

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	71272	Agenda Number	56.
Meeting Date:	6/15/2017	Department:	Transportation	
Subject				
Approve an ordinance amending City Code Section 12-3-5(B) to extend metered parking hours on Wednesday nights.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
Fiscal Note				
A fiscal note is not required.				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:				
For More Information:	Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488; Jason Redfern, 512-974-7265; Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092.			
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	April 11, 2017 recommended by the Urban Transportation Commission on a 9/0/2 vote with Commissioners Johnson and Wilfley absent.			
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				

Additional Backup Information

Metering public parking spaces is necessary to incentivize turnover and to better manage customer demand. This ultimately cuts down on congestive motorist behaviors, circulating downtown looking for parking. In addition, it also provides opportunity for customers of local business and encourages long-term parkers to move toward a largely untapped supply of parking in private lots and garage facilities.

In late 2015/ early 2016 the Conversation Corp, a community engagement group, on behalf of the City of Austin Transportation Department (ATD), conducted stakeholder surveys concerning public parking downtown, with 19 different downtown stakeholder groups responding. During those surveys, extending meter hours to include Wednesday nights was discussed and met with positive feedback.

On January 6, 2017, ATD sent a memorandum to Mayor and Council with information indicating that in addition to the stakeholder surveys, parking space utilization studies were conducted in the core downtown district in 2015 and 2016, which revealed that public spaces were occupied over 85% of the time on Wednesday nights.

These findings exceed parking management best practices, which dictate that parking should remain at or below 85% of capacity and that one or two spaces should remain open per block face. In an effort to confirm earlier findings, staff conducted additional space utilization studies in April 2017, which demonstrated parking space occupation on Wednesday nights of more than 90% near high activity centers of the downtown core.

On April 11, 2017 staff presented the proposal to extend Wednesday night meter hours to the Urban Transportation Commission (UTC), which voted unanimously to support staff's recommendation.

Revenue from Wednesday nights will be used to manage congestion, enhance pedestrian activity, and support the overall transportation safety programs.

