The Facts

To better utilize the City of Indianapolis’ (City) parking assets, Mayor Gregory A. Ballard has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a long-term concession arrangement and management contract for the City’s parking system. The meters will operate under a concession arrangement and garages and lots will operate under a management contract.

By combining the operation of government parking assets under one management company, the City will create more convenient and accessible parking for City residents and visitors.

The City currently oversees more than 15,000 parking spaces and hopes to incorporate other government entities’ parking lots throughout the area. Included in the request are three Capital Improvement Board (CIB) surface lots and a parking garage, two City of Indianapolis parking garages and all metered street spaces.

In addition, the proposal asks for responses for the State of Indiana downtown parking garages and the parking to be created at the new Wishard Memorial Hospital.

Creating a unified parking system will serve as an economic opportunity for downtown stores and restaurants. Providing downtown employees with alternatives in garages and lots will result in increased availability of metered spaces for downtown customers and visitors. New meter technology and the flexibility to pay with a credit card will increase the convenience of street parking.

Bidders will be required to incorporate new parking options and technologies. Multispace meters, payable with debit cards or coins, are being considered in the plan to increase customer service levels.

Proceeds from a potential agreement to manage the City’s parking assets will be invested in projects with tangible results. With a substantial need for improved infrastructure, dollars created from the agreement will fund critical street and infrastructure projects such as crumbling curbs and sidewalks and deteriorating roads and bridges.

The city’s parking system includes:

- 3,456 spaces of single-space meters
- 14,194 garage spaces with 2,343 spaces to be added
- 6,067 surface lot spaces with 1,493 spaces to be added

Parking areas included in the plan:

- Garages
  - Square 66 Garage
  - Square 75 Garage
  - Virginia Avenue Garage
  - Square 74 Garage
  - Circle Block Garage
  - Claypool Court Garage
  - Planned garage at the new Wishard Memorial Hospital
  - State garages
    - The Washington Street Garage
    - Senate Avenue Garage
- Paved Surface Lots
  - CIB Lot #3
  - CIB Lot #5
  - CIB South Lot
  - State Lot
  - Planned surface lots at the new Wishard Memorial Hospital
- Meters
  - Downtown meters
  - Broad Ripple meters
  - Potential new meters
A request for information on the potential management of 18,000 parking spaces at the Indianapolis International Airport is included in the RFQ.

Parking Rates

Currently, Indianapolis’ on-street meter rates are the same as they were 35 years ago and are much lower than parking rates among comparable cities. An independent parking consultant believes that the parking meters and certain off-street parking facilities included in the plan are charging below-market rates.

One Hour Meter Rate Comparisons

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<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louisville, KY</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
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<td>Portland, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
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