

Chapter 161. Parking¹

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161.001 Purpose

- (a) The purpose of this Chapter 161 is to:
- (1) codify the policy and associated procedures that Travis County uses to allocate limited parking resources;
 - (2) implement and enforce such policy and procedures in an efficient, transparent, and effective manner; and
 - (3) provide parking facilities or arrangements for Travis County employees in a consistent, rational, and equitable manner.
- (b) The scope of this policy is limited to County Parking Facilities located in the CBD.
- (c) This Chapter 161 will also be known as the “Parking Policy.”

161.002 Definitions

In this chapter:

- (1) “Business Zone” means an area in a County Parking Facility set aside for the following users, subject to the Parking Administrator’s instructions and approval:
 - (A) Contractors: Individuals under contract with the County.
 - (B) Non-CBD County Employees: County employees whose primary place of work is outside of the CBD and who are on official business.
 - (C) County-Owned Vehicles.
 - (D) Others, including members of the Public.

¹ Chapter 11 was replaced by Travis County Commissioners Court on September 2, 2014 Item 10. Chapter 11 was renumbered as Chapter 161 on June 1, 2018 (approved May 15, 2018 Item 7).

- (2) "Carpool" means a group of two or more County employees riding in the same vehicle to their workplace at least three out of five County work days a week.
- (3) "Central Business District" ("CBD") means the downtown section of the City of Austin with boundaries of 3rd Street to the South, Martin Luther King Blvd. to the North, Congress Avenue to the East, Lamar Blvd to the West (including adjoining County owned tracts).
- (4) "Commissioners Court" means the Travis County Commissioners Court.
- (5) "County" means Travis County.
- (6) "County Executive" means the director, or equivalent, of the following County departments or offices whose primary location, on the date of adoption of this policy, is within the downtown central campus: Planning and Budget, Transportation and Natural Resources, Justice and Public Safety. This term will be extended to include any County Executive whose department or office relocates to the downtown central campus from another location in the County.
- (7) "County-Owned Vehicles" means those vehicles owned by the County or privately-owned vehicles covered by the County's risk pool.
- (8) "County Parking Facilities" means the complete inventory of parking facilities located in the CBD.
- (9) "Elected and Appointed Officials" means County Executives and the individuals holding the following offices so long as the primary location of the office is within the downtown central campus: Auditor, Commissioner, Constable, County Attorney, County Judge, District Attorney, District Clerk, Judge (elected, associate, visiting), Justice of the Peace, Purchasing Agent, Treasurer, Director of Community Supervision and Corrections Division.
- (10) "Elected and Appointed Officials Zone" means a zone in a County Parking Facility set aside for Elected and Appointed Officials. The Elected and Appointed Officials Zone may be expanded or contracted, at the discretion of the Parking Administrator, to accommodate changes in usage of County Parking Facilities by Elected and Appointed Officials.
- (11) "General Zone" means an area set aside in a County Parking Facility for County employees other than Elected and Appointed Officials or Business Zone users.
- (12) "Parking Administrator" means the individual having the responsibilities described in 161.003(b).
- (13) "Specified Position" means:

- (A) the position held by the highest-ranked assistant to each Elected and Appointed Official;
 - (B) the directors of the Domestic Relations and Intergovernmental Relations departments;
 - (C) either a Judge's Court Reporter or a Judge's Bailiff/Court Operations Officer (but not both); and
 - (D) ad litem positions.
- (14) "Transfer Request List" means the list of County employees who have requested a transfer from one County Parking Facility to another.
- (15) "Waitlist" means the list of County employees who do not yet have access to a County Parking Facility.
- (16) "Waitlist Number" means the serial number assigned to a County employee on the Waitlist.

161.003 Administration of this Policy

- (a) The County Executive responsible for County Parking Facilities is authorized to delegate the responsibilities and duties assigned to them in this Parking Policy to the Parking Administrator, including designees in their absence.
- (b) The Parking Administrator will manage the allocation of parking in County Parking Facilities according to this Parking Policy and perform the other duties assigned to them in this Parking Policy, including:
 - (1) maximizing use of zones;
 - (2) maintaining the Waitlist;
 - (3) maintaining the Transfer Request List;
 - (4) monitoring and enforcing allocation of parking; and
 - (5) providing process transparency by making this Parking Policy, the Parking Facility Inventory, and the Waitlist available on the County Intranet.
- (c) It will be the responsibility of the Human Resources Management Department to:
 - (1) inform new County employees of this Parking Policy; and
 - (2) advise the Parking Administrator of when a County employee terminates employment with the County or transfers to another department or office, within 30 days of termination or transfer.
- (d) It will be the responsibility of all County departments to provide to the Auditor's Office a report of the department's employee transfers, new hires, and terminations.

- (e) The Auditor's Office will provide to the Parking Administrator, on request, all departmental reports of employee transfers, new hires, and terminations so that the Waitlist may be updated.

161.004 Control of County Parking Facilities

- (a) Inventory. The Parking Administrator will update the County Parking Facilities on a regular basis.
- (b) Striping and Signage. The Parking Administrator will coordinate striping and signage of County Parking Facilities with the Director of Facilities Management. This responsibility will include painting and/or installation of appropriate signage on all spaces located within the County Parking Facilities. The Parking Administrator will arrange for signage that meets Texas statutory requirements that will allow for enforcement.
- (c) ADA Parking. The Parking Administrator will provide ADA-accessible parking spaces, in number and standards, that meet or exceed federal, state, and local legal requirements.
- (d) Enforcement. The Parking Administrator will enforce this Parking Policy based on regular monitoring of County Parking Facilities. If an employee finds an unauthorized parked vehicle, the employee may contact the Parking Administrator, who will take appropriate action to resolve the situation, including, contacting employees parking in incorrect zones, by placing warning tickets on vehicles that are parked in a County Parking Facility without proper authorization, towing and impoundment at the vehicle owner's expense.
- (e) Penalties. Misrepresentation by a County employee regarding the employee's eligibility to receive parking access out of Waitlist serial order as provided in 161.007(c), or failure to inform the Parking Administrator immediately upon expiration of the circumstances forming the basis for the exception, will result in the following penalties:
 - (1) For the first infraction, the employee will be reported, in writing, to their immediate supervisor, with a copy delivered to the employee's Elected or Appointed Official (or equivalent).
 - (2) For the second infraction, the employee will be reported in the manner described in 161.004(e)(1), and banned from parking in a County Parking Facility for one year.
 - (3) For the third infraction, the employee will be reported in the manner described in 161.004(e)(1) and banned from parking in a County Parking Facility indefinitely.
 - (4) Cumulative Remedies. Actions available in response to violations of this Parking Policy as described in this section are cumulative.

161.005 Additional Parking Facilities

- (a) Acquisition of Additional Properties. Within ten (10) business days of the closing of a real estate transaction in which the County acquires title to real property in the CBD that includes an additional parking facility, the additional facility will be added to the inventory of County Parking Facilities.
- (b) Leased Parking Facilities
 - (1) Within ten (10) business days of the conclusion of a lease or license transaction in which the County acquires the right to use additional parking spaces in facilities owned by third parties, the additional facility will be added to the inventory of County Parking Facilities.
 - (2) In the event a lease or license to use parking spaces in a third-party facility is terminated, the Parking Administrator will notify all employees who use that facility. Reallocation of parking spaces for affected employees will proceed in accordance with 161.007.

161.006 Parking Access Restrictions

- (a) Contracts. Parking access may not be allocated to vendors by contract unless this Parking Policy is amended. Vendors will be provided access to parking in the Business Zone, if available, on a first-come, first-served basis.
- (b) Transfers. Parking allocated to a County employee is for the sole use of the employee and may not be transferred.

161.007 Allocation of Parking

- (a) Parking Database. The parking database will include information necessary for the Parking Administrator to effectively manage the parking allocation system, including the Waitlist, if any.
- (b) Allocation Procedures. The Parking Administrator will assign employees allocated parking on the date of this Policy's adoption to the appropriate zone and inform the employee of the assignment. Parking access will be allocated to County employees in Waitlist Number order based on hire date, except as provided in 161.007(c). The Parking Administrator may allocate after-hour parking access to accommodate County employees who work during non-business hours (6 pm – 7 am).
 - (1) Waitlist Number. Each employee on the Waitlist will be given a Waitlist Number.
 - (2) The date of hire of the employee will serve as the effective date of that employee's entry onto the Waitlist.
 - (3) In the event multiple employees are hired on a given date, the names of the employees will be entered on the Waitlist in order of employee number (from lowest to highest), as designated by the Travis County Auditor's Office.

- (4) When an employee is allocated parking, that employee's name will be removed from the Waitlist and the next employee on the Waitlist will move up.
 - (5) Upon termination/expiration of a parking lease or license in third-party facilities in which an employee has been allocated parking, the Parking Administrator will place the names of affected employees back on the Waitlist, in the order described above (hire date, then employee number).
- (c) Exceptions to Allocation Procedures. The Parking Administrator will allocate parking in order as listed on the Waitlist, with only the following exceptions, in order of priority:
- (1) Carpool. An allocation may be made out of Waitlist serial order to accommodate a Carpool.
 - (A) Documentation of members of the Carpool must be presented to the Parking Administrator as a precondition to receiving a Carpool allocation.
 - (B) The Parking Administrator will, from time to time, verify that each Carpool allocation is still being used by a Carpool of two (2) or more County employees. The Carpool allocation will be revoked if the Carpool ceases to exist and access will be reallocated to the employee listed next in order on the Waitlist.
 - (C) When one member of a 2-person Carpool receives parking access under 161.007(b), the remaining member of the Carpool will have ten (10) days to replace that member with another County employee; if no replacement is found within the time required, the Carpool access will be reallocated.
 - (2) Move to or from Specified Position. An allocation may be made out of Waitlist serial order to accommodate an employee who moves into a Specified Position. Allocation of access for Specified Positions will supersede the Waitlist and Transfer List. An employee who moves from a Specified Position will be placed on the Waitlist in the order specified in 161.007(b).
 - (3) Special Needs. An allocation may be made out of Waitlist Number order to accommodate an employee in possession of a valid ADA hangtag.

161.008 Transfers between County Parking Facilities

- (a) Transfer Requests. The Parking Administrator will default an employee's County Parking Facility preference or transfer request to the County Parking Facility that is located closest to the employee's workplace and has available parking access.

- (b) An employee may change their location preference by submitting a written request to the Parking Administrator.
- (c) The transfer list for each County Parking Facility will be sorted in the same order described in 161.007(b), except where the Facilities Management Department Security Manager has determined that the transfer request is safety-related, in which case such transfer request will receive first priority. Waiting times for County Parking Facilities will vary, depending on the total number of parking spaces in the facility and the facility's utilization rate.
- (d) When an employee accepts a transfer and receives a new parking permit, the employee must return the previously-issued permit within ten (10) business days or reimburse Travis County at cost.

161.009 Complaints; Access Issues

- (a) **Written Complaint.** When an employee believes that the Parking Administrator has erred in the allocation of parking access according to this Parking Policy, or has otherwise failed to manage the County Parking Facilities and/or to enforce this Parking Policy in a prompt, fair and conclusive manner, the employee may present the complaint in writing to the County Executive responsible for County Parking Facilities. The County Executive may affirm or modify the Parking Administrator's action, or refer the matter to the Commissioners Court.
- (b) **Access Issues.** If an employee is unable to find an available space in the County Parking Facility in which the employee has been allocated access, the employee will report the access issue to the Parking Administrator. The Parking Administrator will document the incident and provide to the employee an Affidavit containing the facts reported, which the employee must sign and return to the Parking Administrator promptly. If the employee is required to pay for parking as a result of the access issue, and requests a refund, the employee must submit the receipt showing the amount paid to the Parking Administrator, who will forward the Affidavit and receipt to the County Auditor for payment.