

INTERIM REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION

OF

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S

ON-STREET 7:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. PARKING BAN

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DEPARTMENT OF TRAFFIC AND PARKING

SEPTEMBER 6, 1974

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OF
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A. INTRODUCTION

The City of Cambridge in order to meet the requirements of sub-part W. Section 52.1134 of the Environmental Protection Agency's Air Quality Program for the Boston Intra-State Region must prohibit on-street parking from 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. weekdays in the Cambridge Freeze Area. The two exceptions to this section are (1) that residents may park within one-half mile of their homes, if otherwise in conformity with existing regulations; and (2) that handicapped persons may be exempted.

Cambridge is required to eliminate, at a minimum, one-third of its "Freeze Area" on-street parking by September 30, 1974; two-thirds by December 31, 1974; and the remaining third by March 1, 1975.

B. REGULATORY PROCEDURES

The City of Cambridge does have the necessary regulations to implement the 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. parking restriction and will, when necessary, or, when it thinks it is appropriate, promulgate any other regulation necessary to facilitate this program.

There are two major problems that must be settled before we embark on this program, they are as follows:

1. The regulation as proposed by the EPA carries a fine of \$50.00 and the City of Cambridge's regulation carries a fine of \$15.00 which is the maximum allowed by State law.
2. The State has stated that in order for the City to legally enforce this regulation, every street in the freeze area must be posted in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth.

C. ENFORCEMENT

The Cambridge Police Department has only recently reorganized their Department and the major change was the discontinuance of the Traffic Division. This means that there are no men on the street who are exclusively used for ticketing and directing traffic. Their primary concern is crime and only when directed to, will they enforce the parking regulations of the City.

There are only two parking Control Officers now working for the City and they are concentrating in Harvard Square. It is the hope of the Traffic and Parking Department that eight more will be added in the near future.

D. PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

I. IDENTIFYING RESIDENTS MOTOR VEHICLES

The City of Cambridge has started to issue "Resident Stickers" to residents in selected areas and hope by March 1, 1975 to have every motor vehicle owned

by a resident of the City and duly registered under Chapter 90 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth as principally garaged in Cambridge identified by means of these "Resident Stickers". There are approximately 55,000 motor vehicles registered in the City of Cambridge and at the present time, we have issued 3025 stickers.

2. STREET INVENTORY

There are approximately 172.6 miles of curb space in the Freeze Area. A breakdown of the existing parking regulations are as follows:

Total Length of Curb Restricted Under the Resident
Sticker Program = 20.0 miles

Total Length of Curb Posted "No Stopping"
7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. = 9.39 miles

Total Length of Curb Posted "No Parking"
7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. Total = 76.21 miles

This means that the City of Cambridge has 76.21 miles (44.15%) out of the 172.6 miles of curb restricted during the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.. Although this meets the requirements of the Act, it still does not meet the law as far as the fines are concerned.

E. CONCLUSIONS

It is the opinion of the Traffic and Parking Department that the City of Cambridge cannot meet the EPA requirements for the on-street parking ban in the time period prescribed by law for several reasons.

1. In order for the City to post every street in the City as required by law, it would first have to appropriate the necessary funds to purchase the signs and posts, hire additional help and equipment needed to do this work. It would be almost impossible for the City of Cambridge to fabricate and install these signs with its existing work force. It is estimated that one sign crew (two men) and one truck working continuously on the installation of these signs would complete the job in approximately one year. The estimated cost of the signs, posts, labor and cost of bookkeeping for this project is \$140,000.00 for the first year.
2. In order for the City to issue 55,000 parking stickers to the residents of Cambridge, the City would have to appropriate the necessary funds for the cost of the stickers, for related office equipment, for this large mailing and also for hiring of additional personnel to administer the program. The estimated cost of this part of the program is approximately \$100,000.00.
3. Finally the most important part of the entire program is the enforcement of this law. It has been estimated that at least 25 additional persons are needed to enforce this law and after the reorganization of the Police Department, this figure is more realistic. There is no way that we could enforce the EPA regulations with the existing police force.

After putting all these problems in perspective and assuming that we do get the money and help necessary to implement this program, the City would have to reevaluate their entire signing program as well as their parking rules and regulations for two major reasons:

1. The existing regulations now allow commercial vehicles to load and unload in "No Parking Areas" and if we changed all these signs to meet the EPA regulations, it would mean that no vehicle could load or unload on our streets during the hours of restriction.
2. 5,000 signs are needed for this regulation and when we install these on our streets that are now overloaded with signs it will create a boulevard of signs along with confusing the public.

It is our opinion that it would not be advantageous to push forward with the on-street parking restriction section of the EPA regulations at this time because without the necessary equipment, personnel and the enforcement mentioned previously in this report, it would only detract from the seriousness of cleaning our air. The City however will continue with its Resident Sticker Program so long as it feels the law can be enforced properly.

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Interim report on Implementation of the
Environmental Protection Agency on street
parking ban.

In City Council,

Sept. 23, 1974

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