



**Council  
Communication**  
Office of the City Manager

Date

April 24, 2006

Agenda Item No. 44  
Roll Call No. 06-  
Communication No. 06-216  
Submitted by: **Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.**  
City Engineer

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Recommending approval of the following traffic regulation changes:

- A. Designating a Handicapped Parking Space—South Side of Ingersoll Avenue East of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- B. Parking Restriction in Conjunction with the I-235 Widening Project—West Side of 19<sup>th</sup> Street from Day Street to a Point 200 feet North Thereof.
- C. Providing for Special Parking Permit for Certain Handicapped Parking at Parking Meters in the Central Business District.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval of first reading of the Ordinance regarding three traffic regulation changes.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: Minor costs.

Funding Source: 2006-2007 Operating Budget, Page 84, Engineering Department Traffic & Transportation – Sign Installation and Maintenance, ENG100413.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- A. The Traffic and Transportation Division received a request from the office staff of Medically Yours at 2212 Ingersoll Avenue for a designated handicap parking space in front of the business. This business has many elderly customers who have difficulty getting into and out of the store from the off-street parking lot located to the side of the building. Staff has reviewed this location, and concurs with the request. The following ordinance change will designate a handicap parking space on the south side of Ingersoll directly in front of the store for the convenience of their handicap customers.

Sec. 114-3343. Ingersoll Avenue—Martin Luther King Jr Parkway to Twenty-eighth Street.

Ingersoll Avenue, on the south side, from a point 145 feet east of Twenty-third Street to a point 30 feet east thereof, is designated a handicapped parking space and is subject to the same prohibition as is found in section 114-616(a) of this code.

- B. In conjunction with the I-235 widening project, the following parking restriction is necessary to allow for a smoother transition for traffic on 19th Street north of the Freeway.

Sec. 114-2789. Nineteenth Street—Woodland Avenue to University Avenue.

Nineteenth Street, on the west side, from Day Street to a point 200 feet north thereof, no parking any time.

- C. In early 2006, Ms. Jalayne Noonan contacted the Mayor's office with questions on handicapped parking in the Central Business District. The Mayor's office referred this inquiry to Traffic and Transportation for response. The nature of this specific request involves a person(s) with extremely limited finger dexterity who can operate a vehicle with hand controls but cannot handle coins to insert into a parking meter. Traffic and Transportation has worked in the past to provide accessible parking where it is needed. In addition, we have replaced the handicapped mechanical parking meters to eliminate the handle that had to be turned, placed handicapped parking meters at intersections or adjacent to curb ramps to allow ease of sidewalk access and consistently monitor the number and usage of handicapped designated parking spaces on-street and in City parking facilities. However, we do not have any provisions that addressed this specific disability of not being able to insert coins into the parking meter.

Ms. Noonan presented her concerns at a meeting of the Access Advisory Board in January, and we have worked with the Board to try to find a reasonable accommodation. Both staff and the Board concur that it is not the issue of paying for a parking space that should be addressed, but the manner in which payment is made. We have developed a recommendation that would include an amendment to the City Code section that establishes the standards for special parking permits, to provide a permit for a person who has both a handicap parking sticker and a physician's statement documenting the degree of dexterity disability that would make inserting coins very difficult. The person would pay the standard \$25.00 fee for the permit for a month, and the fee for the meter would be waived so the person would not have to insert any coins in the meter. The person could use the permit at any available parking meter, including any available handicap meter.

At their March meeting, the Access Advisory Board endorsed the recommended change to allow issuance of a special parking permit, and indicated that they believe the number of people qualifying for this or needing this type of permit will be very small. The following ordinance changes are needed to implement this procedure for handicapped individuals with very restricted dexterity.

Sec. 114-361.21. Standards for issuance of special parking permits.

- (15) Persons who possess a permanent State of Iowa handicap placard or State of Iowa handicapped license plates, and a physician's certificate that substantiates a significant degree of disability related to coin handling dexterity.

Sec. 114-361.19. Special parking permit issuance.

- (f) The city traffic engineer may either collect a fee of \$25.00 per vehicle for a period of 30 days or less in advance or direct the applicant to consider the permit as an invoice with payment due immediately upon receipt by mail or facsimile. At such time as parking meter spaces are hooded or removed for special permit purposes the permit holder shall also be responsible for a daily rate of the metered use. If parking meters are hooded specifically for a special event after 6:00 p.m. and until 8:00 a.m. the following day, or on meter holidays and weekends, the only charges shall be the \$25.00 permit fee and \$1.00 for each meter hooded. The charges for the fee and the hooding of parking meters for a non-recurring special event, after 6:00 p.m. and until 8:00 a.m. the following day, or on meter holidays and weekends, may be waived at the discretion of the city traffic engineer or his or her designated representative.

The daily meter rate charged for hooding parking meters shall be calculated using the specific parking meter district location of the meter(s) to be hooded and the daily meter rates designated in section 114-643 of this code. In all instances the daily meter fee shall be calculated based upon a ten-hour day. The daily meter fee shall be an additional fee only during normal hours of parking meter operations.

Vehicles owned or operated by governmental agencies, shall be exempt from the permit fee requirements. Vehicles and equipment working directly under contract to the City of Des Moines shall also be exempt from these permit fee requirements. Subcontractors are not exempt.

For a permit issued for special handicap consideration under Sec. 114-361.21 (15), the fee for the permit shall be as provided above, but any daily meter fee shall be waived.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

Date:

Roll Call Number:

Action:

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): Access Advisory Board**

Date: March

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: Recommendations made by the Traffic and Transportation Division and the Park and Recreation Department were endorsed by the Access Advisory Board.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Second and third readings of Ordinance.