TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 20, 2019
6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Room 2404, Evanston, IL 60201


MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Interim Parking Manager Mike Rivera, Transportation and Mobility Coordinator Jessica Hyink

PRESIDING MEMBER: Ald. Fleming

1. Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum
   Chairman Ald. Fleming declared a quorum at 6:05 P.M.

2. Citizen Comments

Citizen spoke about item 6 on the docket. She talked about how she was against the adopting expanding the district H restrictions. If would impact students that come to her home and nearby hospital workers. If passed she would want the restrictions revisited in a couple of years.

Dan Joseph talked about how if the City is looking to get not charge for parking on Sunday, that the city should also look at providing a free bus on Sundays. He also talked about a time lock at the Central Street Metra station that he believes should remain open till the end of rush hour as opposed to 2pm when it is currently locked.

Citizen spoke about item 5. She stated that 2200 Lincoln is to narrow due to vehicles being able to park on both sides of the street. She liked the previous suggestion that the south side of the street be made a no parking zone.

Citizen stated that she is a resident of 807 Davis and she has observed that sidewalks in the downtown area are not safe after snowfalls. She stated that the city needs to come up with a comprehensive plan to ensure that sidewalks are safe for pedestrians.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2019

   Item 1
Motion to approve amended minutes made by Ald. Wynne and seconded by B.J. Miller. A vote was called and taken. Motion passed unanimously (7-0)

4. 2020 Transportation & Parking Meeting Dates – Action

Slight typo in memo had dates listed at 2019, not 2020 dates. Actual dates were correct however, meeting scheduled for 4th Wednesday every month except November (due to Thanksgiving) and December (No meeting)

   Item 2
   Motion to approve amended minutes made by Ald. Wynne and seconded by T. Dubin. A vote was called and taken. Motion passed unanimously (7-0)

5. Amending Title 10, Chapter 11, Section 18, Schedule XVIII (G) “Residential Exemption Parking District 7 – Action (2200 Lincoln) - Action

Interim Parking Manager Michael Rivera talked about how this issue has been discussed at previous meeting and went over some of the issues including that the street is to narrow, and workers from businesses on Central park on block. He also talked about removing parking from the south side of the street. The main problem with parkers seemed to be people parking in the area and parking all day. So staff recommends including the area in District 7 with only a 7 am to 9 am district

Ald. Revelle stated that the thought was to include in the District instead of limiting parking on the south side to make sure that speeding is controlled by cars being parked on both sides.

   Item 3
   Motion to recommend adoption extending district 7 to include the 2200 block of Lincoln 2nd from Wynne

   Amendment made by BJ Miller - to have the south side of the 2200 block of Lincoln a no parking area 2nd by Alex.

Discussion resumed and Alderman Revelle talked about how removing parking from the south side of the street was part of the initial rejected postcard survey sent out to residents.

B.J. Miller talked about how most of the homes on the block have available off street parking.

   Item 3
Motion to adopt amendment made by B.J. Miller and seconded by A. Añón. A vote was called and taken. Amendment did not pass 2-5 opposed (yea B.J. Miller and A. Añón)

Motion to recommend original motion of extending District 7 to include the 2200 block of Lincoln. A vote was called and taken. Motion passed 6-1 (Nay – B. J. Miller)

6. Amending Title 10, Chapter 11, Section 18, Schedule XVIII (G) “Residents Parking Only Districts (2600-2700 Bryant) - Action

Interim Parking Manager Michael Rivera spoke about the recommendation of extending District H to the 2600 and 700 blocks of Bryant to match the other streets in the area.

Alderman Revelle talked about the potential impact of losing parking on the Central St. bridge after construction in the area is complete.

Mike Rivera stated that no district should ever be considered permanent and all districts should be reevaluated as parking conditions change. He also talked about looking for other long term parking solutions, and that he is looking into converting Lot 64 (Ryan Field) into a 12 hour parking lot.

Item 4

Motion to approve made by Revelle and seconded by Wynne. A vote was called and taken. Motion passed unanimously (7-0)

7. Parking Near Transit – Action

Interim Parking Manager Michael Rivera talked about how staff has been reviewing transit throughout the City and is looking for a recommendation to approve the addition of paid parking near the South Blvd train stop. Specifically, staff recommends adding approximately 20 paid parking spaces along the 500 block of Chicago Avenue, 16 paid parking spaces along the 500 block of South Boulevard, and approximately 12 spaces on the 900 block of Custer. The spaces at Chicago and South will allow for 2-4 hour parking between 8:00 am - 9:00 pm Mon-Sat and 8 hours on Sunday. On Custer, the spaces would be a 12 hour limit from 8:00 am - 9:00 pm Mon-Sat and 8 hours on Sunday. The reduced commuter rate of $0.50 cents per hour would apply, instead of the standard rate of $1.50 per hour.

Mike also talked about the potential of converting Lot 1 (Hinman Ave and South Blvd) to a commuter lot

Alderman Wynne talked about the lack of restrictions on Hinman, Judson, Forest, and Michigan and these streets are only a block away from suggested area. Wants to research these streets, but likes the idea of changing Lot 1 to a commuter lot
Alderman Fleming expressed concerns about how these specific streets were chosen and wants there to be more information and clear criteria when selecting streets to be converted to paid parking.

**Item 5**

Motion to make Lot 1 a 24 hour commuter lot made by Ald Wynne and seconded by Revelle. A vote was called and taken. Motion passed (6-1).

8. ETHS Drop Off Area – Discussion

The initial discussion revolved around the bike lane in the proposed area. The recommendation to gather more information from Engineering and from ETHS and to bring this item back to the committee at a later time.

9. Transportation Updates

Transportation and Mobility Coordinator Jessica Hyink talked about the Safe Routes to School Grant - The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) awarded the City a Safe Routes to School grant to quantify pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular usage to grade and middle schools in Evanston. This data will be used to make recommendations to improve safe routes to schools in Evanston. This project has been prioritized for staff. There is a RFP for study pending.

Alderman Fleming asked if study would include sidewalks

Jessica stated that a plan for sidewalks was submitted but not chosen by IDOT

Jessica then spoke about the Walk Friendly Community Renewal - The City’s Walk Friendly Community designation expires next year. The renewal application is due this coming January. This project has been prioritized for staff.

Jessica then spoke about the NWMC Multimodal Transportation Plan - The Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) is holding a series of workshops to gain input on the plan’s priority bicycle corridors and project findings for improving multimodal connections. Staff attended an open house targeting NWMC member community staff. NWMC originally recommended Main Street in Evanston as a priority bicycle corridor for the region, connecting to a proposed trail along ComEd property from the Channel Trail to Des Plaines. This project was deprioritized due to the City’s interest in neighborhood greenways on side streets rather than a bicycle lane on the Main Street corridor. Regional trail connections to Evanston remain on Howard Street and Church Street/Davis Street.

Evanston has a lot of sidewalks but that doesn't mean that all areas have proper coverage
Alex Añón talked about how the climate action resilience plan is being overlooked

Jessica talked about working with engineering about bicycles (2014 bike plan) has asked engineering to come and present to the committee.

Ben Kaplan asked that the climate action plan be brought to the next meeting (January)

Ald. Fleming stated that the way the City treats sidewalks is not good enough and that the current 50/50 program doesn't make sense.

Jessica talked about how she is working with union pacific to extend lock times at the Central Street Metra Station.

10. Adjournment
A Motion to adjourn was made by Ald. Fleming and 2nd by T. Dubin at 7:35 P.M. A vote was called and then taken. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The next Committee Meeting is January 22, 2019.