



Engineering Department

DATE: August 18, 2020

FROM: Gabe Schell, City Engineer

ITEM: 3 Lane Conversion Safety Project Recommended Decisions - HC 125

REQUEST

Receive recommendations for Two-Lane to Three-Lane Conversion project and provide project decisions.

Please place this item on the 8/25/2020 City Commission meeting agenda.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the August 11, 2020 meeting of the Board of City Commissioners, recommendations were presented for the conversion of 2 lane roadways to 3 lanes roadways with center turn lanes. The Board instructed staff to contact adjacent multi-family housing units and churches adjacent to 26th Street where on-street parking was proposed to be removed for their input. This commission memo supersedes previous recommendations in the technical memo.

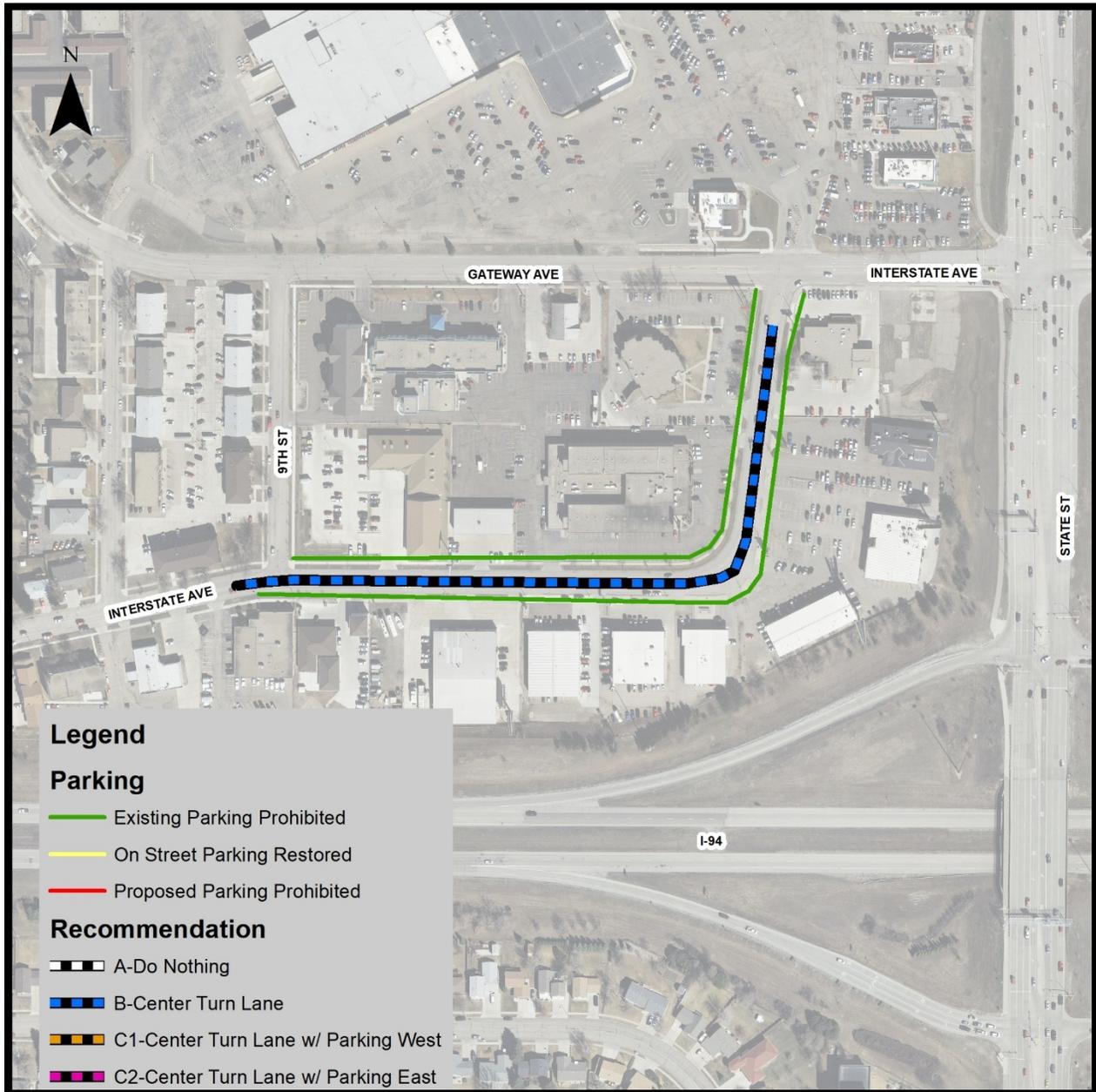
Lord of Life Lutheran Church and ND Conference Association of 7-Day Adventist were contacted by phone and their response was that their members do not park along 26th Street to attend services or functions. Both churches provide off street parking.

The respective owners of the 4 multi-family housing units were contacted with each responding that their renters or guests do not utilize parking along 26th Street. They also provide off street parking. They also commented that their renters and guests typically park on the side streets, East Avenue D and East Avenue F if additional parking is required.

All persons who were contacted commented that they would support converting 26th Street to a 3-lanes.

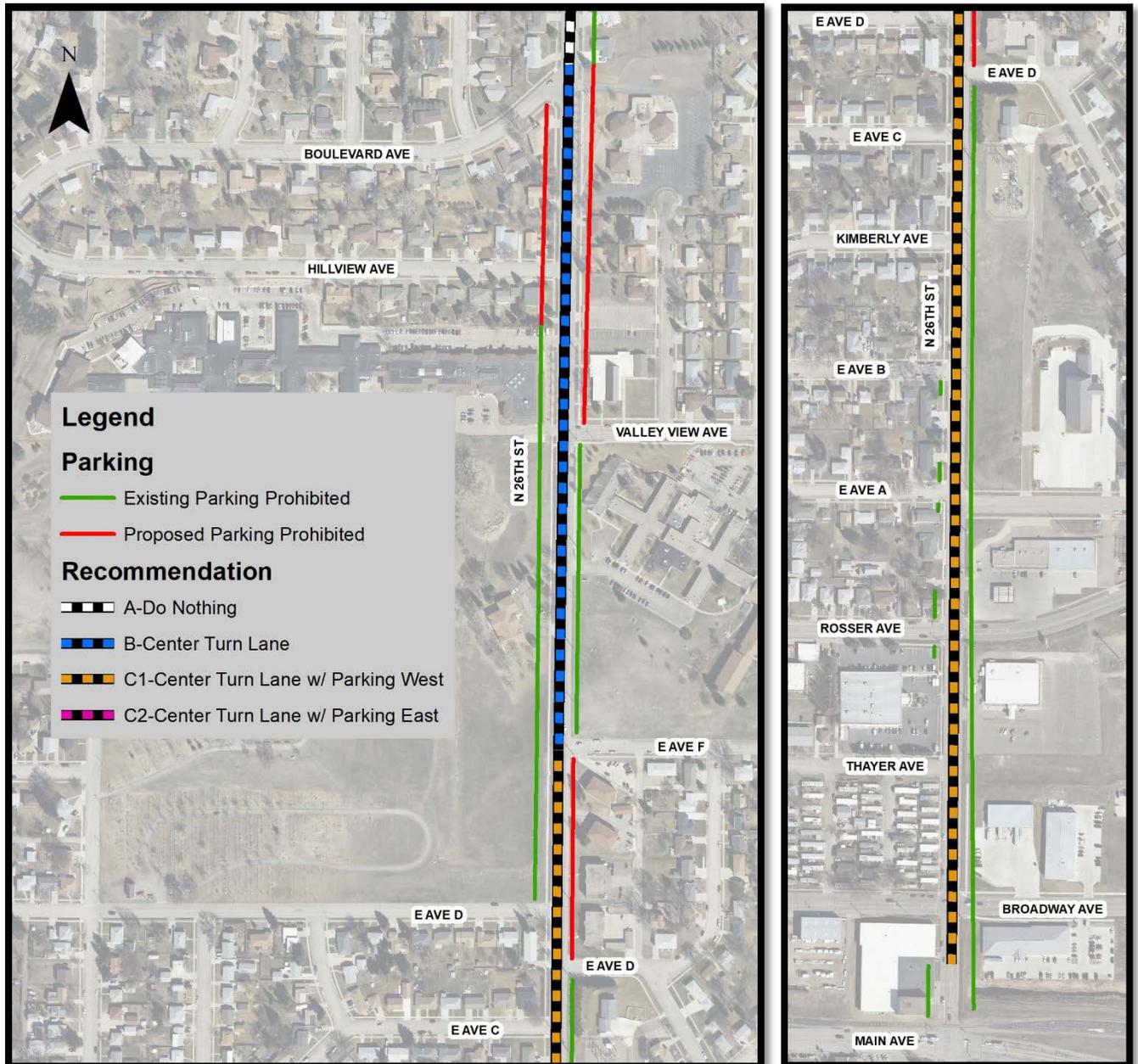
Interstate Ave (No change from 8/11/20 memo)

Interstate Avenue currently does not have on-street parking between 9th Street and Gateway Avenue. A three-lane section is recommended for this segment. No changes to on-street parking is recommended. The conversion to a three-lane section would provide opportunity for a left-turning vehicle to slow down and complete its maneuver without impacting the through traffic behind them. It is likely that a trailing vehicle in this location currently overtakes the slower moving or stopped left-turning vehicle. While overtaking on the right is permitted when it can be accomplished in safety, this maneuver could contribute to higher crash rates. I would recommend providing a roadway environment where the maneuver that traffic wants to make, can be made safely and legally in all circumstances.



N 26th Street (On street parking recommendation changed from 8/11/20 memo)

N 26th Street carries between 11,500 to 7,500 vehicles per day according to data recorded in 2019. The heavier utilized segments are closer to Main Avenue with traffic volumes decreasing further north closer to E Divide Avenue. There is a mix of on-street parking that is allowed and prohibited on the corridor. It is recommended to incorporate a three-lane section from Broadway Ave to E Avenue D and maintain the on-street parking where it is currently allowed on the west side of the roadway. North of E Ave D, it is recommended to continue the three-lane section to Boulevard Avenue. Members of the public have previously provided un-solicited input regarding the desire for a northbound to westbound left turn lane from 26th Street to Boulevard Avenue.



This recommendation would impact existing on-street parking. Based on the additional comments received from the multi-family housing owners, it is recommended to remove on-street parking on the east side of 26th Street between E Avenue D and E Avenue F. North of Valley View Avenue, parking is recommended to be prohibited on both sides through an area of single-family residential housing and the two church properties. The churches input states they do not utilize parking on 26th Street. Of the six single-family homes potentially affected by the change in on-street parking, three are corner lots with other on-street parking options available.

It is recommended to carry the left turn lane to Boulevard Avenue in order to provide the turning opportunity at the intersection where more of these movements are occurring.

RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION

Receive project recommendations and approve project concepts as presented.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Gabe Schell, PE | City Engineer, 355-1505 or gschell@bismarcknd.gov