



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

Date: October 11, 2011
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Subject: **Snow Emergency and Traffic Enforcement Related Ordinance Changes**

Recommendation:
Set Public Hearing for October 25, 2011

Previous Directives:

October 7, 2011 – Referral of subject matter of ordinance amendments to Title 18, Chapter 478 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Traffic Code: Parking, Stopping and Standing (modifying or deleting outdated language pertaining to snow emergency and residential street emergency parking restrictions, to create additional provisions for continuous winter parking restrictions, and to clarify definitions) and Title 18, Chapter 468 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Traffic Code: Violation Procedure (allowing foremen of the city engineer's office to issue tags for vehicles parked in violation of traffic code restrictions during officially authorized street maintenance activities).

Prepared by: Michael D. Kennedy, P.E., Director, Transportation Maintenance and Repair

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Michael D. Kennedy, P.E., Director, Transportation Maintenance and Repair

Reviews Not Applicable

Financial Impact

No Financial Impact

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification:
City Goals: A City that Works
Comprehensive Plan:
Zoning Code:

Background/Supporting Information:

Public Works is recommending ordinance amendments relating to snow emergencies and winter parking restrictions, as well as regarding who has the authority to issue citations for violation of traffic code restrictions during officially authorized street maintenance activities:

Snow Emergency and Winter Parking Restrictions: Ordinance changes to allow for the implementation of winter parking restrictions without the current limitation that they be immediately following a declared snow emergency, plus deletion of obsolete language and general clean-up simplification of other language.

Issuing Citations for Violation of Traffic Code Restrictions: Ordinance changes to allow for an expansion of the definition of employees (Foremen) in the Public Works Department who can write citations for violation of temporary parking restrictions during street maintenance activities. This will improve efficiency in the field during critical on-street maintenance activities.

468.50 Tags for parked vehicles.

Whenever any motor vehicle without an operator is found parked in violation of any of the parking restrictions of the traffic code, the police officer or any other person duly authorized by ordinance finding it shall take its registration number and any other information displayed on the vehicle which may identify its user, and affix conspicuously to such vehicle a written notice for the operator to appear before the traffic violations bureau of the district court at a time and place fixed in said notice. During periods of duly declared snow emergencies or other officially authorized street maintenance activities, all personnel of the city authorized to issue tags for any purpose, and paving foremen of the public works ~~engineer's~~ office, shall be authorized to issue the written notices herein provided for. (Code 1960, As Amend., § 425.040; 90-Or-127, § 3, 5-11-90)

~~478.1010 Impounding violations~~ Winter parking restrictions

(a) In any winter season the public works director may impose a continuous winter parking restriction on non-snow emergency routes. Upon the declaration of a winter parking restriction, no person shall stop, stand, park or leave any vehicle or permit it to stand upon the restricted side of any non-snow emergency route. This paragraph shall not apply to the Minneapolis parkway system.

When imposed under this subdivision, the public works director shall designate one side of all non-snow emergency route streets as restricted. The public works director shall provide notice of the imposition and removal of any winter parking restriction, together with all relevant details. Notice of winter parking restrictions shall be accomplished through the press, radio or television and shall request the news media to cooperate with the city in conveying notice to the public and, when given, such notice shall constitute due and proper notice.

(b) Once imposed under subdivision (a), a winter parking restriction shall remain continuously in effect beginning on the date it becomes effective and for the remaining portion of the winter season, or until the restriction is officially removed. Winter parking restrictions imposed under subdivision (a) shall be temporarily suspended during a declared snow emergency to coincide with section 478.1000 of this Code as follows: commencing at 4:00 p.m. on the first day of the snow emergency, winter parking restrictions will be suspended; at 8:00 a.m. on the third morning following the declaration of the snow emergency, winter parking restrictions will resume. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed so as to prevent the public works director from imposing a short-term, or temporary winter parking restriction.

~~478.1010~~ 478.1020 Impounding violations

If any vehicle is parked, abandoned or left standing in violation of the terms of this article, the same may be impounded in accordance with the terms of the motor vehicle impounding ordinances of the city, at the cost and expense of the owner thereof.

~~478.1020~~ 478.1030 Winter parking in special districts

(a) From time to time the city council may establish, add to, modify or cancel special parking districts. The city engineer shall at all times maintain in his office a complete listing of all such districts, and said listing is hereby incorporated into this Code the same as if fully set forth herein.

(b) A special parking district may be established by the council only after a public hearing and a finding of fact by a committee of the council that there is a need for said special parking district within the area covered. Application for designation of an area as a special parking district shall, if possible, be accompanied by a plan to improve parking in said district.

(c) Those areas designated as special parking districts pursuant to subsection (b) above shall be posted with signs by the city engineer. The signs shall advise that parking is permitted, except during a snow emergency.

(d) Parking shall be prohibited in such special parking districts on that side of the street with even-numbered addresses for a period of twelve (12) hours beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the day following the declaration of a snow emergency or until the street has been fully plowed and shall be prohibited in such special parking districts on that side of the street with odd-numbered addresses for a period of twelve (12) hours beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the second day following the declaration of a snow emergency or until the street has been fully plowed.

Residential street emergency parking restrictions

~~Whenever in the opinion of the mayor and president of the city council heavy snowfalls or other natural phenomena have constricted streets causing general access and particularly emergency vehicle access to be so impaired as to create a street access emergency, they may declare a street access emergency which shall have the following effect: Parking is prohibited twenty-four (24) hours, seven (7) days per week, on the side of all streets with addresses ending in an even number, except in the downtown central business district, commercial areas and such other areas of the city where parking meters have been installed and as designated by the city engineer, until rescinded by further notice. All other parking regulations and restrictions remain in effect.~~

~~These emergency parking restrictions do not apply to the Minneapolis parkway system. At the discretion of the mayor and council president, the parking restriction may be changed to the side of all streets with addresses ending in an odd number.~~