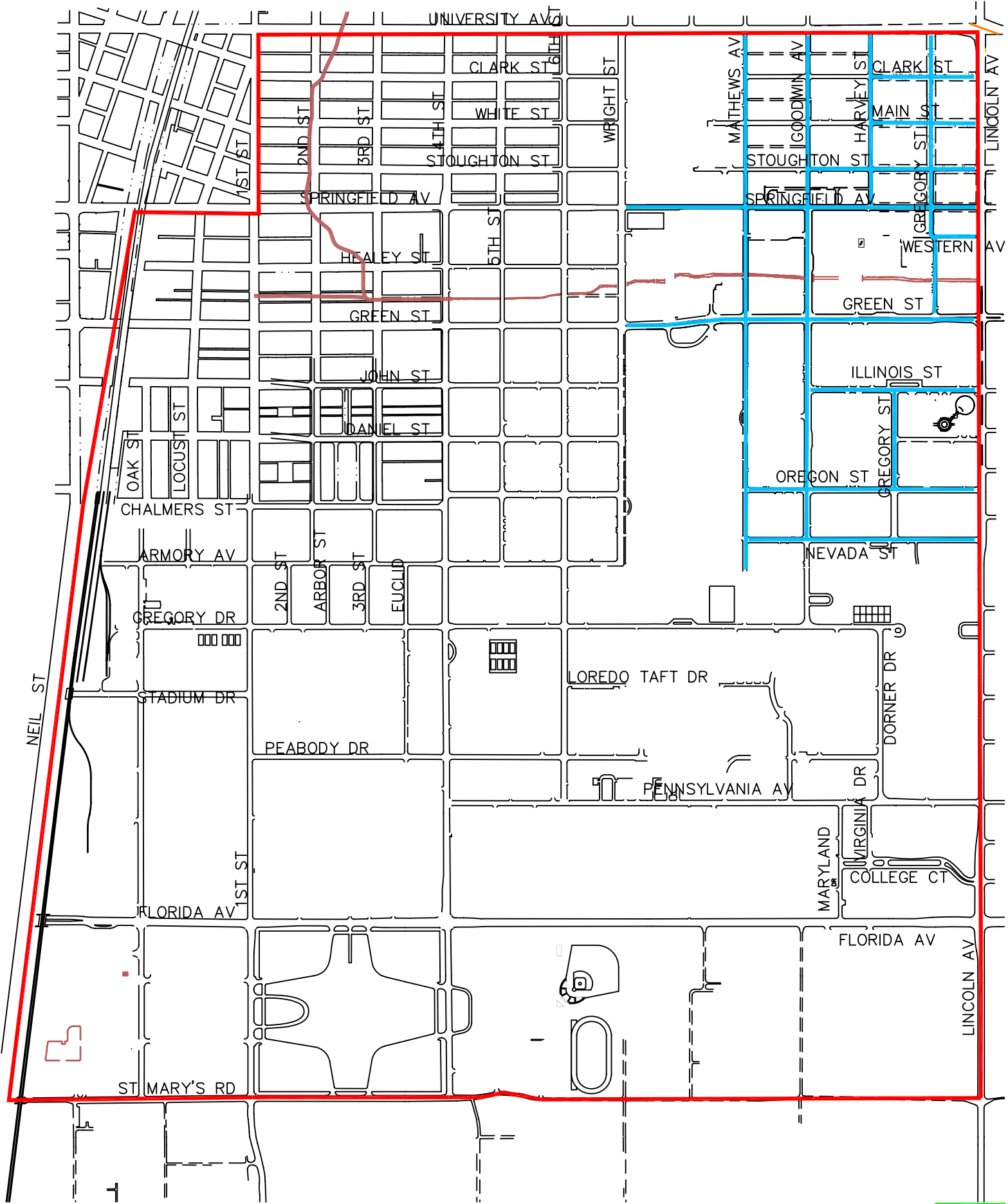
Facilities & Services (F&S) operates a fleet of more than 250 service vehicles supporting maintenance, repair and other essential services to the University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign (UIUC) campus. In addition to having an average fuel consumption of just over 7 miles per gallon, these vehicles make a significant contribution to the amount of traffic on Campus as the vast majority of travel is into and around the *Campus core*.

In line with a number of both University and Facilities & Services' strategic goals, F&S would like to explore the potential of using smaller and more fuel efficient vehicles where possible within the F&S fleet. These vehicles, *Mini-Trucks*, have the potential to replace a large number of full-size vehicles, while maintaining a high standard of safety and service that the University, faculty, staff and students expect. These Mini-Trucks are small, gas-powered pickups and vans limited to 25 mph, yet they provide performance (payload and range) currently unavailable from electric powered vehicles.

The Vehicle Code of Illinois (section 625 ILCS 5/11-1426.1) provides for local municipalities to establish an ordinance or resolution to permit the travel of **electric** Low Speed Vehicles (LSV) on roadways under its jurisdiction. The University is actively engaged in seeking permission from Urbana and Champaign to operate electric vehicles in accordance with this legislation. The University is also pursuing a course of action which would lead to amending the existing legislation to include **gasoline**-powered LSV as well.

The UIUC campus is therefore requesting endorsement of this course of action from the Cities of Urbana and Champaign. Upon ratification of the proposed amendment to the Vehicle Code of Illinois, the University will request an ordinance from Urbana and Champaign granting permission to operate these Mini-Trucks in the region bounded by the CN Railroad (west), Lincoln Ave (east), University Ave (north) and Gerty Dr (south).





# University District

- LEGEND**
- University District Boundary
  - City of Urbana Street