

## **Zoned Parking: Frequently Asked Questions**

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Commissioners Court voted in favor of expanding zoned parking to all facilities in the Travis County Central Campus.

Employees who currently have assigned parking in the Central Campus will transition to zoned access within the same garage or parking lot. These employees will receive a hangtag for general zone access to their garage or lot.

Waitlisted employees will slowly be allocated where additional space is available, as close to their place of work as possible.

### **Why is parking changing?**

County parking infrastructure is underutilized. The San Antonio and Granger Parking Garages, for example, are on average 30% to 35% vacant, respectively, based on multiple months of counts throughout the day. In fact, there are on average 400 vacant spaces in the county's central business district parking garages and lots.

At the same time, there is a waitlist of county employees to receive parking. Currently, there are 320 individuals waiting for parking access. Many of these individuals are forced to spend upwards of \$150 per month to purchase parking privately. This is particularly unfortunate given that audits verify that Travis County has space to accommodate them.

### **How does zoned parking accommodate more people?**

Employees work different schedules. In addition to working different hours, they take different sick days, vacation days, work-from-home days, lunch breaks, and have different off-site meetings. Many employees do not drive every day, opting to sometimes carpool, take transit, or get dropped off. As a result, assigned parking leaves many spaces vacant. Based on both studies and experience, we are certain that 20% to 40% more individuals can be accommodated through zoned parking.

### **How will this be implemented?**

Employees will continue to park in the same garage or parking lot as they do today. The Parking Administrator will issue the employee a parking hangtag for that specific garage or lot, which the employee will display in their vehicle.

In the beginning, only a few additional employees will be allocated parking. The Parking Administrator has been benchmarking utilization rates multiple times per day for parking garages and lots and will continue to do so as additional employees are allocated parking. Any additional parking allocations will be done gradually to ensure capacity is always available so that employees are always able to find a parking space in their assigned garage or lot.

**When is this happening?**

The start date planned for October 1<sup>st</sup>. Hangtags will be issued to employees in September.

**What if I forget my new hangtag?**

If you forget your hangtag, change your vehicle, use a rental vehicle, or other issues arise, contact the Parking Administrator.

**How will compliance be ensured?**

Facilities Management will monitor lots and garages every day to ensure compliance, looking for hangtags that indicate permission to park in a specific location, and cross-referencing with license plate data in questionable cases. If a vehicle does not have a hangtag, the Parking Administrator will investigate the situation.

**Will the Granger or San Antonio Garages be getting access control gates?**

Funding is available for access improvements, but these will not be added for initial implementation.

**I feel like I will waste a lot of time searching for parking.**

County experience with zoned parking in 700 Lavaca has proven that most employees park in the same space or adjacent spaces every day that they drive, regardless of arrival time. Satisfaction with the 700 Lavaca Garage has been universally positive.

**Will anybody still have an assigned space?**

No. All parking will be reorganized into three zones: an elected official zone, a business zone, and an employee zone.

**I still have other questions. Who do I contact?**

Please send your questions to [parking@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:parking@co.travis.tx.us) and staff will respond promptly.