

Council Memo

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 3, 2026

Re: Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code relating to parking changes on Locust Street and Waugh Street.

Impacted Ward: Ward 1

Executive Summary

Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code to establish a no parking zone on Waugh Street, East side, from Locust Street to 350 feet south of Locust Street. Additionally, removing parking meters on Locust Street, North side, between Waugh Street and College Avenue. Finally, reassigning this parking on Locust Street, North side, to parking only for the staff of Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary School.

Discussion

City Staff received a request for these changes in the form of a formal letter. The justification from this letter will be directly quoted below:

"These modifications would create a dedicated, streamlined parent pick-up line that flows exclusively along the south side of Waugh Street. Importantly, this would eliminate pick-up traffic from the west side of Locust Street and the north side of Waugh Street, reducing congestion and improving visibility and safety for students, families, and staff.

Additionally, the reconfiguration would help maintain clear through access for emergency vehicles, an essential consideration for the safety of our school and community. This need became especially apparent recently when fire trucks were unable to reach a car on fire efficiently due to the traffic congestion obstructing their path.

We sincerely appreciate the City of Columbia's partnership in supporting safe and efficient school operations. We believe these adjustments will substantially improve traffic flow during dismissal while enhancing overall safety for our students."

Upon receiving this request, Traffic Engineering staff observed parent pick-up at Locust Street Elementary several times and then met with staff from the school. Traffic Engineering staff agrees that the proposed changes will lead to a streamlined parent pick-up line, reduced congestion near the school and allow for better emergency response in this portion of downtown.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$1175 for Materials and Labor

Long-Term Impact: Average of \$818 in lost revenue from parking meters. (\$933 in 2025, \$702 in 2024)

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Authorize amending Chapter 14 of the City Code to establish a no parking zone on Waugh Street, east side, approximately 350 feet to the south of Locust Street. Remove parking meters on Locust Street, north side, between Waugh Street and College Avenue. Additionally, restrict parking on Locust Street, north side, between Waugh Street and College Avenue, to Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary Staff only.