

Council Memo

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 17, 2026

Re: Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code relating to designated taxi stand parking.

Impacted Ward: Ward 1

Executive Summary

City of Columbia Ordinance 14-295 designates 5 specific locations in Downtown Columbia as taxi stands. The Public Works and Police Departments are proposing an update to this ordinance that accommodates the community shift to increased usage of rideshare platforms like Uber and Lyft. This update to the ordinance is intended to reduce traffic congestion, illegal stopping, double parking, and increase overall pedestrian safety in the downtown entertainment district.

Discussion

In August of 2025, the Police Department noted a rise in traffic congestion related to rideshare operators and patrons violating traffic laws in the downtown area during overnight hours. The traffic violations and congestion stem from inadequate places for rideshare operators and patrons to utilize those services.

On two Mizzou football game weekends, we tested different parts of this proposed ordinance. On September 19th and 20th, we tested a rideshare pull-off zone by temporarily blocking metered parking. In October of 2025, we temporarily blocked off metered parking and worked with Uber and Lyft to test designated pickup/drop off zones. During this testing both rideshare platforms guided patrons to the specific locations for pick up inside of their smartphone applications. The results of both of these pilot weekends saw a dramatic reduction in traffic violations and an overall improvement in pedestrian safety.

This update creates adequate designated curb space for those utilizing and operating taxis and other rideshare platforms. These changes address the change in traffic patterns as observed by police department employees, feedback from the pilot programs and through heat maps obtained from Uber/ Lyft during the pilot program. The changes from the existing ordinance are as follows:

- Expands the geographic footprint of Taxi/ Rideshare stands from 34 spaces to 66 parking spaces.
- Starting operation of the taxi/ rideshare stands two hours earlier at 9:00pm as opposed to 11:00pm.
- Includes food and package delivery drivers.
- Imposes a 15-minute loading/unloading limit.
- Allows for the designation of emergency services parking in these areas during the hours this ordinance is in effect.

The current ordinance establishes taxi stands in 34 spaces in the downtown district. This revision expands that footprint to a total of 66 restricted parking spaces during the hours of 9:00 pm to 2:00 am. The request to change the timeframe of the ordinance is to accommodate a shift in patron behavior. In the past it was common to utilize these services at the end of the night to leave downtown. It is now much more common to utilize these services to arrive downtown earlier in the evening. It also allows CPD staff to address parking violations earlier in the evening.

The Community Improvement District provided positive feedback to an earlier version of this ordinance. A majority of CID supports an update to this ordinance. Feedback was also solicited from rideshare drivers and customers during the pilot programs and they universally gave positive feedback. In addition to rideshare drivers reporting that it was much safer, one rideshare driver explained that they just need direction on how to operate downtown.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Signage for the stands will need to be printed with update hours, \$750
Long-Term Impact: Negligible

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
02/05/2024	B7-24 - Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code relating to taxi stands, hours of operation for street and off-street metered parking spaces, and the removal of the designation and location of metered time zones; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.
10/19/2015	B290-15 - Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code to relocate a taxi stand on Tenth Street; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.

Date	Action
07/07/2014	Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code to temporarily relocate a taxi stand on Tenth Street; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.
02/06/2012	B25-12 - Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code as it relates to taxi stands and no pick-up or drop-off zones; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.
09/19/2011	B251-11 - Establishing temporary stands for taxis, limousines, buses and STRIPES vehicles; establishing temporary no pick-up or drop-off zones; providing penalties for violations, and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.
08/17/2009	B237-09 - Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code to designate a taxi stand along Tenth Street; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.

Suggested Council Action

Authorize amending Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances to revise and expand the locations and hours of operation of taxi stands.