

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone
Supervisor Kevin Jeffries

SUBMITTAL DATE: May 30, 2013


SUBJECT: Request for Analysis of the Feasibility of Automated Paid Parking at All County Parking Facilities


RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board direct the County Executive Office to conduct an analysis of the feasibility of implementing automated paid parking at all County parking facilities including the Riverside County Regional Medical Center.

BACKGROUND:

The Board would like to consider the feasibility of an automated paid parking system at all Riverside County parking facilities including the Riverside County Regional Medical Center. Approval of this request would direct the County Executive Office to conduct an analysis and report back to the Board as soon as possible.



Jeff Stone
Supervisor
Third District


Kevin Jeffries
Supervisor
First District

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Stone, seconded by Supervisor Benoit and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended with a report back to the Board by September 10, 2013.

Ayes: Jeffries, Stone, Benoit and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: Tavaglione
Date: June 4, 2013
xc: Supvr. Stone, Supvr. Jeffries, EDA, EO, COB

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

STAMP: RECD BY CLERK OF BOARD
JUN 10 2013

Verbatim of Item 3-64
6/4/2013 Board Meeting

[10:51:30]

[Chairman Benoit] That brings us to 3-64. And I'd have Stone and Jeffries.. Who would like to start that off?

[Supervisor Stone] OK Mr. Chair. Thank you. Supervisor Jeffries and I, we both agree that we have a number of county facilities. Some charging for parking, some not charging for parking. And many hospitals do charge for hospital.. that was my first inclination, that we should be doing this. We just did a major expansion of the County Hospital, expanded the parking lots, and we don't really have a kind of a depreciation fund for maintaining that large parking lot which is full, at least 95% of the time I've tried to get a parking space there. I think it's reasonable to charge a small fee to make sure we cover our costs of maintaining those facilities and we now have automated parking kiosks, so they don't require any employees. People basically put in their credit card or their money and they get a ticket, they put it on their dashboard and it's enforced by the local Police Department to ensure the people are in fact paying for parking, so I appreciate Supervisor Jeffries has some similar concerns, and I think this will provide the County some mitigation for the costs we spend to take care of parking for not only our 18,000 employees, but for 2.3 million people that potentially have to use county facilities in various areas of the county.

[Supervisor Jeffries] Yeah. Thank you. From personal perspective as I spent time with my father at USC Hospital, they had paid automatic parking to get in and out of there. It was so simple to utilize. And when I look at the choices we're making today where we're staffing a parking structure but laying off Code Enforcement Officers and the parking structures are losing money every month, I have to question our priorities. And if we have the ability to automate any facility and it would still be successful and easy to automate. Easy for tax payers and customers to utilize, we need to do that. And I recognize, and that's why we're asking for an analysis just to come back to ask staff to take a look and then come back and see what's feasible and what's not feasible.

But it's something that I think is long overdue. I never, in fact, many years ago before the parking structure was built here, this Board was taking up the construction of this facility of the parking structure and whether or not the public should even be charged to even come in to attend a Board meeting. And I remember speaking to the Board saying as a citizen, that there's no way that the County should be charging it's citizens to park to attend a public meeting, and I still feel that today, when you're attending a public meeting.

But we have to pay for these facilities, so, somehow, at least the maintenance, and upkeep costs, so I appreciate if staff would give this some serious consideration and come back to us with some options.

[Chairman Benoit] Thank you. Supervisor Ashley.

[Supervisor Ashley] I think we do need to make an evaluation and study. And I do have some concerns. Supervisor Jeffries had that one about people attending our meetings. I've got one about our County Hospital. And remember, this is not, it's not USC or Stanford or UCLA Hospital, this is the County's Hospital. If you don't have insurance where the poorest of the poor go, as well as many others. I mean Supervisor Stone and I, we both utilize that hospital successfully, but—it's a great hospital, but I'm really concerned about the parking for some of those folks. They don't have anything. How are they going to bring somebody into the emergency room? How are they going to park? It's going to happen. It's almost cruel. You know, if you just take it to the nth degree. So I think provision's gotta be made at the Hospital. Some way or another to allow for that particularly around the emergency room area, and where people don't have any choice, I mean here you come and you may not have a dime with you and you won't be able to park. Where are they going to park their car. So, - but, I think we need the evaluation and I'll support your motion today but I'm really concerned about that aspect and anything that might be similar to that around the county.

[Chairman Benoit] Go ahead Supervisor Stone.

[Supervisor Stone] Thank you and I appreciate Supervisor Ashley's comments and I think he's absolutely right. We see the poorest of the poor at the Hospital and I think that we can certainly have vouchers that can be given to people when appointments are made that they can take these vouchers, put them in the parking machine and basically they can have their parking tickets zeroed out. So I think staff can certainly...

[Supervisor Ashley] They can figure it out..a way to handle that.

[Chairman Benoit] I would concur. We need a needs-based assessment that allows for that contingency for those who are receiving care and cannot afford to park.

[Supervisor Jeffries] Yeah. It's going to be important that we address that, that staff addresses that. I mean my personal experience with Kaiser in Riverside, you know they originally had paid parking when they started that. It was a huge failure in the eyes of the customers. And so they ultimately did away with it. And so we have to be very careful about it. There may be a portion where we need controlled parking and where you need emergency parking, you need something else, - or it may not work at all, but I would expect staff is going to come back with an evaluation of what will work and what wont.

[Chairman Benoit] Thank you. Mr. Orr, can you give us some ideas on how long and who might be appropriate?

[Jay Orr, CEO] Mr. Field? Can you come on up? I would image that Rob would be doing the analysis. He is the Parking Division and Facilities Management. Included in there we could discuss the facilities, the nature of the facilities, the nature of the service provided the facilities, and the nature of the customers at the facilities, because you're going to have everything, not just the hospital, you're going to have WIC, you're going to have indigents, DPSS, Mental

Health, Animal Shelter, so we can give you the number of spaces at the facilities – Rob do you have any thoughts on this.

[Rob Field, Assist. CEO, EDA] Well, for – yeah. Rob Field, Assistant CEO, EDA.

We are certainly prepared to do this sort of analysis and probably it needs to be fairly comprehensive. As it stands right now, we provide all parking, aside from structure parking, for free. Countywide. All service slots. So we need to start maybe taking a look at doing some sort of comprehensive analysis because as it stands, you know, there is a maintenance cost even with a simple asphalt parking lot. And we do not recover anything presently. And as we grow into what used to be sort of a rural, semi-urban county, into an urban county, there are growing pangs. It will, - we will receive resistance, but it at least warrants an evaluation to see just how the degree to which we want to continue to support free parking across the board. Tens of thousands of parking spaces across the county, and ultimately much of that burden ends of residing on the general fund. So I think we need to do – absolutely, it's time for a comprehensive , - probably need to go out and find somebody who specializes in this type of work, - some sort of consultant who can help guide us through an analysis and sort of determine what would be the best course of action.

[Jay Orr, CEO] and also of parking enforcement. We don't have parking enforcement officers at each location, is that correct?

[Rob Field, Asst. CEO/EDA] It varies from place to place. For example in downtown, there is an ordinance enforcement unit that EDA runs. At the hospital in Moreno Valley, parking enforcement is provided by the Sheriff's department. So it varies from place to place, and that too needs to be.. yes, absolutely needs to be a part of the analysis.

[Chairman Benoit] And of course technologies have dramatically improved in this whole area, which should certainly be a part of the significant analysis because it may be less expensive and much more feasible to offer the kind of waivers that we were talking about too, that wouldn't have been the case 10 years.

[Rob Field, Asst. CEO/EDA] We are, - have actually done – started doing some analysis downtown as to – in terms of automating the operation of our downtown parking structures. Cause as it stands right now, they are labor intensive. We have parking attendants at each one of them, so we're looking at phasing in some sort of automation system here. Absolutely. Everyone pays with a debit card, or you can even pay with a smart phone now, so there are a lot of different alternatives to look at. But we do need to make a well-considered and evaluated decision going forward, so we're prepared for that, I mean..

[Supervisor Jeffries] If I may, you have a parking structure across the street from us, in your building, so ..

[Rob Field, Assist CEO/EDA] Yes sir.

[Supervisor Jeffries] you're in a position to do, sort of the first step.

[Rob Field, Assist CEO/EDA] We were considering actually, yeah, doing that as a prototype.

Yeah. So if that would be your direction, we'd be prepared to act on that actually fairly quickly.

[Supervisor Jeffries] Well I think – I'm a little concerned when you start talking about hiring consultants and front loading this with a lot of cost up front. I mean I think you can do some initial evaluations that will toss a few out right away that these aren't going to ever be automated; their too small; or their uses are too limited, but certainly I think if you've got one in your back yard, you probably ought to start there, then we can work from there.

[Rob Field, Assist CEO/EDA] Certainly.

[Chairman Benoit] And we have a very large parking structure on paper coming into the Indio, - as the Jail expands, so there's another important part of that equation discussion.

[Rob Field, Assist CEO/EDA] that would be – yes we would prefer to make some sort of decision in advance of building it so that we don't have to go back and you know retrofit a brand new structure – some new parking system. So yes. Absolutely.

[Chairman Benoit] Clearly I think the directions been given. The only thing we haven't discussed is approximate timeline. Mr. Field..

[Rob Field, Assist CEO/EDA] It would, we'd like to bring something back to you within the next 90 days. For the first look for the Board for assessment direction..

[Supervisor Stone] I move we take all the comments into consideration of the Board and the CEO and the Assistant CEO, and coming back in 90 days with a report to the Board on what the direction should be.

[Chairman Benoit] Second that. Please vote. Thank you.

Thank you. That concludes our policy calendar...