

MEMORANDUM

TO: Donna Barron, City Manager

FROM: David Salmon, P.E., City Engineer

VIA Eric Ferris, Deputy City Manager

DATE: August 6, 2018

SUBJECT: **Consideration of an Amendment to the City Thoroughfare Plan to Change the Limits of North Cowan Avenue Between Jones Street and Mill Street.**

BACKGROUND

The opening of a new DCTA railroad crossing at Valley Ridge Boulevard in October 2017 required the closure of the existing railroad crossing at N Cowan Avenue. A cul-de-sac has been constructed on N Cowan Avenue just north of Mill Street. The City Thoroughfare Plan needs to be amended to reflect that N Cowan Avenue dead ends just short of Mill Street and does not connect to Mill Street.

ANALYSIS

The Valley Ridge Blvd construction project between Mill St and College St involved the construction of a new DCTA railroad crossing near Mill St. Railroad regulations require that for every new railroad crossing, two existing railroad crossings must be closed. After lengthy negotiation, the DCTA agreed to exchange the N Cowan Avenue railroad crossing for the new Valley Ridge Blvd railroad crossing due to the proximity. With the opening of Valley Ridge Blvd to vehicular traffic in October 2017, N Cowan Avenue has been permanently closed to traffic at Mill St.

A cul-de-sac has been constructed on N Cowan Avenue just north of the DCTA railroad crossing and the KCS railroad tracks. N Cowan Avenue no longer connects to Mill Street from the north. The Thoroughfare Plan needs to be updated to reflect this change, that, south of Jones St, N Cowan Avenue dead-ends just short of the KCS railroad tracks and no longer connects to Mill Street.

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Functional Classification of N Cowan Avenue:

N Cowan Avenue south of Jones Street is currently classified as a ‘Collector 2-Lane Undivided’ (C2U) roadway with 60-foot Right-Of-Way. The portion of N Cowan Avenue between Jones Street and the cul-de-sac provides access to large tractor-trailers serving the businesses on N Cowan Avenue and to the school buses serving the Village North Community on N Cowan Avenue. Cowan Avenue is the only access in and out of the Village North community which has several hundred lots. For this reason, it is recommended that N Cowan Avenue between Jones Street and the cul-de-sac remain as a Collector 2-Lane Undivided street (C2U – 60’ ROW).

At the August 7th, 2018 meeting, the Transportation Board considered this item and voted unanimously (6) to (0) to approve the item.

RECOMMENDATION

It is City Staff's recommendation that the City Council approve the amendment to the Thoroughfare Plan as set forth in the caption above.