

Meeting Agendas/Info

CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:

ITEM _____

01-387

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

AGENDA:

JULY 23, 2001

SUBJECT:

STATE FAIR
SHUTTLE PARKING

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

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CITY ENGINEER

SYNOPSIS -

The Metro Transit Authority (MTA) has requested free parking on two Friday evenings in the 7th and Center Park and Ride for an expanded shuttle service to the 2001 Iowa State Fair. A similar request was approved last year, with no problems and no negative impacts to users of the parking system.

FISCAL IMPACT -

None. The Park and Ride does not generate any significant Friday evening parking revenue that would be lost, and the MTA, under contract with the State Fair to provide the shuttle service, will reimburse the City for the actual cost of staffing the garage for the event.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

The MTA has submitted a request to the City to use the 7th and Center Park and Ride for additional parking for the 2001 Iowa State Fair, with the MTA providing shuttle bus service to and from the Fairgrounds. During high attendance days, particularly on the weekends, and in the evenings, the demand for parking at and near the Fairgrounds exceeds the supply. To help augment State Fair parking and reduce congestion on the street system, the MTA has operated a shuttle bus service from the State Capitol complex to the State Fair for many years. Even with this shuttle service, during high traffic periods there is still significant congestion and shortage of parking around the Fairgrounds.

Because of the popularity of the State Capitol shuttle, the MTA has

outgrown its current shuttle site and needs to locate additional parking, and in particular, downtown parking. Last year, staff met with the MTA and developed a parking plan that enhanced the shuttle service to the State Fair, with almost no impact on current users of the parking system. The primary garage for the downtown shuttle was the 7th and Center Park and Ride, with overflow parking, if needed, directed to the 8th and Mulberry Garage. These two garages are used almost exclusively for daytime parking during the week, so are readily available for additional parking in the evenings and weekends. This year, the MTA request is limited to the 7th and Center Park and Ride, and would only be used on Friday evenings and the weekends.

The MTA has advised that the success of the shuttle service is very dependent on free parking, with a nominal fee to ride the shuttle to offset the cost of running the bus service. The City would incur some additional cost for staffing the garage, but the MTA, under contract with the State Fair to provide the shuttle service, has agreed to reimburse the City for this cost. The MTA would advertise the shuttle parking location, and the City would provide additional guidance to the parking using the new changeable message sign trailers.
