

## AGENDA



Thursday, March 3, 2011

**Transportation  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 25**

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**Subject:** Approve an ordinance amending Title 12-3 of the City Code to extend paid parking hours within the downtown area from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Monday through Saturday and to extend all other paid parking hours to 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**For More Information:** Rob Spillar, 974-2488, Steve Grassfield, 974-1489, Gilda Powers, 974-7092

**Boards and Commission Action:** Reviewed by the Downtown Commission, the Urban Transportation Commission, and the Joint Subcommittee of the Downtown Commission and Urban Transportation Commission.

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The lack of on-street parking during the evening hours and on Saturdays in Central Austin has been a complaint by businesses, their patrons, major institutions, and visitors to Austin for years. A study was conducted in 2009 revealing that on-street parking occupancy rates during evening business hours exceed 85%, the typical industry standard indicating a system at or above capacity. Similarly, the inability to manage Saturday parking during regional sporting and special events affects the overall parking system.

The intent of this policy change is to increase turnover of on-street short-term parking in central Austin during active use times (evenings and Saturdays); capture expanded revenue potential for transportation and parking initiatives; increase market viability for off-street public parking offered by both private vendors and governmental entities; improve management and enforcement of on-street parking by funding additional parking officers in the evening and Saturday hours; and extend enforcement of regulations into non-metered areas with additional “eyes” for Austin Police Department.

This policy proposal is to adjust parking management hours to an 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. time period city-wide (currently 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) which is more consistent with State meters, and provides improved management oversight; extend management of on-street parking for Saturday city-wide creating turn-over in high demand locations and allowing management of special events; extend active parking hours of operation and management of on-street parking spaces in the downtown area to 11:59 p.m. (including Saturday) for an area defined as IH-35 to Lamar Boulevard and Cesar Chavez Street to 10th Street. The hourly charge of \$1 will remain unchanged by this RCA.

If this ordinance is adopted, the Transportation Department will return to the City Council with the budget amendment needed to implement the policy change.