
MEMORANDUM
Community and Economic Development Department

TO: John Phillips, City Manager

SUBJECT: Train Festival Parking and Signage

DATE: 7/06/11

Train Festival 2011 will welcome visitors from 46 states and 15 foreign countries. Attendance could reach 50,000 over the four days of the festival.

It is estimated a minimum of 1,500-2,000 parking spaces will be needed for Train Festival 2011 volunteers and attendees on Thursday and Friday, July 21 and 22. A minimum of 2,500 spaces will be required for Saturday and Sunday, July 23 and 24. About 200 parking spaces will be needed on July 25th for ticket holders on the Rock Island to Chicago train. These estimates may be adjusted as ticket sales are monitored.

A Train Festival parking plan was developed to interfere as little as possible with parking for retail, service and government customers and employees in Downtown Rock Island. The plan includes fee and use changes and will require approval of the City Council. The plan as proposed will allow free parking to festival attendees.

Unreserved and excess space in the City parking deck, Lot C and Lot D will be posted for Train Festival volunteers and attendees. Lot C will be reserved for "limited mobility" parking. Train Festival parking in the deck will be on the upper floors to allow adequate employee parking. Volunteers will monitor parking in Lot C and the parking deck.

Two-hour, on-street parking will remain in force on Thursday and Friday. Lots F & G *will not* be posted for Train Festival parking Thursday through Sunday.

There are an estimated 300 unrestricted, on-street parking spaces within walking distance of the festival. An additional 300 on-street parking spaces and 150 deck spaces will be available on Saturday and Sunday.

Shuttle parking will be available at the QCCA Expo Center Thursday through Sunday. Other shuttle lots may be added prior to the festival. Volunteers will monitor the QCCA lot. Some downtown parking lots with Monday through Friday restrictions will be available to festival attendees on Saturday and Sunday.

Vehicular and pedestrian signs will direct Train Festival attendees to parking and the festival grounds. Special maps listing Rock Island eateries and entertainment venues will be placed in the downtown kiosks, the Holiday Inn, Centennial Bridge Visitors' Center and the 20th Street Overlook kiosk.

Display banners, some with sponsor advertising, will be placed on the fence along First Avenue. Alan Carmen, planning director, said these types of temporary signs have been allowed in conjunction with specific events. First Avenue will be closed between 16th and 20th streets with the exception of 16 1/2 to 17th streets. Access to Modern Woodmen will be via 17th Street.

Recommendation: The City Council allow free parking for Train Festival attendees in Lot C, Lot D and the city parking ramp from July 21-25, 2011 and allow the placement of temporary directional signs and festival banners.

Submitted by: Sally Heffernan, Special Projects Manager
William Nelson, Parks Director
Greg Champagne, CED Director