

CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** January 26, 2026
SUBJECT: Ordinance No. 3943, Public hearing and consideration to close Colorado Boulevard to through traffic between Harwood Road and Boulevard 26.
PRESENTER: Caroline Waggoner, Assistant City Manager

SUMMARY:

Council is being asked to consider Ordinance 3943, closing Colorado Boulevard to through traffic.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Background

Colorado Boulevard was constructed in the late 1950s as part of the Clearview Addition and has always functioned as a local residential street. It was never intended to serve as a collector roadway. However, its straight alignment and direct connection between Harwood Road and Boulevard 26 distinguish it from other neighborhood streets, which generally feature curvilinear layouts or only one major roadway connection. This design makes Colorado Boulevard an attractive route for motorists seeking to bypass the traffic signal at Harwood and Boulevard 26.

Traffic Analysis

City staff has collected traffic speed and volume data on Colorado Boulevard multiple times since 2017 using static equipment. In summer 2025, updated data was gathered using connected vehicle technology and geospatial AI, including analysis of cut-through traffic. While overall volumes remain within the normal range for a residential street, a notable portion of daily traffic originates from outside the neighborhood (bounded by Davis Boulevard, Boulevard 26, and Harwood Road) and uses Colorado Boulevard as a shortcut to avoid the Harwood/Boulevard 26 signal.

Neighborhood Feedback

Staff solicited input from 147 properties across multiple streets in the neighborhood regarding a permanent closure of Colorado Boulevard. A majority of respondents living on Colorado Boulevard supported the closure, while most respondents from other streets opposed it.



Proposed Action

If Council supports closing Colorado Boulevard to through traffic, staff recommends the following approach:

- **Phase 1:** Install a temporary barricade just north of Standley Street, approximately 270 feet from Boulevard 26.
- **Phase 2:** Within six months, replace the barricade with a permanent emergency access gate at the same location.

Connectivity Considerations

Closing Colorado Boulevard would remove its direct link between Harwood Road and Boulevard 26. The neighborhood would still have three connections each to Boulevard 26, Davis Boulevard, and Harwood Road—well above minimum standards for connectivity.

If proposed today, staff would not support Colorado's current alignment. Modern planning principles discourage straight residential streets connecting major roads because they:

- Encourage cut-through traffic and higher speeds
- Conflict with functional classification (local streets should not act as collectors)
- Reduce neighborhood safety and cohesion

Current best practices favor curvilinear layouts and limited direct arterial connections to preserve residential character and manage traffic.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Ordinance 3943.