Frequently Asked Questions

Mayor Gregory A. Ballard has released a request for qualifications (RFQ) for a long-term concession arrangement and management contract for the City's parking system. The City plan envisions easier parking with increased customer satisfaction by combining operation of government parking assets, such as parking lots, metered spaces and garages, under one management company.

The City currently oversees more than 15,000 parking spaces and hopes this effort will incorporate other governmental entities’ parking lots throughout the area. Included in this request are three Capital Improvement Board (CIB) surface lots and one 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. A request for information on parking at Indianapolis International Airport is attached to the proposal.

By better utilizing the City’s parking assets, the people of Indianapolis will enjoy the benefits of new parking technologies. This will also create a better parking experience for the customers of the spaces and garages. Under the plan, the City expects to see a greater number of metered spots becoming available to residents and visitors.

Why did the City of Indianapolis release a Request for Qualifications?

To better utilize the City of Indianapolis’ parking assets, Mayor Gregory A. Ballard has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a long-term contract for the management of the City's parking system. 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.

What is a long-term concession arrangement and management contract?

The long-term concession arrangement will be a contractual agreement between the City of Indianapolis and the winning bidder in which the winning bid company will manage, operate and collect revenue from city parking assets. It will be a consolidation of management and a better utilization of parking assets in Indianapolis. The city parking meters will operate under a concession arrangement and the lots and garages will operate under a management contract.

Why did the City release an RFQ after the Request for Information (RFI) in 2008?

The RFI asked interested vendors to submit strategies that could help the City maximize revenue from on street parking and was used as a foundation for the requests in the RFQ. The RFI focused only on parking meters whereas the RFQ will incorporate more City parking assets and deliver more streamlined management.

Will parking rates rise?

Depending on the bids received, rates may rise gradually over time. Indianapolis parking rates have been stagnant for over 35 years and are currently less than comparable markets. Metered parking rates in Indianapolis are currently $0.75 for an hour of parking, while cities like Columbus, Ohio and Nashville, Tenn. pay $1.50 per hour.
Will meter hours stay the same?

Currently meters run from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Extended hours will be explored as a part of the agreement.

What parking spaces are included in the RFQ?

The city’s parking system includes 3,456 spaces of single-space meters, 14,194 garage spaces with 2,343 spaces to be added, and 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
  - HHC Garage
  - State garages
    - The Washington Street Garage
    - Senate Avenue Garage

- Paved Surface Lots
  - CIB Lot #3
  - CIB Lot #5
  - CIB South Lot
  - State Lot
  - HHC Surface Lots

- Meters
  - Downtown meters
  - Broad Ripple meters
  - Potential new meters

What government entities are involved?

Included in the RFQ are three Capital Improvement Board (CIB) surface lots and one 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.

What happens once the City receives the responses to the RFQ?

Once the Mayor’s office receives responses, the office and its partners will review each response and narrow down to a short list of qualified bidders. From there, respondents will be invited to meet with City officials to discuss specifics of the plan and will be asked to submit bids for the agreement. After a due diligence process of evaluating the bids, the City will meet with the necessary officials to create the agreement.

How will the agreement affect Downtown parking?

Downtown parking will benefit from increased technology. Visitors and residents will find easier and more convenient parking as a result. Multispace metered parking will allow residents and visitors to pay with a debit card or coins. Long-term parking will be affordable and available for employees, which in turn will create more availability and turnover of metered parking.

Are merchants in favor of the plan?

Downtown merchants believe this plan will be beneficial for both their customers and their employees. New meter technology and flexibility to pay with a credit card will create more convenient parking for customers who wish to park on the street closer to businesses.