



NEWS ADVISORY

May 24, 2010

For immediate release

CITY COUNCIL TO TAKE COMMENT ON SPRUCE STREET PARKING Public invited to weigh in on back-in diagonal parking

The City of Missoula implemented back-in diagonal parking on East Spruce Street in August 2009. The innovative parking configuration was put in on the south side of the street between Madison Street and Pattee Street.

Public Works Director Steve King promised a look at the project in the spring with the intent of evaluating its success, with comments from users of the street. Discussion and comment will take place at a meeting of the Public Works Committee of the City Council on Wednesday, May 26, from 2:05 p.m. to 3 p.m. in City Council Chambers at 140 W Pine St.

Back-in parking is new to Missoula but has been used in many communities in the United States. The parking style is intended to improve traffic safety and accommodate street uses such as bike lanes. Conventional angle parking is relatively hazardous because of the blind exit movement. Back-in parking improves exit visibility, which benefits both car and bicycle drivers.

Since implementation in August, City staff members have monitored reported traffic accidents and observations by Police Department staff and parking enforcement officers. They will complete a full evaluation, which will include public comments, before the road paint is refreshed during normal summer-season street maintenance.

It's not necessary to attend the meeting to comment. You may also submit comments in writing or by e-mail to Steve King at sking@ci.missoula.mt.us or at 435 Ryman St., Missoula, MT 59802.

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