



AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Hall Employees

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Robert Goode, P.E., Assistant City Manager

FROM: Robert Spillar, P.E., Director,
Austin Transportation Department

DATE: March 7, 2018

SUBJECT: Austin City Hall garage exit reconfiguration

The Austin Transportation Department plans to implement a new Austin City Hall garage configuration on March 19, 2018, to allow drivers to exit onto either Guadalupe Street or Lavaca Street; the current configuration only allows exiting onto Lavaca Street. These changes are intended to address growing congestion near City Hall during peak evening hours and make it more efficient for users to exit the garage during these times. We have heard from many of you about the difficulty exiting the garage during peak times and we want to try this new configuration in response to those concerns. Austin Transportation will closely monitor the safety and effectiveness of the new configuration, along with feedback from users, and make adjustments as necessary. We believe the new configuration will be an improvement, but will look to make more changes if that is not the case.

Austin City Hall Garage Configuration Changes

Currently, drivers may only enter the garage from Guadalupe Street (one-way southbound) and exit onto Lavaca Street (one-way northbound). However, due to the short blocks and high-volume roadways adjacent to City Hall, northbound congestion often occurs during peak evening hours.

The new configuration will allow garage users to exit onto either Lavaca Street or Guadalupe Street, giving drivers ultimately headed southbound the option to take more immediate routes to their destinations. Austin Transportation analyses show that traffic leaving the garage is evenly divided between northbound and southbound drivers, so the new configuration will provide an opportunity to shift demand away from Lavaca Street. In addition, as part of the Annual Signal Retiming Program, Austin Transportation has adjusted signal timing to increase throughput for southbound traffic at nearby and downstream signals in order to improve the flow of traffic leaving Downtown during evening peak hours.

As a result of the changes, drivers will be able to both enter and exit the garage using Guadalupe Street. Drivers entering from Guadalupe Street will use the right access lane into the garage and, once inside the parking structure, will proceed into the parking area through the left side of the garage. Southbound traffic inside the garage headed for the exit on

Guadalupe Street must yield to entering vehicles. Austin Transportation staff have carried out on-the-ground testing to ensure that vehicles will be able to execute these turns.

These changes affect only the external, ground-level openings of the garage. The internal entrances and exits, including those for the parking level reserved for City Council, will remain the same. Please see the attached illustration for a visual reference.

For the first week of this change from Monday to Friday, parking enforcement officers will direct garage traffic flow between 5:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. to help drivers acclimate to the new configuration. Austin Transportation will also place signs in and around the garage to guide those entering and exiting the garage through the new configuration. We acknowledge that the right of way in this area is constrained and ask drivers, particularly those exiting the garage onto Guadalupe Street, to be especially careful and aware of potential conflicts with vehicles entering the garage.

Transportation Demand Management

While Austin Transportation works to make the City Hall garage and surrounding roadways more efficient, drivers can help reduce demand by trying different routes, departure times and transportation modes. For example, we recommend that drivers heading toward northbound MoPac use West Sixth Street or West 15th Street instead of Cesar Chavez Street.

As always, Austin Transportation encourages City Hall employees and downtown visitors to use the nearby Capital Metro bus routes, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, carpool/vanpool and other alternative travel options to get to and from City Hall. Those who are able are encouraged to work from home or work flexible hours when possible to avoid traveling during peak hours.

Communications

Garage users and members of the public can view the updated configuration at AustinTexas.gov/CityHallParking. Those with additional questions or feedback about the garage changes may contact austinmobility@austintexas.gov.

2ND

← GUADALUPE

← LAVACA



Entrance
(Employee &
Visitor Parking)

Exit
(Employee &
Visitor Parking)

Exiting vehicles
yield to entering
vehicles

City Council
Parking
(No change)

Exiting vehicles
yield to entering
vehicles

City Council
Parking
(No change)

City Hall

CESAR CHAVEZ

