



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – May 18, 2016 Agenda Item 8

Voting Session

First Reading Ordinance Terminating the Area B Parking Permit Program

Recommended Council Action

Approve Ordinance at First Reading to end the Area B parking permit program.

Context With Key Issues

At the Council Work Session of May 4, the City Council heard an overview of the history of the Area B Parking Permit Program and recommended that an ordinance be prepared for consideration to end the program before parking permits are advertised for the next fiscal year.

The Area B parking permit program was created in 1985 (Ordinance 1985-68) when a significant portion of the City did not have bus access to the Takoma Metro station. Spaces were set aside on Takoma Avenue adjacent to the train tracks for persons who lived more than .75 miles from the station and more than five blocks from any public bus route to the station. Once bus service was established for the east side of the City to the Takoma Metro station, the program was modified (Ordinance 1998-24), removing the criteria of being more than five blocks from a bus route.

When the Metropolitan Branch Trail was installed, the designated parking area was removed and a program allowing up to nine permit holders to park on certain residential blocks was put in place (Ordinance 2003-38). In recent years, demand for the permits has been weak and not all nine permits have been issued. Residents on the blocks where parking is permitted are unhappy about the permit program. Given the improvements in bus service, as well as in bicycle and pedestrian accessibility through Takoma Park, the Area B parking program seems no longer needed.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All

Environmental Impact of Action

Ending the permit program reduces the number of people who drive and park near the Takoma Metro station and helps encourage alternative modes of transportation.

Fiscal Impact of Action

This Action would have a minimal fiscal impact.

Attachments and Links

- Draft Ordinance Eliminating the Area B Parking Program.

Introduced by:

First Reading:

Second Reading:

ORDINANCE #2016-XX
Ordinance Eliminating the Area B Permit Parking Program

WHEREAS, the Area B Permit Parking Program was established in 1985 via Ordinance 1985-68 to assist certain residents that did not have reasonable access to the Takoma Metro station by public bus service; and

WHEREAS, the Area B Permit Parking Program criteria were changed by Ordinances 1998-24 and 2003-38; and

WHEREAS, due to bus, bicycle and pedestrian improvements in Takoma Park, reasonable access to the Takoma Metro station is available to all residents; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that the Area B Permit Parking Program is no longer needed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland that the Area B Permit Parking Program be ended effective June 30, 2016.

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: