

E-470 Hazardous Material Route Designation

City Council Study Session - February 26, 2019

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Strategic Plan

- Strong Regional Relationships and Partnerships



- Safe, Active, and Engaged Community



Purpose / Background

- This item was first mentioned at the October 23rd Study Session and City Staff came back on December 11th and January 22nd to discuss the item and to provide further information.
- The direction of City Council at the January 22nd Study Session, after further information was provided, was to draft a 'Letter of Opposition' to bring to a formal City Council meeting for a vote.
- On February 3rd, City Staff and City Council were made aware of the City Manager's intention to pull the item off the February 5th agenda after separate conversations with Adams County officials, our Mayor, and our Mayor Pro-Tem.
- On February 5th, City Staff and City Council were sent Adams County's memorandum on the matter.
- Staff is again looking for direction as to whether or not the City Council wishes to support the HazMat designation of E-470.

Summary of Information Provided

- City Staff has already provided information on:
 - ✓ Definition and types of hazardous materials
 - ✓ Comprehensive Plan designations
 - ✓ Economic development concerns
 - ✓ Process to designate
 - ✓ Criteria to consider
 - ✓ Route analysis items
 - ✓ Potential sections of designation
 - ✓ Oversight and enforcement of routes
 - ✓ Positions of neighboring jurisdictions
 - ✓ Nearby routes
 - ✓ Haulers and their standards
 - ✓ Permit process for transportation
 - ✓ Regulations surrounding transportation
 - ✓ Thoughts of the Fire District
 - ✓ Reversal of routes
 - ✓ Sample petition and study
 - ✓ CDOT's position
 - ✓ Authority's possible future ability to move forward without Brighton's approval

Summary of Findings / Staff Analysis

❖ Pros:

- An alternative transportation route for hazardous materials may reduce the hauling that is occurring on local roadways and get the vehicles on to designated routes more quickly.
- The additional route option for haulers may help avoid more densely populated areas in the region.
- The Fire District has stated they support the petition and are able to serve the additional route.

Summary of Findings / Staff Analysis

❖ Cons (partial):

- Adds an additional HazMat route to the City (the City already has two roadways and two railroads that have been designated as such).
- Brighton may be taking on more than its fair share of HazMat designated routes as compared to other communities in the region.
- At this point in time, it is unknown as to how much additional traffic this will create or reroute.
- There is a possibility of fire and rescue operational issues not being properly addressed.
- Uncertain impact on economic development opportunities and prospects in the area.
- Uncertain impact on desirability of undeveloped land designated in the Comprehensive Plan as High Density Residential, Mixed-Use Commercial, and Employment – Commercial. Additionally, may also impact the ability to build-out as a DRCOG Urban Activity Center.

Summary of Findings / Staff Analysis

❖ Cons (continued):

- Uncertain impact on the Local District Mixed Use designation areas.
- Uncertain impact on existing and future residents of the area in regards to health, safety and welfare.
- Uncertain impact on staff time and resources, particularly of the Police Department.
- Additional unintended consequences of designation in a fast growing area.
- Designation could not be easily rescinded in the future.

Staff's Conclusion

- As noted in earlier reports and meetings, the city already has two vehicle transportation routes (US-85 and I-76) and two railroads that more than adequately serve our community and the northeast region.
 - *Brighton is not comparable to other cities with multiple routes such Denver, Colorado Springs, or Pueblo.*
- One may argue that perhaps Brighton already has a disproportionate amount as compared to other neighboring cities.
 - *No data has been provided to show that this route designation would create more or less truck trips through Brighton on existing or new routes.*
- It is highly unlikely that Brighton would be able to petition for the removal of an existing route.
 - *There are multiple east-west routes in the region in areas planned for less density or currently in use for industrial purposes.*
- There is a potential that future employers that the city desires to attract to the area may not be desirous of sites that fall along a HazMat route.
 - *No data has been presented to demonstrate that designation would not deter non-industrial businesses.*

Next Steps

- A formal vote would need to occur for the City to issue a letter of support or opposition.
- If Council provides direction that they are generally in support or opposed to the designation, City staff will schedule the item for an upcoming City Council meeting, provide a draft Resolution, and provide a draft letter in support or in opposition of designation.
- Council may also make a determination to not voice its support or opposition at this time in order to request more information in terms of data from Adams County or the Authority.
- City staff has not changed its recommendation and it encourages City Council to ask for data from the County or Authority that would quell concerns and eliminate items from staff's list of cons.