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Downtown Peak Parking Hours At Meters Expanded To Give Visitors Greater Opportunities To Shop, Do Business

As the City of Columbus continues to make Downtown friendlier to businesses, pedestrians and visitors, addressing the needs for parking is a top concern. Mayor Michael B. Coleman has ordered a less restrictive parking meter plan along key routes during rush hours to help increase parking at 162 meters. The changes came about at the request of Downtown property owners represented by Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District (CCSID).

“Downtown continues to develop with new restaurants, condos and apartments, parks and businesses, and as the market changes we must fill the need for parking for cars, motorcycles and bikes,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “Lifting these parking restrictions makes sense because Downtown is an active, exciting place to work and live day and night, and we will continue to look for ways to make our Downtown more accessible.”

Based on their study of traffic patterns throughout the district, the Department of Public Service’s new meter strategy will give visitors more hours to shop, dine and do business. The changes will eliminate “no parking” restrictions on portions of seven streets from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The changes will differ on each of the seven streets depending on its daily traffic flow.

"Downtown property owners are interested in eliminating unnecessary parking restrictions. On-street parking during rush hour will support ground-level retail development and pedestrian safety and calm traffic," said CCSID Executive Director Cleve Ricksecker. "This decision is a great step forward."

“Life downtown is no longer a 9-to-5 proposition, and the lifting of these parking restrictions answer the needs of workers and residents who contribute to the vitality of downtown,” said Department of Public Service Director Mark Kelsey.

The removal of the parking restrictions allows visitors to park and walk to more destinations during hours meters are enforced without fears of being ticketed or towed. The city continues to work to not only support downtown activity, but also to promote healthier lifestyles that include walking, cycling and other transportation alternatives that are core goals of the Division of Mobility Options in the Department of Public Service

“Mobility Options’ mission is to encourage and create more transportation choices for residents,” said Randall J. Bowman, Division of Mobility Options Administrator. “We listened to Downtown business and residential property owners who said their customers and residents need more options for parking, and we are taking action,”

New signs reflecting the new parking hours are being installed where peak parking hour restrictions are being lifted.

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Locations Of Expanded Hours At Meters

South 4th Street, east side of street between East Rich and Engler Streets (except between Noble and East Main Streets): Remove 4 p.m.-6 p.m. weekdays parking prohibitions (29 meters)

Front Street, west side of street between West Broad and West Long Streets: Remove 7 a.m.-9 a.m. and 4 p.m.-6 p.m. weekdays parking prohibitions (28 meters)

South 3rd Street, east side of street between East Rich and East Mound Streets: Remove 7 a.m.-9 a.m. weekdays parking prohibitions (18 meters)

South 3rd Street, west side of street between East State and East Main Streets: Remove 7 a.m.-9 a.m. weekdays parking prohibitions (17 meters)

East Broad Street, north side of street between High Street and North 4th Street: Remove 7 a.m.-9 a.m. and 4 p.m.-6 p.m. weekdays parking prohibitions (16 meters)

South 3rd Street, east side of street between East Broad and East Town Streets: Remove 7 a.m.-9 a.m. weekdays parking prohibitions (14 meters)

South 4th Street, east side of street between East State and Rich Streets: Remove 4 p.m.-6 p.m. weekdays parking prohibitions (10 meters)

East Spring Street, south side of street between North High and Wall Streets: Remove 7 a.m.-9 a.m. and 4 p.m.-6 p.m. weekdays parking prohibitions (7 meters)

East Main Street, north side of street between South 3rd and Lazelle Streets: Remove 7 a.m.-9 a.m. weekdays parking prohibitions (6 meters)

East Town Street, south side of street between South 3rd and South 4th Streets: Remove 7 a.m.-9 a.m. and 4 p.m.-6 p.m. weekdays parking prohibitions (3 meters)