

Duluth Parking Commission
Forty-Sixth Meeting
7:30 a.m. Friday, August 5, 2016
City Council Chambers, Duluth City Hall

Members Present

- Andy Goldfine
- Andy McDonald, President
- Chad Smith
- Jessica Sterle
- Matthew Kennedy, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Howie Hanson, Vice President
- Steve LaFlamme
- Karin Swor

Guests Present

- Mark Bauer, Parking Operations Specialist – City of Duluth
- John Clark, Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- James Gittemeier, Principal Planner – Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Update on Michigan Street temporary bicycle lane

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Principal Planner James Gittemeier provided an update on a proposed temporary protected bicycle lane on Michigan Street. He stated that approximately one year prior, the Duluth City Council had authorized a feasibility study for the lane, which initially was envisioned to take place in September 2016. Mr. Gittemeier stated that the project would be postponed until tentatively May 2017 due to a utility project in the area that would interfere with the proposed September timeframe. He stated that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota had provided a \$20,000 grant for the study and that the Metropolitan Interstate Council had requested a delay in the grant until the proposed revised study timeline. Mr. Gittemeier added that adjusted timeline could provide an opportunity to extend the study zone west to about 6th Avenue West, stating that the September 2016 study only would have extended to 3rd Avenue West due to other utility work in the area. City of Duluth Parking Operations Specialist Mark Bauer noted that another challenge facing the study was the lack of mitigation for the existing loading zones on Michigan Street that currently serve the area businesses.

Discussion regarding bicycle parking at the 410 West 1st Street Ramp

City of Duluth Parking Manager Matthew Kennedy introduced the topic of providing bicycle parking in the 410 West 1st Street Ramp. Mr. Bauer and Mr. Kennedy described a potential bicycle rack area that they had conceived of near the ramp's 1st Street entrance/exit plaza, which would be accessible from 1st Street via a pedestrian walkway. Mr. Bauer noted that there is an existing access-controlled bicycle storage room on the 3rd level of the parking ramp near the proposed rack location and that Mr. Kennedy and he envisioned a potential future painted walkway that would form a short pedestrian connection between the proposed rack and the storage room. Mr. Bauer showed photographs of these interior facility locations and described the contemplated layout of the proposed pedestrian walkways. Commissioner Andy Goldfine suggested that a sign be added to the proposed bicycle rack area to state that security cameras are in place. He also suggested that the other City of Duluth public parking ramps be examined for enhanced bicycle parking opportunities.

Off-street parking update

Interstate Parking Company Duluth Operations Manager John Clark provided an update on off-street parking operations. He stated that the cleanup from the July 21 storm, which caused substantial wind damage throughout Duluth, had gone smoothly and that the City of Duluth workers who assisted were to be praised for their work. He stated that logistics were in place for the upcoming Tall Ships event. Mr. Clark said that he and Mr. Bauer would be participating in on-air radio segments on KQDS, during which they would provide public parking information related to the event. He added that the number of parkers for the 2016 Grandma's Marathon exceeded the corresponding total for 2015.

On-street parking update

Mr. Bauer stated that the Canal Park parking fee enforcement season was proceeding smoothly and that the number of complaints continued to be low. He stated that a potential vendor for the anticipated citywide on-street pay-by-phone system had been identified and that a draft of a service contract was under review. Mr. Bauer stated that preparations for the upcoming residential parking zone enforcement season were complete and that the parking division soon would start receiving applications and distributing permits. He stated that a study was planned to begin relatively soon to survey the East High School residential permit parking zone to determine whether any updates to the zone perimeter would be of benefit. Commissioner Chad Smith inquired what entity enforced residential zone parking. Mr. Bauer replied that the parking division bore primary responsibility for enforcement. Mr. Kennedy added that warning tickets are issued at the start of the annual enforcement season and that the majority of the permit zone tickets issued throughout the season are initiated not by complaints but rather by proactive patrols.

Downtown Parking Advisory Committee update

Mr. Kennedy provided an update from the most recent meeting of the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee. He stated that the topic of offering a revenue-neutral, first-hour-free rate structure at the 410 West 1st Street Ramp, Technology Village Ramp, HART District Ramp, and Medical District Ramp was discussed both with DPAC and with the City of Duluth administration, both of whom expressed general support for the concept. He reported that the primary intent of the possible rate restructure was to offset some of the public's concerns about coming downtown during the upcoming reconstruction of Superior Street. Commission President Andy McDonald and Commissioner Goldfine requested further information regarding alternate but similar types of pricing structures and suggested that the Greater Downtown Council be asked whether they would be willing to cover the cost of lost revenue should a structure be employed that results in losses.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer, CPP
Parking Operations Specialist

Matthew Kennedy, CAPP, CPP
Parking Commission Secretary