

CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:

03-363

**AGENDA:**

JULY 28, 2003

**SUBJECT:**

STATE FAIR SHUTTLE  
PARKING

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

JEB E. BREWER, P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

**ITEM 51**

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

**SYNOPSIS —**

The MTA has requested free parking on two Friday evenings in the 7th and Center Park and Ride for an expanded shuttle service to the 2003 Iowa State Fair. A similar request was approved for the past two years, with no problems and no negative impacts to users of the parking system.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

The MTA is under contract with the State Fair to provide the shuttle service and will reimburse the City for the actual costs of staffing the garage for the event.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approve.**

**BACKGROUND —**

The MTA has submitted a request to the City to use the 7th and Center Park and Ride for additional parking for the 2003 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, there is still significant congestion and shortage of parking around the Fairgrounds during high traffic periods.

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. During the past three years, staff worked with the MTA to develop a parking plan that enhanced 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 is the 7th and Center Park and Ride. This garage is used almost exclusively for daytime parking during the

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week, so is readily available for additional parking in the evenings and weekends. Again this year, the MTA request is limited to the 7th and Center Park and Ride, and would only be used on Friday evenings and the 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 MTA, under contract with the State Fair to provide the shuttle service, has agreed to reimburse the City for the cost of staffing the garage. The MTA will advertise the shuttle parking location, and the City will provide additional guidance to the parking using the changeable message sign trailers.

