

Council Communication

Office of the City Manager



Date

February 20, 2006

Agenda Item No. 43
Roll Call No. 06-
Communication No. 06-108

Department: Aviation

AGENDA HEADING:

Amending sections 22-306, 22-308 and 22-310 of the Municipal City Code pertaining to motor vehicle operations on the Des Moines International Airport upon recommendation from the Des Moines International Airport Board with a request to waive readings.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval to amend Sections 22-306, 22-308, and 22-310 of the Municipal Code pertaining to motor vehicle operation on the Des Moines International Airport and waive additional readings.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Airport Regulation currently sets the cost of a vehicle permit at \$10.00 each. However, tenants with a lease with the City are exempt from payment of this fee.

Funding Source: Fee for decal charged to recover administrative and printing costs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) administers Federal Regulations that address minimum safety standards that apply to airports serving scheduled passenger air carrier aircraft. The FAA Administrator is responsible to provide guidance and standards to airport operators to meet the requirements of Federal Aviation Regulation 14 CFR Part 139, *Certification of Airports*. 14 CFR Part 139 requires each airport operator to implement and maintain minimum safety standards acceptable to the FAA Administrator to protect the traveling public. The guidance and standards acceptable to the FAA Administrator are contained in Orders, Advisory Circulars, Certification Alerts, and other similarly published federal documents made available to airport operators.

Current FAA standards and guidance require vehicles that operate on open runways and taxiways of an airport to display a rotating beacon. This beacon allows air traffic control tower personnel to readily identify the vehicle's location on open runways and taxiways for which they are responsible to control aircraft, maintenance vehicles and service vehicles. Currently, the Municipal Code, Chapter 22, Article IX, *Motor Vehicles*, Section 22-310 requires vehicles to display "lights visible to air traffic control tower." However, this requirement does not specify that the vehicle display a rotating beacon, acceptable to the Aviation Director, which meets FAA standards.

The proposed change to the Municipal Code would require vehicles operating on open runways and taxiways under control of air traffic personnel to display a rotating beacon acceptable to the Aviation Director. The FAA provides specifications and guidance to airport operators as to the type, color, and illumination necessary to meet FAA standards. These standards will be the standards acceptable to the Aviation Director for vehicles authorized to operate on an open runway or taxiway.

The proposed change to Section 22-308 in the Municipal Code will require persons who operate vehicles on the airfield to remain outside the FAA described "Safety Area" of any open runway and taxiway under control of air traffic control personnel unless the vehicle is cleared to enter into the taxiway or runway safety area. The proposed change would provide the necessary Safety Area setback distance between authorized vehicles operating on the airfield and aircraft operating on runways and taxiways under the control of air traffic personnel. The proposed change would require authorized vehicles to operate outside Safety Areas in compliance with 14 CFR Part 139, *Certification of Airports*.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) administers Federal Regulations that address minimum security standards that apply to airports serving scheduled and unscheduled passenger air carrier aircraft under the regulatory requirements of 49 CFR Part 1542, *Airport Security*. The TSA requires that access to certain areas of the Airport be controlled to ensure the security of the traveling public. To meet these requirements, vehicles authorized to operate within the secure areas of the airport must display a vehicle permit issued by the Aviation Director to identify the vehicle as being authorized within these areas.

The proposed change to the Municipal Code Section 22-306 will require each person authorized by the Aviation Director to operate a vehicle within an aircraft operating area to obtain a vehicle permit that will identify the vehicle as authorized to operate within this secure area. Additionally, vehicles that operate on the Des Moines International Airport are required by the Municipal Code to be properly licensed under the requirements of the State of Iowa. Owners of vehicles licensed in the State of Iowa must maintain a minimum amount of accident liability insurance. The proposed amendment to the Municipal City Code Section 22-306 will require persons who operate a vehicle within an aircraft operating area to provide the Aviation Director with evidence of accident liability insurance in the amounts and coverage required by the State of Iowa.

The proposed changes will bring the Municipal Code into compliance with current FAA standards, provide a means to further ensure the safety and security of the traveling public, and reduce the airport's exposure to liability created by authorized persons who operate vehicles within aircraft operating areas.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: N/A

Roll Call Number:

Action:

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Date: February 7, 2006

Board Resolution Number: A06-21

Action: The Airport Board of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, recommended that the City Council amend Sections 22-306, 22-308, and 22-310 of the Municipal Code pertaining to motor vehicle operation on the Des Moines International Airport and requested the Airport Board be granted a waiver of readings.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

None anticipated at this time.