


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 10, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 98 : PARKING METERS IN EISENHOWER EAST

This memorandum is provided as follow-up to the March 20, 2006 budget work session on the City's proposed FY 2007 Operating Budget. At that meeting, Council members requested a map of the Eisenhower East parking district, in addition to an explanation of alternatives to traditional parking meters.

Attachment A is a docket item from the June 21, 2005 City Council public hearing meeting, at which Council approved the new Eisenhower East parking district. Included in the discussion is a description of various parking technology alternatives that City staff evaluated for the area. A map of the parking district is also included in the docket item.

Some meters have been purchased and delivered and installation of meters began during the week of April 3, 2006. Meters have been planned to be installed on all streets in the Eisenhower East parking district. However, based on Council's interest in the City looking at other meter technologies, meter installation has been stopped. Over the next month staff will look at other technologies.

In particular another review of electronic pay boxes (sometimes called multi-space meters) will be undertaken. This technology, while common in Europe, is increasingly being used and accepted by the public in the U.S. It has been installed in Georgetown and in one small area of Arlington on a trial basis. In addition, the new "iPark" in-card device (see Attachment B) will be examined for use in the City.

Attachments

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 6, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF THE CREATION OF A NEW PARKING METER ZONE IN EAST EISENHOWER

ISSUE: Establish a new parking meter zone in the East Eisenhower area.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council pass the ordinance on first reading, and set it for public hearing, second reading and first passage on Tuesday, June 21.

BACKGROUND: During the planning of the East Eisenhower area, the City adopted a small sector plan to ensure that the City's vision for the area was realized. One of the fundamental goals of the sector plan was to minimize the overall amount of parking while providing sufficient on-street, short-term parking to support ground floor retail uses. The reason for minimizing the total number of parking spaces was to encourage alternative forms of transportation, such as public transit. However, the plan also realized the importance of, and recommended using, the on street parking spaces for short-term parking to support ground floor retail.

To achieve the desired parking turnover, the metered parking rate must be higher than the rates in the surrounding parking garages. This will discourage long-term parkers from monopolizing the on-street spaces. Staff visited several of the existing parking garages in Eisenhower East and found that all day parking rate ranges between \$6.00 a day for early bird up to a maximum of \$10.00 a day. If metered parking is proposed to be in effect between 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., 10 hours per day, Monday-Friday, the rate is recommended to be at least \$1.00 per hour (equal to 25 cents for each 15 minutes).

The Traffic and Parking Board held a public hearing on this issue at its January 24, 2005, meeting. At that meeting the Carlyle City Residences Homeowners Association spoke in opposition to the request because their residents use the on-street parking spaces as overflow parking. At the Board's request, staff met with representatives of the community and found that while the Carlyle City Residences community opposes metered parking, the Carlyle Towers Board of Directors supports this change. One of the reasons for Carlyle City Residences' opposition is that the East Eisenhower Plan was approved after their community was built. The Carlyle City Residences community has indicated they would support the parking meters if residents were issued permits allowing them to park at the meters for free. Staff cannot support

this exception because there are a number of residential buildings in existence and planned for this area. If residents of one community were allowed to park free at meters, this privilege would have to be extended to all other communities in the area. Allowing all the residents free parking at the meters will defeat the purpose of the meters which is to promote parking turnover. In addition, the Carlyle City Residences community has private off street garage parking. Having the meters in operation only to 6:00 p.m. will not affect residents' current ability to park during the evening since this area already has two-hour parking restrictions in effect only until 6:00 p.m. weekdays.

The issue was returned to the Traffic and Parking Board on February 28, 2005. At this meeting the Board voted unanimously to recommend to City Council that Parking Meter Zone 3 be created in East Eisenhower with a rate of \$1.00 per hour from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., weekdays.

DISCUSSION: The geometric boundaries of the proposed parking meter zone extends from West Street to Telegraph Road in the east/west direction and from Duke Street to the Capital Beltway in the north/south direction. The proposed zone consists of approximately 500 on-street parking spaces on existing streets, as well as additional spaces on roads not yet constructed. The intent of this request is to establish the new parking meter zone but not to determine which streets within the zone will initially have meters. Alexandria City Code, Sec. 5-8-92(c) *Parking meter zones established*, states that the number and locations of parking meters in parking meter zones shall be determined by the City Manager after first being submitted to the Traffic and Parking Board for review and recommendation. After the zone has been established, staff will present a recommendation to the Traffic and Parking Board regarding where to install parking meters initially.

The intent of this request is to establish the new parking meter zone and not determine which streets within the zone initially have meters. Alexandria City Code, Sec 5-8-92 (c) *Parking meter zones established*, states that the number and locations of parking meters in parking meter zones shall be determined by the City Manager after first being submitted to the Traffic and Parking Board for review and recommendation. After the zone has been established, staff will present a recommendation to the Traffic and Parking Board of where to install parking meters.

When the meter block list is finalized, it will be presented to the Traffic and Parking Board. At this time, the following street block faces are being considered for the installation of meters in FY 2006:

1. John Carlyle Drive - 300, 400, 500 and 600 blocks;
2. Dulany Street - 300, 400 and 500 blocks;
3. Elizabeth Lane - 500 and 600 blocks;
4. Englehardt Lane; 300 block;
5. Mill Road - 2100, 2200 and 2300 blocks;
6. Jamieson Avenue - 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800, 1900, 2000 and 2100 blocks;
7. Ballenger Avenue - 1700, 1800 and 1900 block;
8. Emerson Avenue - 1700 block; and
9. West Street - 300 block

Single-space parking meters are being proposed for East Eisenhower. Staff evaluated using multi-space meters where one meter machine (i.e., a pay station) would serve an entire block face. The multi-space option was not chosen because it is less convenient than single space parking meters and would cost nearly double to implement. The inconvenience issue with multi-space meters is that patrons must walk from their car down the block to the meter, pay and be issued a ticket/receipt, and then walk back to their car to place the ticket in the windshield. Also, such a parking system is more difficult for patrons with disabilities to use because it involves walking from the car to the meter machine and back.

Staff is currently evaluating alternative prepaid parking systems for eventual City-wide deployment. Under this concept, patrons could purchase a parking card or an electronic in-vehicle meter and then use this card or in-vehicle meter to pay for parking. Arlington County uses cards in some meters, and is planning later this year to introduce an innovative electronic in-vehicle meter, which is purchased by patrons and then reloaded via the Internet. City staff is presently working with Arlington County, Montgomery County, and Washington, D.C. to see if there is an inter-jurisdictional solution that would allow cards and/or in-vehicle meters to be used interchangeably in all of these four jurisdictions in the region.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no cost associated with the action of creating the parking zone. The cost of implementing the meters will be determined by the number of meters included in the plan to be submitted to the Traffic and Parking Board. The FY 2006 Approved CIP includes \$150,000 in prior year monies and \$250,000 in FY 2006 for installation over the course of FY 2006 of approximately 500 meters on existing streets, and an estimated 300 meters on streets yet to be constructed in the Eisenhower East area. The installation of meters will result in increased maintenance and enforcement efforts, but those costs will be more than recovered from meter revenue.

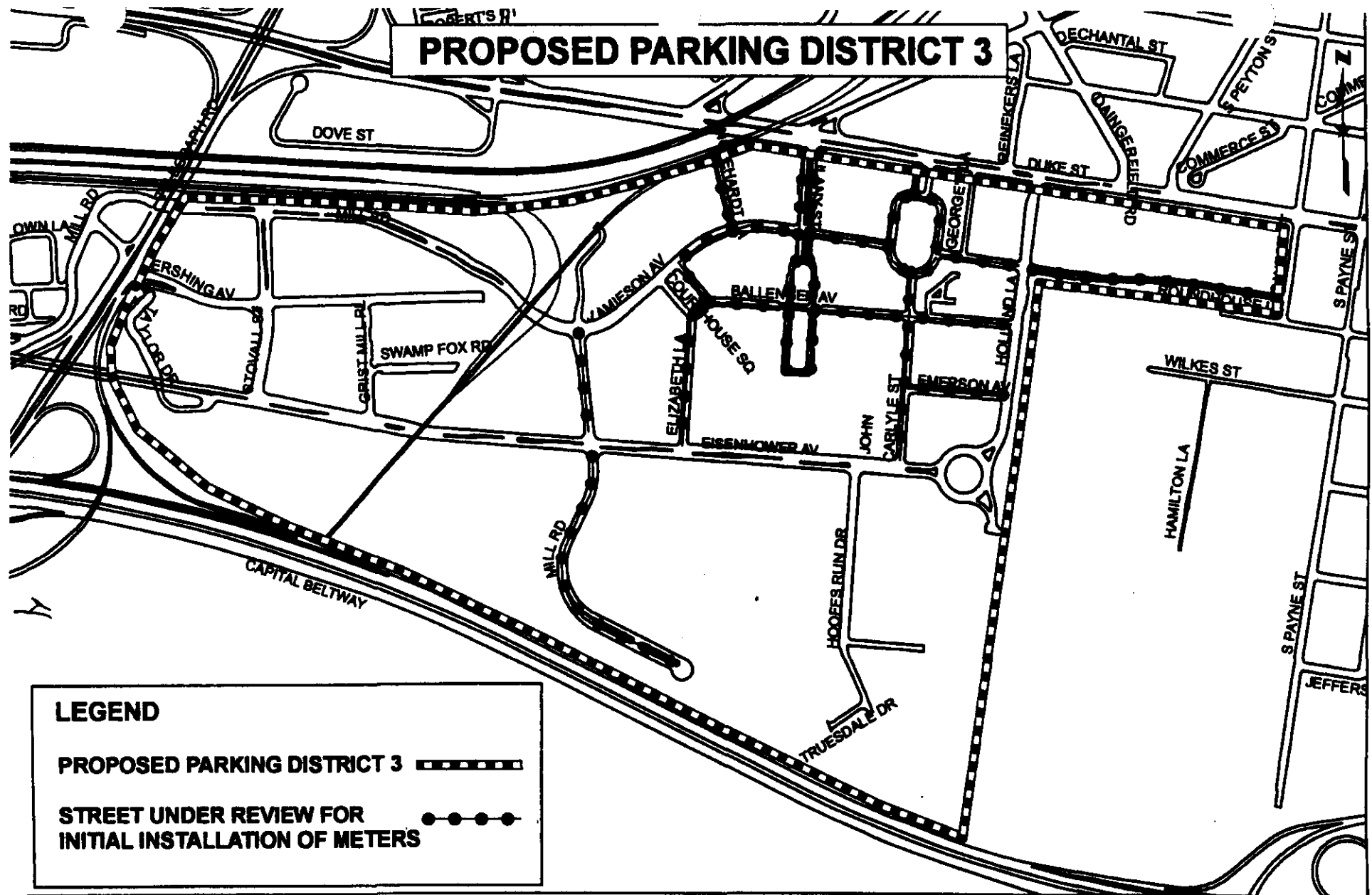
ATTACHMENT: Map Showing the Limits of Proposed Parking Meter Zone 3.

STAFF:

Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

Tom Culpepper, P.E., Deputy Director, T&ES

Bob Garbacz, Transportation Division Chief, T&ES



City of Alexandria
Transportation and Environmental Services

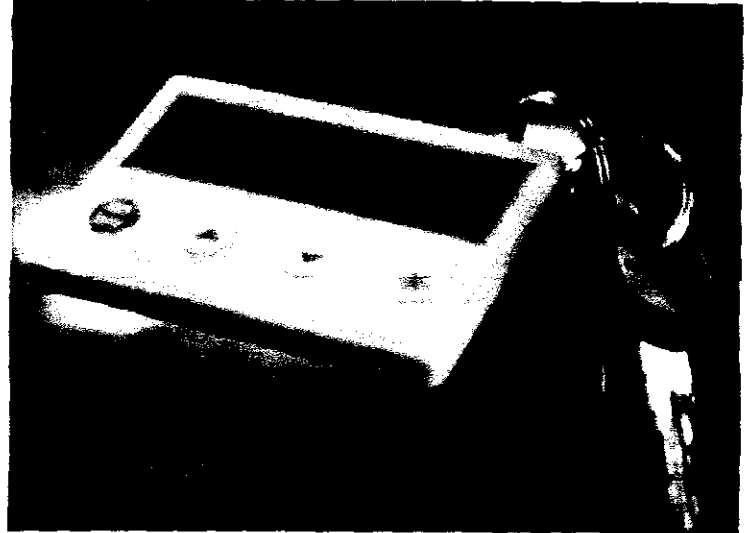
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*iPark*TM

makes parking at meters convenient and accessible

iPark Features:

- Thin credit card size
- Large liquid crystal display
- Can be re-loaded with parking time a total of 98 times.
- Charges only for the parking time used.
- Eliminates coins.
- Reduces the probability of parking tickets.
- Handles up to 36 zones – this opens up the possibility of eventual multi-jurisdictional



usage. (We hope that within the next year Alexandria implements the *iPark* and that other area jurisdictions follow suit.)

FREE

For a limited time, the Treasurer is offering one free *iPark* (a \$20.00 value) with \$25.00 in free parking to anyone with vehicle plates or placards reflecting permanent disability.

For more information or to receive a free *iPark*, call 703-228-3082, email us at treasurer@arlingtonva.us,
or visit the Treasurer's office,

2100 Clarendon Blvd #201, Arlington VA 22201