



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. XI. L.
2/13/2024

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Craig Freeman, City Manager

Ordinance to be introduced, set for public hearing February 27, 2024 and final hearing March 12, 2024, relating to Motor Vehicles and Traffic, amending Chapter 32 of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code, 2020, by amending Section 32-237, Designation of restricted turns.

Background:

The proposed ordinance amending §32-237 is the result of work by the Public Works Department with support from the Municipal Counselor's Office. It amends §32-237 Designation of Restricted Turns, by changing the method of designating turn restrictions from a public hearing process to an administrative process.

At the end of the Commission's November 20, 2023, meeting, Commissioner Cornett shared a local traffic safety matter which was brought to her attention. The issue concerned crashes occurring on North Western Avenue at a local business driveway. In particular, left turns in and out of a local business driveway were a contributing cause for crashes on North Western Avenue north of West Memorial Road. The remedy suggested to Commissioner Cornett was for the City to prohibit left turns at the driveway. Discussion regarding how the City currently addresses turn restrictions as prescribed in the Oklahoma City Municipal Code, 2020, lead to the Commission directing staff to draft an ordinance which would change this process from one initiated by a request for consideration by the Commission to one administered at the staff level.

The proposed amendment transfers administration of all types of turn restrictions: right turns, left turns and U-turns, from the Traffic and Transportation Commission to the City Engineer/Public Works Director or their designee. The City Traffic Engineer remains involved in assessing turn restrictions since they will remain subject to a competent traffic engineering survey and investigation which considers the health, safety and welfare of the public as prescribed in §32-237 subpart (c). The ordinance includes a provision which allows any person directly affected by a turn restriction decision (whether approved or not) to request a hearing before the Traffic and Transportation Commission.

At their meeting on January 19, 2024, the Traffic Commission amended part (e) of the ordinance allowing affected parties to challenge administrative decisions, which includes decisions not to install turn restrictions, by having them heard by the Traffic and Transportation Commission and voted unanimously in favor of sending the recommendation to the City Council for approval.

Review:

Public Works Department

Recommendation: Ordinance be introduced, set for public hearing and set for final hearing.