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02/08/1989 - Street Pact

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February 8, 1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CITY-EASTERN SIGN 'STREET PACT'

CHARLESTON, IL--In what both sides call an "everybody wins" situation, the City of Charleston and Eastern Illinois University have proposed an agreement which will help the city gain two badly needed "feeder" streets and give Eastern an additional parking area.

If approved by the city council, the Illinois Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities (Eastern's governing board), and the State Legislature, the final result would be a new street from 4th to 9th just south of Andrews and Lawson Halls on the campus and extension of Taft Avenue from 9th to Highway 130 just south of Carman Hall.

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'STREET PACT'

"We appreciate the city's initiative in this action," said Eastern President Stan Rives, "it's a worthwhile project which will benefit both Charleston's residents and our students." He said the agreement also calls for the University to support the city's efforts to obtain funding from the state for the project.

The project would not only give city residents a more direct access to the highway, but would also increase safety in the Heritage Woods subdivision, which now bears the blunt of highway-bound traffic from the south side of Charleston.

The University will also gain additional parking from the pact, as the City plans to initiate legal action to dedicate the 7th to 9th Street right-of-way of Johnson Avenue to the State for University use. Eastern owns all property surrounding this section of the street and would use the property in the future to enlarge the parking area adjacent to Old Main and Blair Hall.

Emergency vehicles could still move from 7th to 9th through the proposed parking lot and the city would maintain easement rights for sewer and water utilities.

This cooperative agreement is similar to one between the city and the University in the mid-70's which resulted in improvements to Grant Street from 4th to University and to 4th from Lincoln to the South edge of the campus.

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'STREET PACT'

The "feeder" streets project has the support of the State Department of Transportation office in Paris and the area has been surveyed.

Dr. Glenn Williams, Eastern Vice-President for Student Affairs, is a supporter of the project. "These new streets will expedite movement of traffic from our residence halls on 4th and 9th streets, as well as Carman Hall," said Williams. "Anything that moves traffic smoother and safer benefits all of us".

If approved by the City Council, the city and University would ask the help of area state legislators in obtaining funding approval from the state.

No time frame has been set for the project, pending approval of the various agencies involved.