

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-221	Meeting:	June 29, 2026
	Agenda Item:	60	Roll Call:	26-0786
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 114 of the Municipal Code regarding traffic regulation changes to temporarily prohibit parking on certain streets annually during the Iowa State Fair.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the staff recommendation and the ordinance regarding the traffic regulation changes to temporarily prohibit parking on certain streets annually during the Iowa State Fair.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$10,500

Funding Source: 2026-27 Operating Budget, Page 57, Engineering Department T&T – Sign, Painting, Signal and Lighting, EG062080, Road Use Tax Fund

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Each year, on-street parking is prohibited on certain streets during the Iowa State Fair where the width of the street, the added traffic volume, and the volume of parked vehicles would create safety issues. This parking prohibition is carried out through the temporary Police Order for the State Fair which includes other traffic-related items the City provides for the State Fair.
- Traffic and Transportation staff place temporary cardboard no parking signs along each of these streets. The layout and installation of approximately 90 temporary signs takes two (2) members of the Traffic and Transportation field staff 1.5 days to complete. One staff member is assigned to check and reinstall the signage each day of the State Fair. The temporary nature of these signs makes it prone to vandalism and removal. On average 20-25 signs are replaced each day. This effort takes one (1) staff member approximately four (4) hours each day. The signs are removed by City staff the Monday following the last day of the fair.
- The cost of installing temporary signage annually is approximately \$7,500. This includes materials, equipment, and personnel. The one (1)-time cost to install permanent signing is estimated to be \$10,500. If a 10-year life is assumed for permanent signage, the total cost savings (not including inflation) would be approximately \$64,500 over the 10-year period or \$6,450 per year.

- The Iowa State Fair is the only event where City staff install and maintain temporary parking signage during an event. All other events are responsible for purchasing, installing, maintaining, and removing signage for their event.
- The staff responsible for signage installation are the same staff that install pavement markings over the summer months. In order to complete all pavement markings installation during the months of May through September, only one (1) staff member is available for sign maintenance citywide during this time. During the two (2) weeks of the State Fair, this person must perform both State Fair signage maintenance as well as the citywide maintenance. If a staff member is absent or if citywide sign maintenance exceeds what can be completed by that one (1) person, pavement marking operations are put on hold to cover the State Fair maintenance.
- Staff recommend placing permanent signage indicating parking is prohibited during the State Fair on the routes typically posted with temporary signage to provide more reliable and visible signage for visitors, residents, and enforcement; improve safety; and reduce annual staff time. This type of signage has been successful in other states for streets around the state fairgrounds.
- Permanent signage would only be placed on routes currently signed with temporary signage during the fair. Requests to temporarily prohibit parking on additional streets during the fair are reviewed by staff based on street width, crash history during the state fair, and input from the Police Department. The list of streets with temporary no parking restrictions has remained the same for several years. Staff do not anticipate restricting parking on any additional streets.
- The placement of permanent signage for temporary parking restrictions would be reserved for events where City staff is responsible for installing temporary signage, the event is an annual event, the duration of the event is 10 days or more, and the event attendance averages 100,000 or more attendees per day.
- The following changes to the Municipal Code will place the temporary parking restrictions into effect:



Sec. 114-361.22. Parking prohibited during the Iowa State Fair.

- (a) No person shall park a motor vehicle beginning on the first Thursday of the Iowa State Fair through the last Sunday of the Iowa State Fair held in August on the following streets:
- (1) East Twenty-sixth Street, on the west side, from Dean Avenue to East University Avenue.
 - (2) East Twenty-eighth Street, on the west side, from Dean Avenue to the dead end south of Dean Avenue.
 - (3) East Twenty-ninth Street, on the west side, from Dean Avenue to East University Avenue.
 - (4) East Thirty-first Street, on the east side, from Dean Avenue to the dead end south of Carr Street.

- (5) East Thirty-second Street, on the west side, from Dean Avenue to East Court Avenue.
- (6) East Thirty-third Street, on the east side, from State Avenue to Dubuque Avenue.
- (7) East Thirty-fourth Street, on west side, from Dean Avenue to East Court Avenue.
- (8) Southeast Thirty-fourth Street, on the west side, From East Court Avenue to Laurel Hill Road.
- (9) East Thirty-fifth Street, on the west side, from Sims Drive to Garfield Avenue.
- (10) Sims Drive, on the north side, from East Thirty-third Court to East Thirty-fifth Street.
- (11) East Grand Avenue, on both sides, from East Twenty-eighth Street to East Thirtieth Street.
- (12) East Walnut Street, on both sides, from East Twenty-ninth Street to 220 feet east of East Thirtieth Street.
- (13) East Court Avenue, on the north side, from Southeast Thirty-fourth Street to the entrance of Laurel Hill Cemetery.
- (14) State Avenue, on the north side, from East Thirtieth Street to East Thirty-third Street.
- (15) Dean Avenue, on the north side, from East Twenty-eighth Street to East Twenty-ninth Court.

(b) A person who violates any provision of this section shall pay a fine of \$25.00.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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