

Work Session

Agenda Item #	2
Meeting Date	May 4, 2016
Prepared By	Suzanne R. Ludlow City Manager

Discussion Item	Discussion of Eliminating the Area B Parking Permit Program
Background	<p>The Area B permit system was established by Ordinance 1985-68 to allow 25 residents from less transit-accessible neighborhoods to park near the Takoma Metro station. Residents eligible for the permits originally had to live at least .75 miles from the Takoma Metro station and more than five blocks from any public bus route that terminates at the Takoma Metro station. Parking was reserved by Area B permit holders on the southwest side of Takoma Avenue between Baltimore and Buffalo Avenues.</p> <p>When the Ride On Bus Route 16 was extended down New Hampshire Avenue to the Takoma Metro station, no Takoma Park residents met both criteria, so the requirement to reside more than five blocks from a bus route that terminates at the Takoma Metro station was eliminated by Ordinance 2998-24.</p> <p>In 2003, the Metropolitan Branch Trail construction along Takoma Avenue eliminated the designated parking area. Ordinance 2003-38 decreased the number of available permits to nine and assigned the permits to residential streets close to the Metro station, with the limitation that no more than two Area B permit holders be assigned to park on any one block.</p> <p>Currently, seven residents hold Area B parking permits. One is assigned to the 7300 block of Baltimore Avenue; two to the 7400 block of Baltimore, and four are assigned to the 7400 block of Buffalo Avenue. (I am unsure of the change to four permits on this block.) Although the distance from a bus route provision no longer applies, six current permit holders live within two blocks of a bus route and the seventh lives about four blocks from a bus route.</p> <p>There have been complaints about the continued issuing of the Area B parking permits from at least one resident on Baltimore Avenue. As City staff have been looking at the issue, both alone and in conjunction with the ongoing study of parking in Takoma Park, there is a general feeling that the Area B permits are no longer needed and seem to be giving an unusual benefit to a small number of residents.</p> <p>Parking permits expire on June 30. If the Council wishes to discontinue the Area B parking permits, it would be good to give direction soon so that new permits are not made available for the next year.</p>
Policy	A Livable Community For All; An Environmentally Sustainable Community
Fiscal Impact	Minimal
Attachments	Ordinances: 1985-68, 1998-24, and 2003-38

Recommendation	Give direction to staff as to whether or not a resolution discontinuing the Area B permits should be brought forward for consideration by Council.
Special Consideration	

ORDINANCE #1985-68

WHEREAS, certain residents of the City living outside the Metro station area and without reasonable access to public transportation, have petitioned the Mayor and Council for parking space adjacent to Parking Permit Area #1 in North Takoma.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

SECTION 1. THAT parking on the southwest side of Takoma Avenue, between Baltimore Avenue and Buffalo Avenue be reserved for residents of the City living (at least) more than .75 miles from the Takoma Park Metro station (and for whom no public transportation is available) and more than 5 blocks from any public bus route that terminates at the Takoma Park Metro station; AND

SECTION 2. THAT the City Administrator shall create and make accessible to the public in the City offices a map so designating the areas of the City outlined in SECTION 1.; AND

SECTION 3. THAT appropriate signing shall be posted at the area identified above and distinctive identification stickers or placards be provided to persons meeting the requirements of SECTION 1., (on a first-come, first-served basis); AND

SECTION 4. THAT 25 such stickers or placards as provided for in SECTION 3. shall be issued on a first-come, first-served basis to all persons meeting the requirements of SECTION 1., and who present a request in writing, either in person or by U.S. Mail to a designated City employee on or after 9:00 a.m., February 3, 1986; AND

SECTION 5. THAT the Police and Public Works Departments shall coordinate the posting of appropriate signs and the issuance of stickers or placards; AND

SECTION 6. THAT cars without the appropriate stickers or placards using the above parking area between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, legal holidays excepted, shall be subject to the penalty prescribed in Sec. 1-17(a) of the Code of Takoma Park, Md., as amended.

SECTION 7. THAT fees charged for the aforementioned stickers or placards shall be in accordance with Section V., B., 1., of the Permit Parking Guidelines adopted by the Mayor and Council 4/26/76; said fees shall be consistent with those levied for other similar parking permits in the City.

* Underlined type indicates added material

= (Parenthesized type) indicates deleted material

Introduced by: Councilmember Williams

1st Reading: 6/08/98

2nd Reading: 6/22/98

ORDINANCE #1998-24

AMENDING ORDINANCE #1985-68 (ESTABLISHMENT OF "AREA B" PERMIT PARKING AREA) TO MODIFY THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

WHEREAS, in 1985, the City Council adopted Ordinance #1985-68, establishing Area B permit parking--to provide parking and consequently, access to the Takoma Park Metro--for certain residents of the City living outside the Metro station area and lacking reasonable access to public transportation; **AND**

WHEREAS, Area B is defined as the parking spaces along the southwest side of Takoma Avenue, between Baltimore Avenue and Buffalo Avenue; **AND**

WHEREAS, to be eligible, a resident is required to (1) live more than .75 miles from the Takoma Park Metro station and (2) more than 5 blocks from any public bus route that terminates at the Takoma Park Metro station; **AND**

WHEREAS, with the recent extension of Ride-on Bus Route 16, servicing the former Prince George's County side of the City, there are no residents of the City which meet both criteria; **AND**

WHEREAS, the City Council continues to recognize the challenges of utilizing public transportation faced by residents living further from the Metro station and wishes to maintain Area B as permit parking for these residents.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK,
MARYLAND**

SECTION 1: THAT Ordinance #1985-68, as amended, shall be amended to eliminate the requirement that an applicant for an Area B parking permit must reside more than 5 blocks from any public bus route that terminates at the Takoma Park Metro station.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of June, 1998 by roll call vote.

AYE: Porter, Elrich, Rubin, Stewart, Williams

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Chavez, Hawkins

Introduced by: Austin-Lane

First reading: 10-13-03

Second Reading: 10-27-03

ORDINANCE # 2003 – 38

Ordinance to provide a new location for Area B permit parking

WHEREAS, certain residents of the City do not have a reasonable means to access the Takoma Metro station without driving personal automobiles; and

WHEREAS, since 1985 the City annually issued up to 25 of these residents Area B parking permits which allowed them to park along a designated section of Takoma Avenue; and

WHEREAS, said parking area has been removed as a result of the construction of the Metropolitan Branch Trail.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland:

SECTION 1. That Area B parking permits be issued to residents of Takoma Park who live at least .75 miles from the Takoma Metro station; and

SECTION 2. That Area B permit holders be assigned to park on designated blocks on residential streets near the Metro; and

SECTION 3. That no more than two Area B permit holders be assigned to park on any one block;

SECTION 4. That Area B permit holders only be assigned to park on blocks in the North Takoma neighborhood across Piney Branch Road that can absorb the additional parked cars on a daily basis; and

SECTION 5. That no more than nine Area B permits be issued annually.

FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Stewart, Williams, Dawes, Elrich

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Maack