



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

Date: June 24, 2008

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: Issue RFP to solicit proposals for new on-street parking meter technologies

Recommendation:

The City Council directs Public Works staff to issue a RFP to solicit proposals from qualified companies to furnish and potentially install on-street parking equipment (meters).

Previous Directives:

None

Prepared by: Tim Drew, Traffic Engineer, 673-2152

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P. E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Tim Drew

Reviews

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Permanent Review Committee (PRC): | Approval Yes | Date 5/08/08 |
| Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan: | Approval | Date |
| Policy Review Group (PRG): | Approval | Date |

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
- Business Plan: Action is within the plan. Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain): The implementation of new parking meter technologies offers many opportunities for increasing net revenues through variable rate options, multiple payment capabilities, improved enforcement capabilities, and reduced collection efforts.
- Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact:

Neighborhood Notification: N/A

City Goals: To ensure a Healthy, vital and safe city.

Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

The Public Works Department is requesting council approval to issue a RFP to solicit proposals from qualified companies to furnish and potentially install on-street parking equipment (meters). This project is included in the parking fund workout plan under the parking meter management plan initiative.

The present on-street system includes approximately 6500 single space Duncan Electronic Meters that were purchased in 1992. These meters accept coins and smart cards. This equipment is approaching the end of its useful life. Some of the disadvantages of continuing with the present system include:

- Coin acceptors are malfunctioning at an increasing rate.
- Servicing the meters is becoming difficult because the parts are becoming obsolete.
- The amount of failed meters within the system is exceeding our performance measure of no more than 50 meters being out of service at one time.
- Revenues are being lost due to failed meters and parkers using spaces with time remaining on the meters.
- Rate increases have made coin payment at some meters less than optimal.
- Cost of purchasing smart cards from the existing company is 10 times more than market rates.
- Parkers are asking for an expanded number of payment options and features (i.e. credit card payment, pay by cell phone technology, dollar bill acceptors). Parkers are experiencing these options in other cities
- Collection of coins requires increasing amounts of staff hours as parking rates increase. Alternate payment methods reduce staff collection time.
- Enforcement methods could be improved through utilization of modern equipment
- Ability for the City to utilize better revenue reporting to analyze on-street operations
- The present meters are impacting the look of the streetscape.

It is also timely to be considering new meter technology because we will be installing additional metered areas around the new Twins Ballpark and other areas in the near future.

Some of the various new technologies in on-street metering systems may include some of the following features:

- Single Space Meters
 - Electronic
- Multi-Spaced Meters
 - Pay and Display
 - Pay by Space
- In-car or pay by cell phone systems
- Payment Methods
 - Acceptance of low cost multi-processor smart cards provided by the meter company itself and/or by 3rd party vendor.
 - Credit/Debit card acceptance
 - Dollar bill acceptors

- Use of the City's WiFi system to communicate information
- Use of the existing infrastructure (ex... meter housings, poles, signage...)
- Innovative and more expeditious methods of enforcement, collections, and reporting capabilities.

The proposed RFP would require a select number of vendors to install their equipment for a 6 month trial period before a final decision is made. The trial would consist of the vendors installing their parking equipment on selected city blocks and City staff would review their performance.

Based upon the results of this trial, Public Works may decide to proceed with an offer to one or more companies to furnish and potentially install units on a permanent basis throughout the City.

The anticipated selection process includes the following steps:

1. Issue RFP July, 2008
2. Review responses and select vendors for a six month pilot period September, 2008.
3. Evaluate performance of pilot participants March - April 2009
4. Recommend selection(s) and bring forward to City Council for approval. May 2009

cc: Mike Sachi
Jon Wertjes
Pam Selinski