



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth - Communications Office

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DATE: 7/13/2017

SUBJECT: Three Downtown Duluth Avenues to Convert to Two Way - Provide Easier Access to Commercial Businesses

BY: Pakou Ly, Communications Office

Three Downtown Duluth Avenues to Convert to Two Way
Provide Easier Access to Commercial Businesses

[Duluth, MN] – Three avenues in downtown Duluth will convert from one to two way as part of the City of Duluth plans to improve transit and access to downtown businesses. The conversion of First, Second and Third Avenues West (from Superior Street up to 4th Street and intersections between Lake Ave to 4th Ave West) will ease access and allow more direct connections to downtown businesses with smoother circulation; it will also be a benefit to residences and visitors as the City prepares for the reconstruction of Superior Street in 2018.

Other avenues have been converted over the years based on observation, studies and feedback from area residents and businesses. The lack of circulation on the three western downtown avenues is in conflict with the eastern avenue conditions and have caused confusion and frustration for some motorists as they navigate downtown.

The conversion was introduced this past winter and approved by the Duluth City Council with a planned approach in multiple stages. The work will involve signage changes, center line striping and covering four traffic signals and installing stop signs. Please see the details below and the project map for exact locations. The West 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Streets will remain one-way traffic.

The field work to make the conversions will take place the week of July 17th and will begin after 9 am on Monday. The intent will be to complete the conversions by the end of the week but will be weather dependent. City crews will start on 3rd Avenue West, move to 2nd Avenue West, and then 1st Avenue West. Each avenue will be completely closed during the conversion of that road, but the intersections will remain open for street traffic to continue to flow. During the conversion process, there will be no access to street parking on that particular avenue. Each avenue conversion will take approximately 1-2 days, pending good weather conditions.

The changes to each intersection are provided below:

1st Street

- 1st street and 1st Avenue West – the traffic signal will be covered and stop signs will be installed on both the avenue and street (all-way stop condition)
- 1st Street and 2nd Avenue West – the traffic signal will be covered and stop signs will be installed on the **avenue only**
- 1st Street and 3rd Avenue West – the traffic signal will be covered and stop signs will be installed on both the avenue and street (all-way stop condition)

2nd Street

- No changes will be made to second street traffic control at the intersections (signals will remain)

3rd Street

- 3rd Street and 2nd Avenue West – the traffic signal will be covered and stop signs will be installed on the **avenue only**
- Several parking spaces will be removed to the east and west of each intersection on 3rd Street (1st Ave W, 2nd Ave W, and 3rd Ave W) and the bus stops will also be re-located to the west side of the intersections. This will provide better sight distances for the new direction of travel on the avenues.

The public is reminded to pay extra attention for the switches in traffic control at the intersections. As a friendly reminder:

- Motorists should remember that a crosswalk exists at every intersection regardless of whether it is marked or unmarked. Scan the road for pedestrians and bicyclists, especially when turning onto the one-way streets. Stop for crossing pedestrians in a crosswalk. Never pass or go around a vehicle that is stopped for pedestrians.

- Pedestrians should make eye contact with drivers before crossing. Clearly show your intentions of crossing. Ensure you have an adequate gap in traffic before proceeding. Stay off cell phones while crossing.

A survey will be shared with the public after the conversion commences to collect public input and insight. Questions about the project can be directed to Taryn Erickson at Taryn.J.Erickson@DuluthMN.gov or by calling (218) 730-5087.

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○ Signal to be covered and stop signs installed

■ Road Segment to be converted to two-way traffic