

NEWS RELEASE

March 24, 2008 – For Immediate Release

Work Begins on Pennsylvania Avenue Changes Tomorrow

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque Engineering Department plans to implement a number of traffic control changes to Pennsylvania Avenue beginning **Tuesday, March 25. Motorists are encouraged to avoid Pennsylvania Avenue (from John F. Kennedy Road to the Northwest Arterial) tomorrow and Wednesday, March 26, if possible.**

The changes follow a series of meetings between Dubuque Community School District representatives, City representatives (Legal Services, Police, and Engineering), and a private consultant retained by the City to determine if traffic conditions warrant changes to the Pennsylvania Avenue, from John F. Kennedy Road to the Northwest Arterial corridor, specifically in the area of Stephen Hempstead High School.

The changes to be implemented include:

- The speed limit will be changed from 35 miles per hour (MPH) to 25 MPH, during school arrival and dismissal times (7 – 8 a.m., 40 minutes prior to school arrival and 20 minutes after school arrival, and 2 – 3 p.m., 20 minutes before school dismissal and 40 minutes after school dismissal) from Rosemont Drive west of Hempstead to Vizaleea Drive east of Hempstead. Although the speed limit was 35 MPH, an analysis of this corridor of Pennsylvania Avenue conducted in the fall revealed that the average speed for eastbound traffic was 41.5 MPH and 42 MPH for westbound traffic.
- A change in the existing lane configuration from four lanes to two lanes and a center turning lane beginning 100 feet west of Vizaleea Drive to Alicia Street. This change is designed to provide a “calming” effect to the traffic so that the desired speed of 25 mph will be attainable during periods of arrival and dismissal. The pavement markings necessary for this change are expected to be implemented beginning on Tuesday, March 25. Motorists are encouraged to use alternate routes as lengthy delays can be expected particularly between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and again from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Four yellow flashing lights with 25 MPH speed limit signs will be installed and automated to alert vehicles to reduce speed from 35 MPH to 25 MPH during arrival and dismissal times. In addition, the City will adjust these flashers based upon the school calendar.

Once the lane changes occur and the warning lights are in place, the Dubuque Police Department will enhance its current efforts of directed speed enforcement to ensure compliance with the new speed and road changes.