Date: April 16, 2010

To: Commissioners Mike Amyx, Aron Cromwell, Lance Johnson, Michael Dever, Robert Chestnut

Department of Public Works: Charles Soules, Director and Shoeb Uddin, City Engineer-

**City Manager David Corliss** 

Subject: Center Lane on Iowa Street

From: Barbara M. Bishop, 1641 University Drive, Phone 842-6072

APR 1 9 2010

**RECEIVED** 

**PUBLIC WORKS** 

A comprehensive presentation was made at Fire Station Number 5 regarding the reworking of Iowa Street and the desirability of at that time installing an extra lane dedicated to turns off of Iowa onto neighboring streets in the area from Harvard Road to the Irving Hill overpass. This meeting was attended by Mr. Soules and Mr. Corliss.

I was informed this matter was to be presented to the City Commission the last week of April therefore all comments should be submitted before this date.

There were people in favor and people in opposition of the city's proposal. There was no consensus except that there are real dangers for southbound traffic making left turns off of Iowa onto Oxford, Stratford and University Drives. I would note there are also dangers for entry into driveways for homes along that part of Iowa.

I would also add that for northbound traffic on Iowa there is danger in left turns onto Terrace Road, Orchard Road and homes in that particular area.

# Request

I would ask that when making a decision that you to please consider the *entire* area from Harvard to Terrace Road as a candidate for a center lane for turns (left or right) as exists on many other streets in Lawrence.

Example: Iowa from Ninth Street to Harvard already has this kind of lane. There is a dedicated left turn lane for northbound traffic at Ninth and a dedicated left turn lane for southbound traffic at Harvard. Between and connecting these there is a center turn lane with arrows showing left turns for traffic traveling both north and south.

Please do NOT have just *one* neighborhood street with a *dedicated left turn lane* for southbound traffic on Iowa. This would be a broad signal to all Iowa Street traffic that that one street was the *preferred* alternate method of heading east and consequently permanently change the character of that particular neighborhood.

# **Conclusion**

If the intent of the proposed reconfiguration is *truly* for the protection of motorists, then that protection should be extended to *all* left turning vehicles whether coming from the south or the north on the section of Iowa Street between Ninth Street and Terrace Road. Since this has *already* been addressed appropriately from Ninth to Harvard, it only remains to be consistently implemented from Harvard to Terrace Road.

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### **ADDENDUM**

#### Subject: University Drive

I would like to note that one person in attendance at the city's meeting on reworking Iowa Street thought a center lane on Iowa would facilitate her being able to more easily leave the neighborhood by using University Drive to turn south onto Iowa.

I believe she might be mistaken and that what may very well happen is that there will be an *increase* of drivers attempting left turns onto Iowa and that consequently there will be a backup of cars on University Drive and therefore a real restriction on cars desiring to turn right (north).

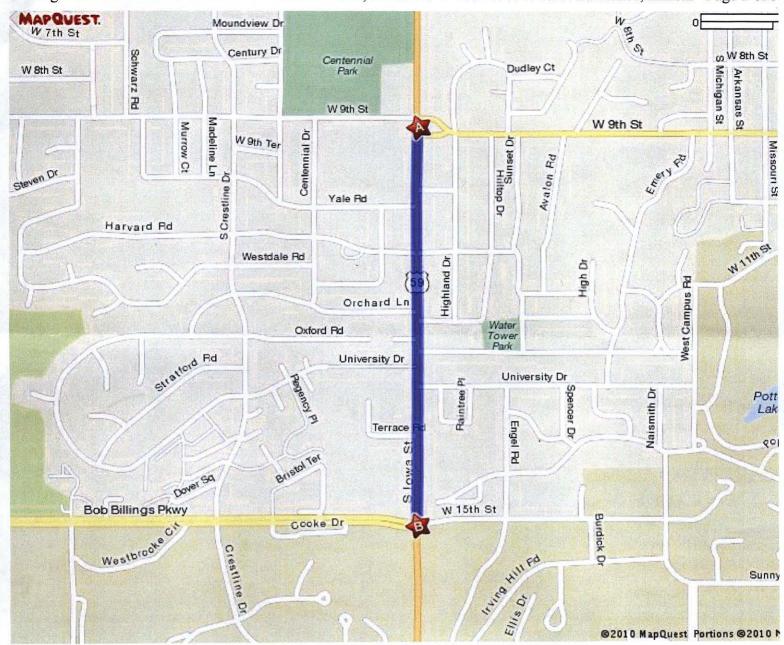
# **Thoughts**

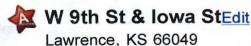
The city has solved the above problem of backups on such streets as 21<sup>st</sup> Street at Iowa by having both a right and a left turn lane on 21<sup>st</sup> Street facilitating access to Iowa. There are many other streets in Lawrence which are marked similarly. This might be a solution for University Drive and perhaps Stratford?

It is also important that the city of Lawrence examine the condition of streets and curbs in these affected neighborhoods and concurrently address the deterioration which now exists due to the already heavy traffic.

I am aware we have experts on traffic. I am hopeful those experts will address the problems on Iowa Street as well as the side streets and residential neighborhoods and use their expertise to maintain the intended traffic routes in Lawrence.

Driving Directions from W 9th St & Iowa St Lawrence, Kansas to W 15th St & Iowa St Lawrence, Kansas Page 2 of 3





START

Start out going SOUTH on US-59/S IOWA ST toward W 9TH ST.

0.7 mi

END

W 15TH ST & IOWA ST.



# W 15th St & Iowa StEdit

Lawrence, KS 66044