

Responses to Council Questions and Comments

1/27/2025

Item #7: Recommendation to Receive an Update on Data Collection Efforts for the Downtown Area Parking Management Plan (Under Development) and Provide Feedback on Potential Parking and Curb Management Strategies and Next Steps

- **Question:** With the new “Daylighting” by the State, how many parking places are we losing downtown? Will those corners be painted red?
 - **Response:** While many of the intersections in the study area have already been daylighted, we estimate an additional 50-60 spaces near intersections and crosswalks would need to be removed to achieve AB 413 compliance. This equates to approximately 4 to 5 percent of the study area’s on-street parking supply and 2 to 3 percent of the study area’s public parking supply.
- **Question:** How many ADA spaces do we have?
 - **Response:** Our study area inventory counted 14 on-street spaces designated for people with disabilities, as well as three spaces in the Keller Street Garage, two spaces in the 4th & A Street Lot, four spaces in the City Hall Lots, and 11 spaces in the Theatre Square Garage. **The City plans to add 11 new on-street spaces designated for people with disabilities by the end of 2026.**
- **Question:** How many parking places are being used in downtown by Parklets?
 - **Response:** There are currently six parklets occupying 20 parking spaces within the study area, all located within the downtown core area. This equates to approximately 3.5 percent of the downtown core on-street parking supply, 1.5 percent of the study area’s on-street parking supply, and 1 percent of the study area’s overall public parking supply.
- **Question:** Why didn’t the parking outline go farther up Liberty & Keller?
 - **Response:** The study area boundaries reflected areas where the team identified known challenges or opportunities.
- **Question:** Has there been any discussion with the property owner on the corner of Keller and Washington St. across from the Phoenix Theater? The parking lot there has been towing vehicles nightly and there are 2 Handicap parking places.
 - **Response:** The City has not held any discussions with private property owners about opening their property to public parking, but there are two potential ways to do so: 1) property owners can make their properties accessible to public parking that they or a vendor operate, as the owner of 200 Keller Street (former Bank of America building) has, or 2) the City may lease or acquire private property for public parking, however there is no funding source for this effort. The latter is a more complex arrangement that requires acquiring the property or entering into lease agreement, consideration of improvements needed to make the lot safe and accessible for public use, and City funding for operating and lease expenses.

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1/27/2025

- **Question:** Is it true that a Handicap placard vehicle does not have to pay a Parking fee? I was told this while parking in Santa Rosa at a metered parking spot with a handicap person.
 - **Response:** That is true for on-street metered/paid parking. People in California with a disabled person placard or license plate may park with the following privileges:
 - In parking spaces with the International Symbol of Access (wheelchair symbol).
 - Next to a blue curb authorized for persons with disabilities parking.
 - Next to a green curb (limited time parking) for as long as needed. There is no time limit with a disabled person placard, license plates, or disabled veteran license plates.
 - **In an on-street metered parking space at no charge.**
 - In an area that requires a resident or merchant permit.
 - Source: <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-education-and-safety/educational-materials/fast-facts/disabled-person-parking-placards-and-license-plates-ffvr-7/>
- **Question:** Can the TYLin Group report for the parking study be released for review?
 - **Response:** As per the staff report, a draft Plan will return to City Council for review, feedback, and consideration of adoption in the coming months.
- **Question:** What data exists from where parking meters were approved several decades ago? What was the rationale at the time?
 - **Response:** The earliest known record referencing the purchase and installation of parking meters is [Ordinance 385 N.C.S. on April 18, 1955](#). There is no explanation of the rationale at the time, but subsequent budget allocations suggest it was used as a source of revenue for public improvements in the Downtown. The City Traffic Engineer's authority to install parking meters was established through [Ordinance 858 N.C.S. on January 3, 1967](#) and remains in the City's Municipal Code under [PMC 11.56.020, Installation and maintenance of meters](#).
- **Question:** When were parking meters removed? Are there staff reports, council actions, public comments that can be shared on this subject?
 - **Response:** While staff was able to find record of meter collection being temporarily suspended in 1984 ([Resolution No. 84-038 N.C.S.](#)), we have not been able to locate records directing their removal. The last known action taken by City Council with regard to paid parking downtown occurred on June 20, 2005 (item 4B), when a motion was approved directing staff, as part of potential parking meter installation, to "develop a parking plan that includes marketing for parking garages, what the meters would be charging, an analysis on time zones in the parking areas, and a public education plan" and "bring the alternatives for parking meter design back to Council, and provide data on current parking

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enforcement including revenue generated and comparison with prior years.”

Meeting materials are linked below:

- [Staff Report](#)
- [Minutes](#)
- **Question:** A public comment refers to denied use permits in downtown properties (former Fourth and C and Walnut Grill locations) related to insufficient parking. Have use permits for those properties been denied, and if so, what was the rationale for their denial?
 - **Response:** The former Fourth and Sea location has a building permit issued and staff is waiting for construction to be completed. Staff has completed its review of an active permit to re-tenant the former Walnut Grill site as a restaurant use. **Neither location has an issue with insufficient parking.**