

MM#8
2-25-11

**CITY OF NAPERVILLE
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: February 25, 2011
TO: Douglas A. Krieger, City Manager
THROUGH: Marcie Schatz, Director of Transportation, Engineering and Development
FROM: Karyn Robles, Transportation and Planning Team Leader *KR*
SUBJECT: Metra Platform Reconstruction Project

PURPOSE:

This purpose of this memorandum is to provide the City Council with information regarding Metra's upcoming platform reconstruction project and planned free ride programs to mitigate anticipated parking challenges at the Naperville Station.

BACKGROUND:

In spring 2011, Metra will initiate a project to reconstruct the platforms at the Naperville Metra Station. This project will involve removing the existing platforms and replacing them with precast concrete panels. The deck of the railroad bridge over Washington Street will also be reconstructed. Walsh Construction has been awarded the project contract and work is anticipated to begin in early April. The project is anticipated to last approximately 8-10 months and will involve multiple phases of construction. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for March 1 and additional project information including project staging and timeline will be provided as the information becomes available. A map of the proposed construction area is attached.

INFORMATION:

The construction activities involved in the platform replacement will have an impact on commuter access and amenities at the station during various phases of the project. Staff is currently working with Metra to finalize traffic and pedestrian access plans, and is also working to develop plans to address impacts to permit parking spaces, permit and free motorcycle parking and bicycle parking at the Naperville Station.

Permit Parking

As part of the project, up to 90 commuter parking spaces may be taken out of service in order to accommodate construction activities and material staging. Commuters in both the Burlington and Parkview Commuter Lots will be notified of the upcoming work and will be encouraged to make adjustments to their commuting patterns to accommodate the construction project.

In order to help reduce the impacts of the project on commuter parking, staff evaluated several alternatives including leasing additional commuter parking spaces on private property, temporarily suspending the neighborhood parking time restrictions, and allowing permit holders to park in other commuter lots or in daily fee parking spaces. However, these options were found to be too costly, would result in too great of an impact on the surrounding residential areas and would not achieve the

desired result of reducing the demand for parking spaces. As a result, staff is recommending the implementation of a Temporary Transit Package that will leverage and promote the city's existing investment into enhanced transit service to the Metra Stations. The Temporary Transit Package will provide incentives to encourage commuters to utilize the existing Pace bus service to access the train station during construction. As part of the program, commuters would voluntarily sign up to:

- **Temporarily suspend their commuter parking permit.** During construction, the city will offer commuters in affected parking lots the option to voluntarily turn in their parking permit for the duration of the construction project and not be charged any permit fees during construction. Once the project is complete, volunteer's permits will be reinstated.
- **Provide free Pace monthly bus passes.** In order to encourage commuters to utilize the existing Pace bus service, commuters who suspend their permit may also sign up to receive free Pace monthly bus passes for the duration of the project. The City will fund the Pace bus passes from the \$40,000 budgeted for a "Free Rides program" in the FY 12 Burlington Fund budget.
- **Enroll commuters in the Guaranteed Ride Home Program.** Commuters who sign up to receive the Pace monthly bus passes will also be automatically enrolled in the Guaranteed Ride Home program and will receive a total of 12 vouchers which will allow them to be reimbursed for taxi trips taken between the train station and their homes when the buses are not running. This is the same benefit provided for any commuter who enrolls in the Guaranteed Ride Home Program, except that the City will automatically enroll the participating commuter.

The total cost to provide this program including the cost of the monthly Pace bus passes and the temporary suspension of commuter permit fees is anticipated to be less than \$30,000. Staff is currently in the process of finalizing the program details and additional information on the program will be rolled out to commuters in the coming weeks.

Motorcycle Parking

The Metra Platform Reconstruction Project will also impact motorcycle parking, including both the free and permit motorcycle spaces. Once work begins on the southwest portion of the platform, it is likely that several of the motorcycle parking permit spaces will be taken out of service. In order to address the temporary reduction in available motorcycle permit spaces, during the construction, reserved motorcycle permit spaces will be temporarily suspended. Commuters holding a motorcycle parking permit will be able to park in any one of the 40 reserved motorcycle parking spaces regardless of its number. This will allow all of the available motorcycle permit spaces to be fully utilized and will only be for the duration of the construction. Following the completion of construction, motorcycle permit holders will resume parking in their reserved space. Staff will notify the permit holders of this change in policy and will provide advanced notice of construction on that portion of the platform.

In addition to impacting commuter and motorcycle permit parking, it is anticipated that the free motorcycle parking and bicycle parking provided at the Naperville Metra Station will be impacted at different phases of the construction project. Hangtags and posters will be used to notify commuters traveling to the station by motorcycle or bicycle of the upcoming construction project. Efforts will also be made to provide temporary parking areas to accommodate the displaced motorcycles and bicycles.

Communications

Staff is currently working to finalize a communications plan to notify commuters, businesses, and local residents of the upcoming construction work. Notice of the project will be provided on the city's website, through a Commuter Connection and project specific e-newsletter. A direct mailing will be sent to residents and businesses located in close proximity to the station and also to commuters on the wait list or with an existing permit. Staff will also be working closely with the adjacent Homeowners Associations to distribute information to nearby residents. Additional information will be distributed through the use of press releases and through notices posted at the Naperville Metra Station.

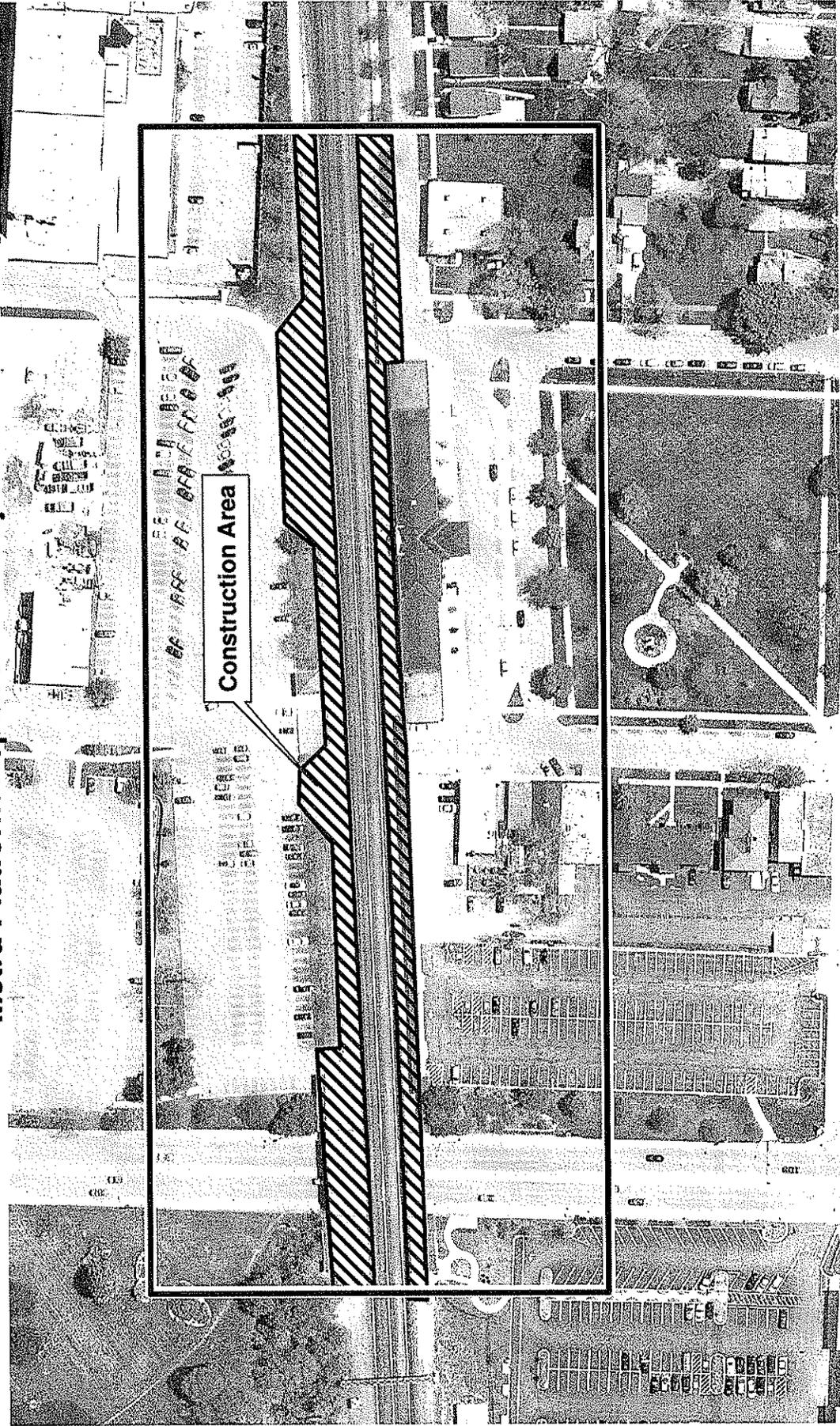
CONCLUSION:

Please include in the February 25, 2011 Manager's Memorandum.

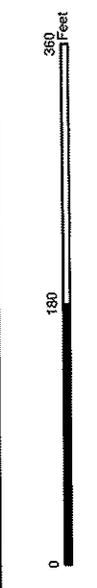
Attachment: Metra Platform Reconstruction Project Map

cc: Transportation Advisory Board

City of Naperville Metra Platform Replacement Project



This map should be used for reference only.
The data is subject to change without notice.
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Transportation, Engineering and
Development Business Group
www.naperville.il.us
February 2011

