



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: June 16, 2025

Re: Operational Changes to On-Street Parking Meter Time Limits

## Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council information a summary of proposed operational changes to simplify on-street parking meter time limits from six (24-minute, 1-hour, 2-hour, 4-hour, 5-hour, 10 hour) to three (1-hour, 3-hour, 10-hour) across 1,795 spaces. The Parking Utility submits this proposal as a report, reflecting an operational change not requiring an ordinance amendment, per the February 5, 2024 amendment to Chapter 14 (B7-24).

## Discussion

The Parking Utility proposes simplifying on-street parking meter time limits from six (24-minute, 1-hour, 2-hour, 4-hour, 5-hour, 10-hour) to three (1-hour, 3-hour, 10-hour) across 1,795 spaces, as show in Proposed Parking Limits Diagram. This operation change, authorized by the February 5, 2024, amendment to Chapter 14 (B7-24), requires no ordinance update and aims to enhance user clarity, align with best practices, and optimize downtown parking for economic vitality and accessibility.

Currently, the Parking Utility manages 1,795 on-street metered spaces with six time limits as can be seen in Current Parking Limits Diagram, causing confusion despite efforts like color-coded meter tops, electronic maps and social media outreach. A 2023 Walker Consultants analysis showed Columbia has more time limit variations than most comparable cities, with 3- or 4- time limit systems being standard. Review of nine additional communities confirmed this trend. The proposed change to 1-hour, 3-hour, and 10-hour limits affects 1,166 meters with the following transitions.

- 24-minute to 1-hour (9), 3-hour (8), 10-hour (3)
- 2-hour to 1-hour (1), 3-hour (730), 10-hour (66)
- 4-hour to 3-hour (80), 10-hour (39)
- 5-hour to 3-hour (203, all south of Elm Street), 10-hour (27)

The proposed layout, shown in Proposed Parking Limits Diagram, includes:

- 1-hour meters, in high turnover areas near government buildings, the police station and the post office.
- 3-hour meters, in core downtown and including south of Elm Street, to support shopping and dining, as recommended y Walker Consultants for adequate dwell time.
- 10-hour meters on the periphery (west of 5<sup>th</sup> Street, east of 10<sup>th</sup> Street, north of Ash Street) for long-term parking, excluding south of Elm Street to preserve access to \$35/ month ParkMobile permits for downtown workers.



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Users may pay for any duration up to the maximum limit, such as 30 minutes on a 3-hour meter and 15-minutes curbside spaces, a City-CID partnership, remain unchanged. As the changes do not affect the number of meters, hours of operation, or parking rate, any impact on revenue is expected to be minimal. The change reduces confusion, aligns with Walker's best practices, enhances turnover in high-demand areas, and ensures employee permit access by limiting 10-hour meters near the University of Missouri. It supports mobility, economic development, and community character by improving access and simplifying the parking experience.

The Parking Utility submits this proposal as a report to the Council, reflecting an operational change that does not require an ordinance amendment. The February 5, 2024, amendment to Chapter 14 (B7-24) of the City Code removed specific time limit and location details, adopting similar language tying meter restrictions to on-site signage. This change granted the Parking Utility greater flexibility to adjust parking operations. The proposed simplification of time limits extends these prior approvals and represents the initial step toward a more efficient and sustainable parking model.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Operational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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

## Legislative History

| Date       | Action  |
|------------|---|
| 02/05/2024 | B7-24. Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code relating 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. |

## Suggested Council Action

Council report for informational purposes.