



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: March 2, 2004
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral to: None

Subject: Establish Critical Parking Area #25 (Laurel/Hawthorne Area)

Recommendation:

1. Establish Critical Area #25; (Option A: 1 Hour Parking 8AM to 6PM M-F)
 - Northside Laurel Avenue from North 15th Street to North 16th Street
 - Southside Laurel Avenue from Hennepin Avenue to North 16th Street
 - Westside North 15th Street from Laurel to Hawthorne
 - Southside Hawthorne from North 15th Street to North 16th Street
2. Establish 2-Hour Parking Zone (8AM to 6 PM M-F)
 - Eastside North 15th Street from Laurel to Hawthorne
3. Increase meter rates from 50 cents to \$1.00 per hour (9-6 M-F) at the following locations:
 - Northside Laurel from North 15th Street to Hennepin Avenue
 - Eastside North 13th Street from Hawthorne to Hennepin Avenue
 - Westside North 13th Street from Hawthorne to Hennepin Avenue
4. Complete all work proposed in April 2004

Previous Directives:

- "To the Record" letter signed by CM Johnson Lee (Exhibit C)
- T & PW December 19, 2003

Prepared by: Donald Pflaum, Transportation Engineer, 673-2129

Approved by:

Klara A. Fabry, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Jon Wertjes, P.E., Assistant Director, Traffic and Parking Services

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information:

Minneapolis Public Works received a request from Mr. Bob Heimer (manager 1501 Laurel) in late 2002 to evaluate a traffic problem near his building. At that time Minneapolis Community Technical College (MCTC) students were competing for free on-street parking spaces along 15th Street North (between Laurel Avenue North and Hawthorne Avenue North) and along Hawthorne Avenue North (between 13th Street North and 16th Street North). Competition for these spaces consistently resulted in local congestion and traffic circulation problems in addition to students parking in Mr. Heimer's private parking lot without his permission.

In an effort to improve traffic flow and to resolve Mr. Heimer's problem, several meetings were held in early 2003 between MCTC, Public Works, and Mr. Heimer. It was concluded that \$1.00 per hour (8AM-6PM M-F) meters along both sides of 15th Street North (between Laurel Avenue North and Hawthorne Avenue North) and along the south side of Hawthorne Avenue North (between 13th Street North and 16th Street North) would encourage full-time students to park in the nearby MCTC ramp, which cost \$3.00 per day to park. It was concluded that students with short-term parking needs would still park at the proposed new meters generating revenue for the city and residents of 1501 Laurel and 1502 Laurel would still maintain free parking during weekends and evenings. At the conclusion of these discussions Mr. Bob Heimer, Mr. Phil Davis (President - MCTC), and Public Works favored this solution. Mr. Jim Nordlie (owner of 1502 Laurel) expressed his interest in pursuing critical parking instead of meters. Public Works recommended to Council Member Johnson Lee the installation of the meters as proposed per the "To the Record" letter, which she signed on August 7, 2003 (Exhibit C). Meters were installed September in 2003; shortly after classes resumed at MCTC.

Shortly after installing the meters as originally proposed, residents of 1502 Laurel began to express disapproval and the meters were soon hooded until additional meetings could be held between all involved parties. On a meeting held October 9, 2003 between representatives of 1501 Laurel, 1502 Laurel, CM Johnson Lee's Office, and Public Works the following agreement was reached:

- 1) A new critical parking area (8 AM – 6PM 1 Hr M-F) would be established to serve residents needs. Meters would be removed on the south side of Hawthorne Avenue (between 15th Street North and 16th Street North), on the west side of 15th Street North (between Laurel Avenue North and Hawthorne Avenue North), and on the south side of Laurel Avenue (between 16th Street North and Hennepin Avenue) to create this new critical parking area. In addition, the vacant stalls created by the removal of a dumpster on the north side of Laurel Avenue North (between 16th Street North and 15th Street North) would be added to the critical parking area. Residents were educated about the City of Minneapolis process for establishing a new critical parking area. Residents were told that they needed to circulate petitions and receive 75% of the resident's signatures before the next step.
- 2) A 2-hour signed parking zone (8AM-6PM M-F) along the east side of 15th Street North (between Laurel Avenue North and Hawthorne Avenue North).
- 3) Keeping the newly installed meters along the south side of Hawthorne Avenue North (between 15th Street North and 13th Street North). These meters would cost \$1.00 per hour (8 AM-6 PM M-F).
- 4) Increase parking meter rates (from 50 cents per hour to \$1.00 per hour) along the north side of Laurel Avenue North (between 15th Street North and Hennepin Avenue) and along both sides of 13th Street North (between Hennepin Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue). These parking meter rate increases are needed to compensate for lost meters and to help reimburse Public Works for the capital expenses.

A later meeting with Laurel Village representatives confirmed that the proposed 2-hour parking zone on the east side of 15th Street North (between Laurel Avenue North and Hawthorne Avenue North) was acceptable. In addition, Laurel Village accepted the idea of keeping the \$1.00 per hour meters on the south side of Hawthorne Avenue North (between 13th Street North and 15th Street North). They also accepted the proposed meter rate increase (from 50 cents per hour to \$1.00 per hour) for both sides of 13th Street North between Hennepin Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue.

Public Works was informed by the City Clerk's office in a letter dated December 19, 2004 that over 75% of the residents signed the needed critical parking petition and that the petition was verified. This letter directed Public Works to study the proposed area and prepare a recommendation to the T and PW Committee.

It is recommended that these proposed changes occur in April 2004. The MCTC ramp expansion project will result in the closure of the south side of Laurel Avenue North (between May 15 and June 16, 2004). Meters on the south side of Hawthorne Avenue North (between 15th Avenue North and 13th Avenue North) will be hooded at the project's expense during this period to replace the displaced critical parking stalls.

Attachments:

Exhibit A – Proposed Critical Parking Area Map

Exhibit B – Proposed Fee Map

Exhibit C – “To the Record” Letter

CC: Council Member Natalie Johnson Lee – 5th Ward

Bob Heimer – 1501 Laurel Avenue North

Jim Nordlie – 1502 Laurel Avenue North

Phil Davis – Minneapolis Community Technical College

Mike Sachi – Minneapolis Public Works

Tim Drew – Minneapolis Public Works

Jim Steffel – Minneapolis Public Works

Doug Maday – Minneapolis Public Works