



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: July 17, 2017

Re: Discontinue Use of Credit Card Capable Parking Meters

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared a report with an update on the credit card capable parking meters installed in 2013 and staff's intention to remove these meters from service due to costly repairs and fees.

Discussion

In June of 2013, at the recommendation of a Parking Task Force, the Parking Utility installed and began use of credit card capable parking meters on Ninth Street between Broadway and University Avenue, and on Broadway between 900 and 1000 East. Initially, public response to the single-space credit card capable parking meters was highly favorable because the public appreciated the convenience of paying with a credit/debit card; however, with new technology developed over the last several years, staff noticed that the credit card capabilities of these meters were rarely being used on Broadway and north of the University Campus. Staff has relocated the meters multiple times in an attempt to find the optimal location for their use; and taking into consideration that the meters have a solar panel to charge internal batteries, it was necessary to find locations with direct sunlight or the meters became non-functional. Additionally, these meters do not accept the CoMo Park card.

Each meter has a monthly fee of \$5.75, as well as credit card transaction fees of \$0.13 per transaction. If the meters are not located where they receive high occupancy, the operating costs become detrimental to the Parking Utility's potential revenue, on an individual space basis. Currently all of these meters are installed on several University campus streets due to the higher volume of use and higher hourly parking rates.

In the past year, staff has begun to see increased costs in repairs and parts for these meters. Repairs include replacing keypads, faded and faulty display screens and replacing batteries which cost \$40 each. In 2016, the total cost for fees, parts and repairs for the 150 meters was \$21,892.78. In addition, there has been a steady decline in credit card use at these meters as the use of the Parkmobile app has grown exponentially.

In order to improve efficiencies and curtail these costs, staff will remove credit card capable meters from use over the next several months, replacing them with conventional MacKay meters which will accept coin, the CoMo Park card and payment by app. Additionally, the City is not responsible for transactions fees with the new meters and the ParkMobile app.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The Parking Utility will realize a savings of approximately \$22,000 annually by removing these meters from service.

Long-Term Impact: Enter the cost of proposed legislation to the city for years **beyond two**.

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Primary, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Primary, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Primary, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
02/04/2013	Report-Purchase of Single-space Credit Card Capable Parking Meters

Suggested Council Action

This report is for information only.