



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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DRAFT MINUTES

Standing Committee on Parking Meeting

Location: Virtual via Zoom and 1010 Richards Street, Room 118

Date: September 14, 2023

Time: 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Gerald Ohta, Charlotte Townsend, Board Members; Kirby Shaw, Bryan Mick; Staff

ABSENT: Summer Kozai, Chairperson

- I. Chairperson pro tem Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.
- II. Chairperson pro tem Violet Horvath reported no written public testimony was submitted.
- III. The Committee approved the July 13, 2023, meeting minutes (M/S/P Ohta/Townsend).
- IV. Old Business

A. Parking Placard Issuance Statistics

Bryan Mick reported that in the first two months of the first quarter of fiscal year 2023-2024, around five thousand three hundred (5,300) placards were issued. Two hundred and eighty (280) special license plates were reauthorized or issued. Of the placards, about one thousand three hundred (1,300) were temporary and four thousand (4,000) were long term. DCAB issued one thousand seven hundred (1,700) long term placards and eighteen (18) Disabled Paid Parking Exemption Permits (DPPEP). The placard renewal rate was sixty seven percent (67%).

B. Email Notification to Permittees of Pending Parking Permit Expirations

In the first two months of the first quarter of fiscal year 2023-2024, DCAB emailed seven hundred and thirty two (732) permittees to notify them of their pending permit expirations.

C. Procurement of Parking Placards and Decals

DCAB just received the bids for long term and temporary placards and will select the vendor shortly. Hopefully the placards are delivered before the end of the calendar year.

D. Death Records Crossmatch and Parking Permit Retrieval

The annual crosscheck with Department of Health (DOH) Vital Records was delayed so that the letters to Title III entities could be mailed out first. The goal is to send the death retrieval letters out during quarter three.

E. Public Education Efforts

Webpage for Reporting Placard or Access Aisle Abuse

Eight (8) inquiries were submitted through the webpage to report abuse of a disability parking permit. Many are for vehicles parked in a reserved accessible space without displaying a disability parking permit, which is not something DCAB can follow up on since DCAB does not have access to the motor vehicle database.

Webpage for Reporting Non-Design Compliant Accessible Spaces

One (1) submission was made to the webpage on a non-design compliant parking space. DCAB sent an email to the property owner about the wooden pallets in the access aisle.

F. Van Accessible Spaces

Voluntary Informational Sign for Van Accessible Spaces at Places of Public Accommodation

The letter to places of public accommodation includes the artwork and information regarding the voluntary priority sign for accessible spaces. The plan is to also get the word out via other methods such as by press release. Committee member Charlotte Townsend mentioned that the Department of Accounting and General Services has installed the signs at the Capitol's van accessible spaces, and DCAB should communicate its appreciation to Governor Green. She added that the signs stand out from all the other posted signs and is a positive development for the parking program. Difficulty in finding available van accessible spaces is a long-standing issue.

Request State and local governments to increase the number of accessible and or van accessible parking spaces at their facilities

DCAB has not received a response to the letters requesting more accessible parking spaces at State and county parking facilities sent to Governor Green and the four (4) County Mayors a few months ago. The Committee asked staff to follow up with the Governor's Office.

Draft of Letter Requesting Private Entities with Parking Facilities to Consider Providing Accessible Parking Spaces that Exceeds the Minimum Number

Staff reworded the third bullet and added a graphic as requested by the Committee, and Kirby Shaw has approved the revised letter. If the Committee has no further edits, staff would like to begin mailing the letter soon. There were no further edits to the letter.

V. New Business

A. Draft Legislation

Travel Placard

Staff explained this would allow someone with an existing parking permit to obtain a second placard that would expire the last day of the month following their return date. This would provide a grace period should someone's flight be delayed or should they have to extend their trip, while also limiting the amount of time someone else could improperly use the placard. Committee member Charlotte Townsend commented that the process to apply and receive the placard needs to be simple and timely, since some trips are unanticipated. Bryan Mick replied that if the number of applications is a few dozen a month, DCAB should be able to process them in a timely manner. It is also a possibility that people could request the travel placard electronically. If it turns out that the demand for these placards is more than we anticipate, amending the Memorandums of Agreement with the four (4) counties to have them issue travel placards at the counter might be a good idea.

Suspension of Drivers License for Using a Deceased Permittee's Parking Permit

Staff explained this was modeled after an Illinois statute. It empowers the county examiner of drivers to suspend or revoke a driver's license of anyone caught using a deceased person's placard. Notably, Illinois puts a warning directly onto the placards, which is a large deterrent for misuse. This will also require amending the parking statute so that using a placard issued to a deceased person is a separate violation than other types of permit misuse.

Remittance of fines imposed from citations to agencies that issued the citations

Staff explained this is also modeled after an Illinois law. Historically, Hawaii has been reluctant to incentivize law enforcement by remitting a portion of any citations. However, those have usually been aimed at activities that lots of people occasionally do, such as speeding. Parking improperly in an accessible space will be much harder for people to defend. While the State may worry about losing revenue, if the new law results in the number of citations doubling it will be revenue neutral. It seems unlikely that the existing number of citations represents a large revenue source for the State.

Authorizing counties to enforce accessible parking space design requirements at places of public accommodation

Staff explained that this bill almost passed Conference Committee last session but like many bills, did not receive FIN (Finance) release in time. This was despite the fact the bill does not have a financial impact on the State. The bill authorizes the counties to adopt ordinances related to the design of accessible parking spaces at places of public accommodation. This is the same approach the State took when it comes to requiring lots with one

hundred (100) or more spaces to have an electric vehicle (EV) parking space with a charger.

B. Maui Wildfire - Update

Kirby Shaw explained that staff explored ways to waive the usual \$12 replacement fee for permittees whose placards were destroyed in the fires. Our database contains around one thousand three hundred (1,300) permittees with a Lahaina zip code. The initial thought was the Governor would need to waive the applicable section of DCAB's administrative rules in his next emergency proclamation. However, in conversation with the County of Maui, staff learned that the County is waiving various fees for replacement of items lost in the fires, including disability parking placards. Bryan Mick added that so far, only around a dozen residents have applied for replacement placards and informed the county it was due to the fires. Hawaii Disability Rights Center has been staffing a table at resource fairs on Maui, and they were asked to relay this information to the victims.

IV. Open Forum

Bryan Mick mentioned he had received an inquiry about the status of the travel placard from the gentleman who had advocated for it. He was informed that draft legislation was being prepared.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. The initial meeting of the new Standing Committee on Transportation will follow at 2:00 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

BRYAN K. MICK