

Revised March 7, 2017

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS

I and/or my employees had gotten used to being able to park for free in some downtown city garages if we left late at night/early in the morning. Has this changed?

In some cases, yes. The new gate access system that is being installed replaces an old, unsupported system. With the new system, gates are down 24/7 and parking is charged between the hours of 7 a.m. Monday to 2 a.m. Saturday. Parking is not charged over the weekend from 2 a.m. Saturday to 7 a.m. Monday. Since gates are down 24/7, parkers will need to pay for all paid hours when they exit the garage.

Why the change?

Parking rates and staffed hours at the five downtown parking garages were established years ago. Over time, resourceful employees, neighborhood residents and others discovered ways to park for free in the garages. This use was never intended and takes up high demand spaces the district and city have invested in to ensure access for costumers, visitors and paying downtown employees. The nature of the denser downtown district means that there simply is not enough parking to provide free parking to all who would like it, which is why downtown parking is paid and managed. To give a sense of the demand on public parking downtown, we currently have a garage permit waitlist of more than 1,800.

While free parking in the downtown garages late at night and on Saturdays (and free parking in garages and at on-street meters on Sundays) has been a benefit to many, it has also created disincentives and unanticipated consequences, such as encouraging employees to drive and park downtown where they compete with customers, long-term storage of vehicles by folks who are traveling, residential neighbor usage and other examples of “gaming the system”, as well as the missed opportunity to gather accurate data on parking garage utilization.

Some of my employees do not want to pay to park in the garages. How else can they get to work?

There are several options available. First, many downtown employees receive EcoPasses through the city's [Downtown EcoPass program](#). Using the EcoPass, they can either ride the bus all the way into work or drive to an RTD Park-N-Ride and ride the bus the rest of the way downtown. They should check with RTD for all relevant info regarding Park-N-Ride rules. A bus-and-walk or bus-and-bike combo may also work at some times using personal or Boulder B-Cycle bikes. Second, depending on the timing of their shift, employees may wish to park in paid street parking spots which become free after 7 p.m., or look at unpaid spots on nearby streets while being sure to review and observe all posted parking signs. Finally, employers and employees can contact Parking Services to learn products or validations may be available for purchase to reduce the cost of using the garages, if they prefer that parking option. See contact info below.

Can I get more information?

Yes. Please check out the general FAQs posted online for broader project facts and www.BoulderParking.com will continue to have updated information on this project. You can also call Access and Parking Services at 303-413-7300 or email ParkingServices@bouldercolorado.gov.