



DATE: July 1, 2021

TO: File
Brian Hansen, Development Coordinator

FROM: Julie M. Long, City Engineer

RE: SICK – 28th Ave Emergency Vehicle Driveway

I have concerns with the mountable driveway for the fire lane to 28th Avenue. This is a potentially unsafe location situated immediately after the free right turn island. Except for the signs it will look and function like a driveway. The end of a free right where speeds can be maintained around a corner is not a good place for a driveway connection where someone could pull out unexpectedly.

I believe it is more likely that there will be an errant driver there than a fire truck will ever need to use it. Another concern is the fire hydrant being right at the 2' clear mark of the fire lane especially during snow removal season. Additionally, there is an existing electrical manhole in the proposed sloped area. Given that the Xcel duct banks do not have a lot of cover in this area as indicated by previous projects where curb had to be installed with an inch of rock directly on the duct bank and the 12" PVC storm sewer that was installed instead of the 15" RCP for the duct across the street, this could potentially be an issue that arises during construction.

While not ideal, I would support the fire truck backing up after an incident versus constructing this tie in to 28th Avenue, especially given that a future phase is shown to remove the fire lane. However, I recognize that this has been shown on the plans since March and no one in Engineering made a comment about it. Therefore, I am willing to support it as is, but recommend the SICK design team add a note to confirm the elevation of the duct bank prior to any removals so in the event that things are not able to be constructed as shown they don't do all the removals just to have to put things back as they are today.

Engineering staff will be directed to review the crash reports for future incidents at this location. If a pattern of crashes develops, I support removal of the mountable curb and returning it to its full height at City expense.