

## **Changes to 27th Street and Carpenter Avenue—Summer, 2015**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### ***1. Why is Drake University purchasing 27th Street and Carpenter Avenue?***

The purchase of 27th Street was included in the 2005 Master Plan as part of a comprehensive effort to make the Drake campus more pedestrian-orientated. As the STEM@DRAKE project unfolded and plans to build two new buildings were made, it became clear that now was the time to approach the city about the purchase. During those discussions, the City of Des Moines suggested that Carpenter Avenue be included in the transaction and we agreed there were benefits to that proposal. The purchase of these two streets will be complete in late July.

#### ***2. What are the future plans for 27th Street?***

Construction of the School of Education and Math and Computer Science facility and the new Science Connector building between Olin and Fitch Halls will require that 27th Street be available for construction access and equipment. We anticipate that as construction begins in early 2016, 27th Street will be closed to through traffic. Once construction is complete, efforts to transform the street into an integrated part of campus will begin. The street will be raised to level footpaths, offering attractive wide pedestrian walkways with limited vehicular access.

#### ***3. What are the future plans for Carpenter Avenue?***

While the plans for Carpenter Avenue have not yet been developed, the focus of planning will be consistent with the plans for 27th Street. Our focus will continue to be on developing areas that are pedestrian-oriented, integrated with the campus, and accessible.

#### ***4. What changes to Carpenter Avenue and 27th Street are expected this summer and fall?***

Effective with the beginning of the fall semester, parking patterns on 27th Street will change. Parking on the east side of the street will be considered commuter lot parking, requiring a commuter permit. The west side of the street will be treated as a fire lane and no parking will be permitted. Parking and traffic flow on Carpenter Avenue will remain unchanged, except that speed bumps will be installed to slow traffic and enhance safety. The speed bumps will help regulate traffic speed on streets that are no longer regulated by city ordinance or patrolled by Des Moines police.

#### ***5. Why does parking on 27th Street need to change?***

With the help of an advisory group, we explored various options for how to handle parking on 27th Street. Our primary aim is to ensure safety and security on campus, while minimizing disruption and inconvenience. We wanted to keep some parking on the street until construction was fully underway but also recognized the special challenges that come with assuming ownership of a through street. As owners of the street, we must consider a variety of factors previously under the city's jurisdiction, including traffic flow, parking, maintenance, snow removal, and fire and rescue

access. Our goal in working with the advisory group was to balance those considerations with the needs of the campus community and visitors to campus.

**6. *Why is there no parking on the west side of 27th Street?***

To ensure we meet our obligations to ensure access for purposes of fire and rescue, the west side of 27th Street will be designated as a fire lane. The fire lane will provide access for emergency vehicles to all buildings along 27th Street. This is changing because the obligation to provide this access now rests with us—the street is not governed by city ordinance or police patrol. Much like other streets or alleys on campus, we are required to ensure fire and emergency vehicle access.

**7. *How is smoking affected on the campus with purchase of 27th Street?***

The Smoke Free Air Act prohibits smoking in all public and private schools and on any grounds under the control of the schools, including inside any vehicle located on those grounds. “School” and “public or private educational facility” are defined as a public school and nonpublic school, a community college, an accredited private institution, or an institution governed by the Board of Regents.

Because 27th Street and Carpenter Avenue will become Drake property, smoking will be prohibited in those locations as well as on the sidewalks, pursuant to the Smoke Free Air Act.

**8. *When is construction going to begin on the new School of Education building and the Science Connector Building?***

There will be some preconstruction activities going on during the summer and fall of 2015. Watch for periodic updates on that activity from Finance and Administration. We can expect to see some minor work and preparation occurring during this time. Major construction will not begin until early 2016.

**9. *Will parking and the use of Carpenter Avenue and 27th Street change when construction begins?***

It is likely that parking on 27th Street will be significantly impacted by construction. We anticipate that parking will be prohibited along 27th during the construction period to ensure safety and security as well as to facilitate the placement of construction trailers and equipment. We will do our best to give the campus community as much notice as possible as planning unfolds. There will undoubtedly be issues or concerns that we are not anticipating at this time, but we will do our very best to be responsive and communicative throughout the construction process.

**10. *Will residents of Jewett Hall be able access the parking lot to the north of Jewett Hall?***

The residents of Jewett will be able to use the parking lot just to the north of Jewett during the fall semester. Plans for the spring semester will depend on construction timelines and contractor needs

and recommendations. Watch for additional information from Finance and Administration on this and other construction-related changes.

***11. Will an additional parking lot be built as part of the STEM@DRAKE Initiative?***

The current plan is to enlarge the current parking lot north of Opperman Library, adding 122 parking spaces to campus.

***12. Why are gates being installed now if the street won't close until construction begins?***

Gates will be installed on 27th Street now for two reasons. First, there may be pre-construction work that requires the street to be closed. Second, we wanted to get the gates placed before the ground freezes. The gates will remain open for most of the fall semester. If it becomes necessary to close the street, the campus will be notified.