Memorandum

DATE: September 3, 2009

TO: Board of Public Works

FROM: Mark Radtke, Director of Public Works MR

RE: 90 Day Trial Period Requests for Stop Signs –
Ice Street at Second Street and First Street at Ice Street

Alderman Zelinski has requested the Board of Public Works consider authorizing 90 day trial periods for the installation of stop signs on Ice Street at Second Street and on First Street at Ice Street. At its July 20th meeting, the Board considered action to authorize a traffic engineering study for the placement of yield signs at these same intersections. Based on recommendation from the Police Department, the Board decided to delay the traffic study until after the reconstruction of Third Street so as not to use skewed traffic volumes due to increased traffic resulting from the Third Street closure.

Trial periods allow City staff time to study and report on the particular traffic issue and provide the public with an opportunity to respond to the impact of the proposed traffic issue. I share the concern of the Police Department regarding assessing the proposed new traffic control signage in these locations while Third Street is closed, but Alderman Zelinski thinks there is immediacy because of the proximity to Jefferson School which is now in session.

At an earlier meeting this year, the Parking Committee recommended the Board of Public Works consider a trial period for the placement of a stop sign on Ice Street at Second Street due to observed safety concerns particularly at school arrival and dismissal times. I am in agreement with a trial period to study the effectiveness of placing a stop sign at this location.

From my observations, I think the trial period for a stop sign on First Street at Ice Street should not be authorized at this time, but rather the Board should allow the previously mentioned traffic engineering study to occur with a report including recommendations brought back to the Board for its consideration.