

Parking Utility Proposed Changes

OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY

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- ❑ Current City ordinances (14-413 to 14-417) denote exactly where meter times and zones are located in the downtown footprint. This makes it difficult for the Parking Utility to adapt zones and meter times to the changing needs of a vibrant downtown area.
- ❑ There are currently six meter zones in the downtown area ranging from 10 hours to 24 minutes (e.g., in front of the former CenturyLink building). We plan to propose reducing the number of zones to four: 10-hour, 3-hour, 1-hour and 15-minute curbside metered spaces. We also plan to adjust the locations of the zones to meet the changing needs of the area.
- ❑ We will request that Council allows the Public Works Director to make operational decisions regarding meter times and zones based on need. We will ask Council to amend the language in the referenced ordinances accordingly.

Operational Flexibility (Cont'd)

□ The Parking Utility has engaged Walker Consultants to complete a multi-phase project to assist with research and recommendations regarding modernizing the existing Parking Utility. A cornerstone of modernization requires better operational flexibility. Five of the cities researched handle parking in a similar way to what we plan to propose:

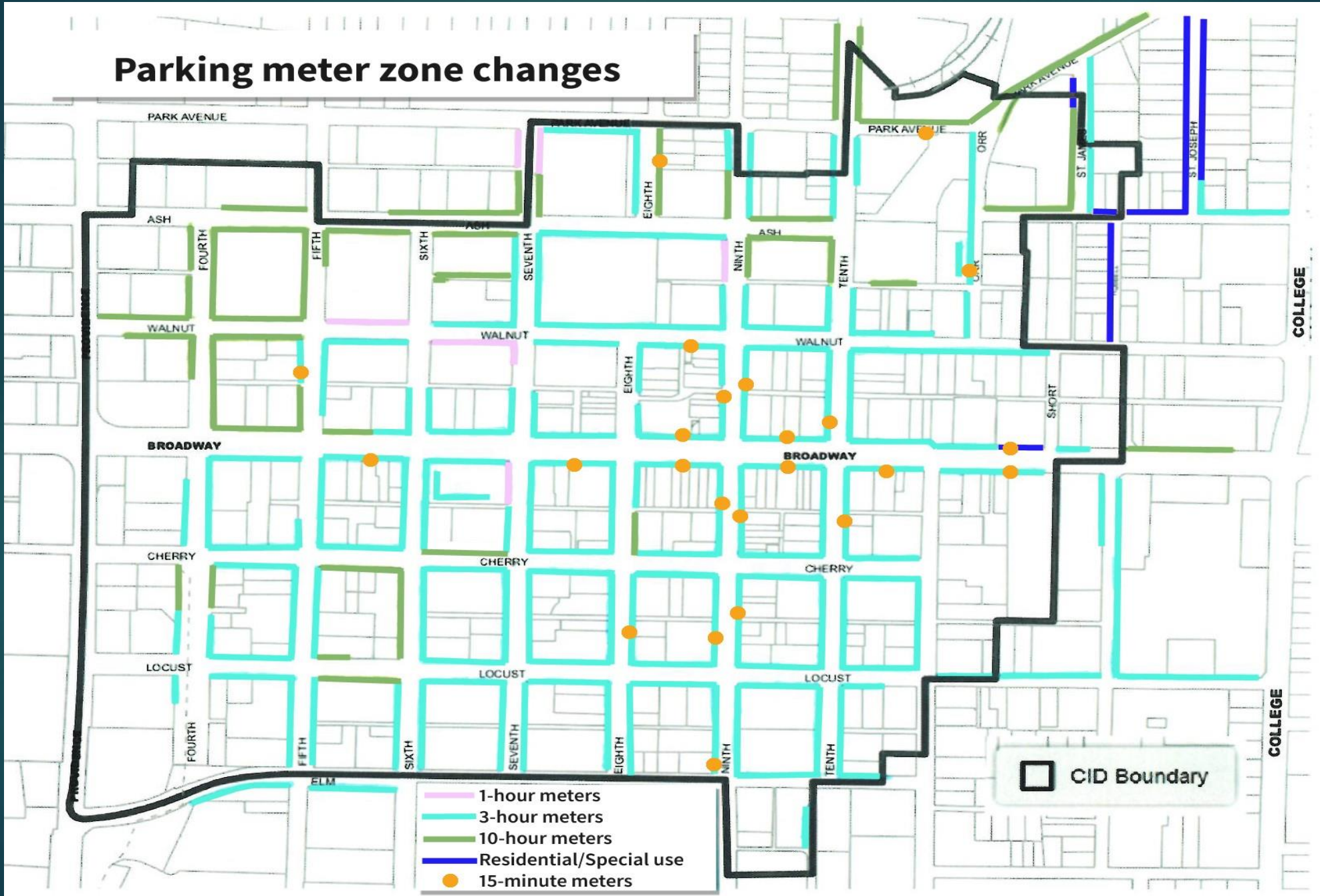
- St. Louis, Mo.
- Kansas City, Mo.
- Springfield, Mo.
- Wichita, Kan.
- Champaign, Ill.

□ Operational flexibility is the first step in a multistep process to adjust parking services to better meet the needs of the community.

Operational Flexibility (Cont'd)

- Future phases the project will include a comprehensive study of current operations, to include the following:
 - Rate comparisons (meter and parking garage)
 - Parking garage utilization
 - Future infrastructure needs
 - Traditional single-space parking meters
 - Centralized kiosks
 - ParkMobile app
 - Dynamic meter possibilities

Parking meter zone changes



CID CURBSIDE SPACE PROGRAM

- ❑ Since 2020, 32 spaces in the downtown area have been designated as curbside pick-up spaces designed to assist businesses during COVID. The meters are covered with red meter bags.
- ❑ The Downtown Community Improvement District (CID), along with City management, believe it is no longer necessary to have bagged meters serving as curbside spaces.
- ❑ The Parking Utility, with CID cooperation, is proposing the spaces be reduced to 18 spaces and the meters be set at a 15-minute time limit.
- ❑ The CID will provide signage at the meters to designate them as short-term metered parking.

ALIGN METER AND GARAGE OPERATION TIMES

- ❑ In 2014, based on a request from the CID, Council approved amending Monday to Saturday on-street parking meter operating hours from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Current garage hours of operation remain 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.)
- ❑ Based on a request from the CID and a recommendation from the Parking Advisory Commission, staff is requesting to revert Monday to Saturday on-street metered parking back to 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. This will align operation times and reduce confusion for citizens utilizing downtown parking.
- ❑ Adjusting the meters is less complicated than making adjustments to the gate arm system, which would require third-party assistance. Parking staff can adjust the on-street meter times without assistance.

ANNIE FISHER PANTRY PARKING

- ❑ In October 2021, the Parking Utility was contacted by an administrator at the Annie Fisher Food Pantry, 616 Park Ave., related to parking tickets issued to community members visiting the pantry. Those community members often did not have money to pay the meters while using the pantry.
- ❑ Parking staff received permission from the City Manager to place hoods on the seven meters along the 200 Block of North Seventh Street nearest the pantry, for use only by those using the pantry.
- ❑ The Parking Utility is proposing a continued partnership by removing the meters and replacing them with signage indicating the spaces are for pantry use only on Monday and Wednesday. Enforcement will be on a complaint-only basis. The anticipated revenue loss will be around \$181.28 per year.

DESIGNATED TAXI PARKING

□ The current City ordinance states as follows:

“Sec. 14-295. - Taxi stands designated.

When signs are placed, erected or installed giving notice thereof, the following zones shall be designated as stands for designated vehicles only and no person shall park a vehicle other than a taxi, limousine, bus or STRIPES vehicle between 11:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m.:

- Broadway, north side, between Waugh Street and a point two hundred eighty (280) feet east of Waugh Street.
- Cherry Street, south side, between Hitt Street and Tenth Street.
- Locust Street, north side, between Ninth Street and Tenth Street.
- Ninth Street, west side, first four spaces south of Elm Street.
- Tenth Street, west side, between Broadway and the alleyway just north of Broadway.”

Designated Taxi Parking (Cont'd)

- ❑ With the increased popularity of ride share programs like Uber and Lyft, it has become necessary to add rideshare parking to the current designated locations so that rideshare vehicles do not congest traffic waiting for customers by parking in the street.
- ❑ At times the Parking Utility has received concerns from the Columbia Police Department regarding this issue.
- ❑ The Parking Utility will propose that the words “rideshare” be added to this ordinance.

COMO Park Cards

- ❑ For several years, the City has made reloadable cards available to the public that can be pre-loaded with funds and used to pay for parking at a meter or parking structure.
- ❑ Various City departments use these cards for staff who need metered parking as a part of their job responsibilities.
- ❑ The cards account for about 6 percent of meter revenue, according to our data.
- ❑ We have learned that blank cards cost the City approximately \$5 each and that there is a shortage of cards due to the reader technology becoming obsolete. It is also becoming more and more difficult to repair the meters that accept these cards.
- ❑ We plan to phase out the selling of new cards May 1, 2024.

TIMELINE

- ❑ Unless there are concerns, we anticipate having the ordinance changes on the Council agenda for a first reading as soon as the Dec. 18 meeting. If so, the public hearing would take place at the Jan. 16 City Council meeting.
- ❑ Any questions?