

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

00-282

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

JUNE 26, 2000

SUBJECT:

STATE FAIR
SHUTTLE PARKING

The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) has requested free parking in two City parking garages for an expanded shuttle service to the 2000 Iowa State Fair. Staff has met with the MTA and developed a parking plan that should significantly enhance the shuttle service to the State Fair, with almost no impact on current users of the parking system.

FISCAL IMPACT -

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

None. The two parking garages do not generate any significant evening parking revenue that would be lost, and the MTA, under contract with the State Fair to provide the shuttle service, will reimburse the City for the actual costs of staffing the two garages for the event.

SUBMITTED BY:

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval of the request from MTA to provide free parking in the 7th and Center Park and Ride and the 8th and Mulberry Garage for shuttle service during the 2000 Iowa State Fair.

BACKGROUND -

The MTA has submitted a request to the City to use two downtown parking garages for additional parking for the 2000 Iowa State Fair, with the MTA providing shuttle bus service to and from the Fairgrounds. During high attendance days, particularly on the weekends and in the evenings, the demand for parking at and near the Fairgrounds exceeds the supply. To help augment State Fair parking and reduce congestion on the street system, the MTA has operated a shuttle bus service from the State Capitol complex to the State Fair for many years. Even with this shuttle service, during high traffic

periods, there is significant congestion and shortage of parking around the Fairgrounds.

Because of the popularity of the State Capitol shuttle, the MTA has outgrown its current shuttle site and needs to locate additional parking and, in particular, downtown parking. Staff has met with the MTA and developed a parking plan that should significantly enhance the shuttle service to the State Fair, with almost no impact on current users of the parking system. The primary garage for the downtown shuttle would be the 7th and Center Park and Ride, with overflow parking, if needed, directed to the 8th and Mulberry Garage. These two garages are used almost exclusively for daytime parking during the week, so they are readily available for additional parking in the evenings and weekends.

The MTA has advised that the success of the shuttle service is very dependent on free parking, with a nominal fee to ride the shuttle to offset the cost of running the bus service. The City would incur some additional cost for staffing these two garages, but the MTA, under contract with the State Fair to provide the shuttle service, has agreed to reimburse the City for this cost. The MTA would advertise the shuttle parking locations, and the City would provide additional guidance to the parking using the new changeable message sign trailers.