

Mount Rushmore Road plans scrutinized

Public Works Committee considers parking changes

By Mark Andersen
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Parking on the east side of Mount Rushmore Road between Omaha and Quincy streets would be eliminated to improve traffic flows under a state Department of Transportation plan.

Two blocks of Mount Rushmore Road, between Main and Omaha streets, are tentatively scheduled to be rebuilt this fall. Traffic controls would be changed after the reconstruction. Increased turning lanes and dual turning lanes would replace the parking.

Dennis Landguth, regional engineer for the department, asked for a reso-

lution in support of the plan from the Rapid City Public Works Committee Tuesday.

The committee said it would wait until after public hearings to act.

Landguth told aldermen that parking already was restricted along the west side of Mount Rushmore Road. Eliminating parking on the east side would allow changes to improve traffic flows, reduce accidents, reduce delays and cut exhaust emissions, Landguth said.

Counts of parking on Mount Rushmore Road indicated parking in

the area could handle the displaced cars, Landguth said.

"Mount Rushmore Road is an important part of our highway system through Rapid City," Landguth said. If that road, part of U.S. Highway 16, turns into just a busy city street, "we'll be back talking to you about moving Highway 16 over to a bypass," Landguth said.

Alderman C.C. "Buzz" Knapp said he appreciated the goal of the plan, "but I also have concern for people who do business along that street." Knapp said the common council

would be willing to support the plan if it was "something we can live with in the community."

Landguth said he intended to meet with landowners soon. A later public meeting will be announced, Landguth said. After the hearing, the plan will proceed to the state Highway Commission.

Landguth said he proposed the reconstruction to start around Sept. 1, after the tourist season. The highway would be shut down, he said.

No costs have been estimated for the reconstruction project.