



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Laurel Lunt Prussing and Members of the City Council
FROM: William R. Gray, P.E., Public Works Director
DATE: September 20, 2007
RE: University of Illinois' Request to Approve the Use of Neighborhood Small Engine, Gas-Powered Vehicles on City Streets within the University District

INTRODUCTION

In February 2007, the Urbana City Council approved an ordinance to permit neighborhood electric vehicles to operate within the University District, the area bounded by University Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, St. Mary's Road and Neil Street. At that time, the Illinois Vehicle Code allowed the City of Urbana to grant permission for the use of electric vehicles on its streets. Recently, legislation was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor (625 ILCS 5/11 – 1426.1), which would give the City of Urbana the jurisdiction to allow small engine, gas-powered vehicles on its streets. The City has received a request from the University of Illinois to permit the use of small engine, gas-powered vehicles on City streets within the University District. (See attached pictures.) The University has been using these vehicles on University-owned streets and grounds since Summer 2006. These vehicles can reach a maximum speed of 25 miles per hour. It is the opinion of the Police and Public Works departments that the use of these vehicles in the locations identified should not pose a safety problem; and therefore, the use of small engine, gas-powered vehicles is recommended.

FISCAL IMPACT

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

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that **AN ORDINANCE DELETING SECTION 23-38 OF THE URBANA LOCAL TRAFFIC CODE ENTITLED "NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLES", AND ESTABLISHING A NEW SECTION 23-38 ENTITLED "NEIGHBORHOOD VEHICLES."**

Attachments: Ordinance
Pictures of Small Gas-Powered Vehicles
Map of University District Boundaries

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-09-110

AN ORDINANCE DELETING SECTION 23-38 OF THE URBANA LOCAL TRAFFIC CODE ENTITLED "NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLES", AND ESTABLISHING A NEW SECTION 23-38 ENTITLED "NEIGHBORHOOD 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 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. That Section 23-38, entitled "Neighborhood Electric Vehicles" of the Urbana Local Traffic Code, as amended, is hereby deleted and replaced by a new Section 23-38 entitled "Neighborhood Vehicles" to read as follows:

Section 23-38. Neighborhood Vehicles.

1. Definitions.

a. "*Neighborhood vehicle* shall mean a self-propelled, electronically powered, four-wheeled vehicle (or a self-propelled, gasoline-powered, four-wheeled vehicle with an engine displacement under 1,200 cubic centimeters) 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 all applicable requirements of Section 5/11-1426.1 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/1-100 et seq., hereinafter referred to as the "Illinois Vehicle Code."

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

2. Prohibited Vehicle Operation.

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

b. Authorized in University District. A person who is an authorized employee of the University, conducting University business or operations, may operate a neighborhood vehicle on streets located within the University District in accordance with the following rules and conditions:

(i) No person shall operate a neighborhood 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 vehicle across a street with a posted speed limit exceeding 35 miles per hour.

(ii) All person operating neighborhood vehicles shall comply with all applicable requirements of Illinois Vehicle Code.

(iii) Required equipment. No neighborhood vehicle shall 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 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 vehicle shall have its headlight and tail lamps lighted as required by Section 5/12-201 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 publication in accordance with Section 1-2-4 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

This Ordinance is hereby passed by the affirmative vote, and "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 Lunt Prussing, Mayor

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM

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

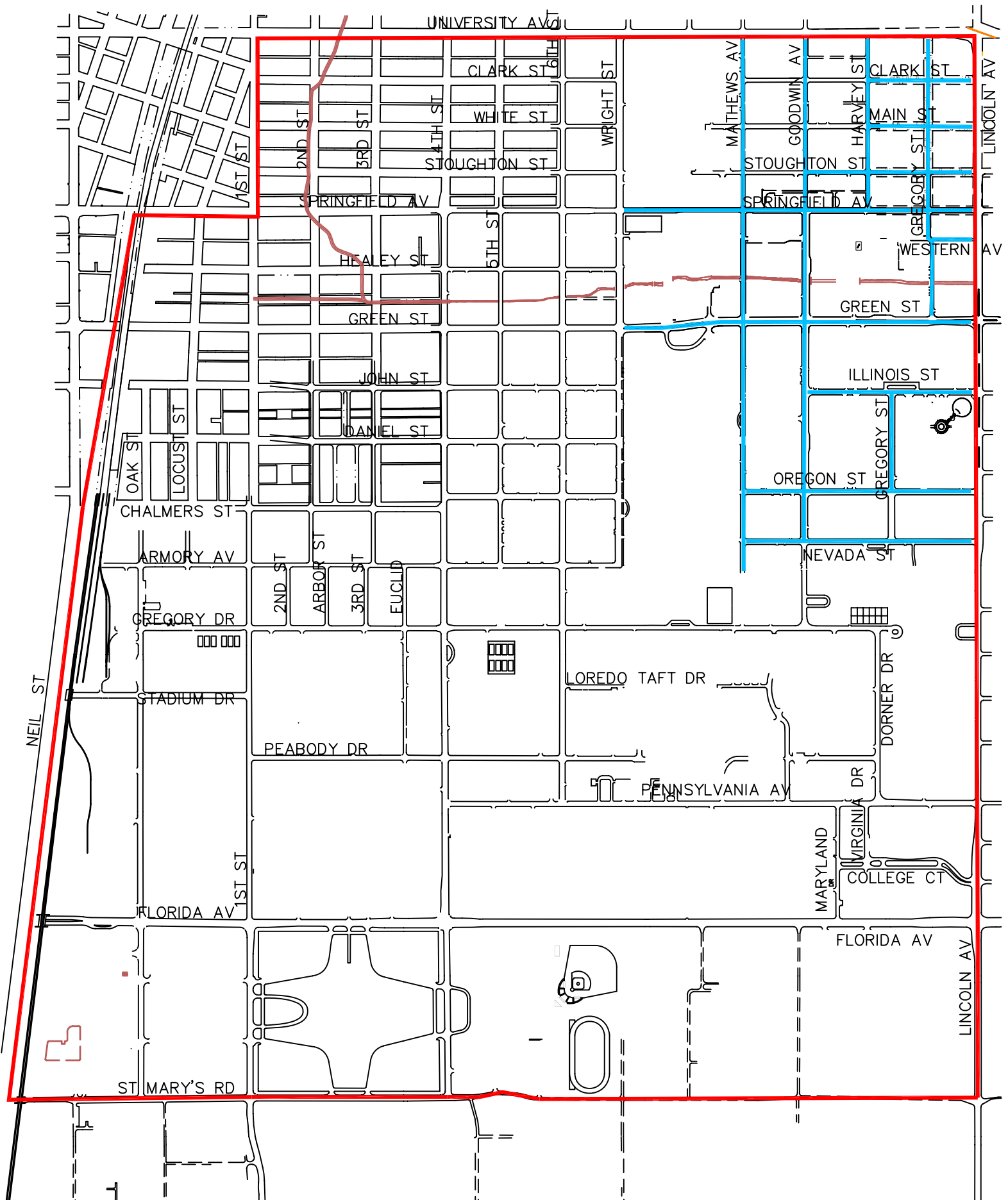
I certify that on the ____day of _____, _____, the corporate authorities of the City of Urbana passed and approved Ordinance No. _____, entitled, **AN ORDINANCE DELETING SECTION 23-38 OF THE URBANA LOCAL TRAFFIC CODE ENTITLED "NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLES", AND ESTABLISHING A NEW SECTION 23-38 ENTITLED "NEIGHBORHOOD 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 D. Clark, CITY CLERK



University District

LEGEND

- University District Boundary
- City of Urbana Street

City of Urbana
 Public Works Department
 Engineering Division
 Date: 09/20/07 Drawn: BWF





Neighborhood Vehicles for the University District





Neighborhood Vehicles for the University District

