

E-MAIL COMMENTS ON PROPOSED PARKING RATE CHANGES, March 2012

1)

From: peteh@lrca.com [mailto:peteh@lrca.com]

Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 12:11 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: Online Contact the Mayor Submission

Name: Peter Hartmann

Address: 3640 Mathias Way

Address 2:

City: Verona

State: WI

Zip Code: 53593

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email: peteh@lrca.com

Message:

The city is thinking of increasing the cost of parking? I was over in Milwaukee last week. .50 per hour. Madison is already 1.50 per hour and you're thinking of raising it? I used to shop down on State St but these days, with the cost of gas and parking, it's cheaper and easier to mail order it. Just saying.

2)

From: Rachael Lohr [mailto:rachaellohr@msn.com]

Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 10:42 AM

To: Parking

Subject: Please reconsider proposed rate increase

I can appreciate that costs increase over time, but I would ask you to reconsider a rate increase at this time. The past year has been a very difficult one for many of the public employees that work in Madison. In addition to having take-home pay reduced in the past year, many public employees have seen no wage increase for a number of years. The ramp I park at is proposed for a 37.5 percent increase! I think that is unfair to impose such a large increase when wages have been stagnant or reduced. Perhaps the City would consider delaying a rate increase for another year so as not to "add salt to the wounds" of the many fine public employees who must pay for parking. Given our mild winter, perhaps the Streets Department has some extra budget free that could be used to delay an increase? Please reconsider.

Respectfully,

Rachael Lohr

3)

From: Cathy Lake [<mailto:cathy.lake@att.net>]

Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 9:44 AM

To: Parking

Subject: Potential increased parking fees

To Whom It May Concern:

I have reviewed the Commission's proposal for increases in parking fees in Madison. While I can understand the increased costs of maintaining parking ramp facilities, I cannot fathom how the City could justify increasing some of the hourly rates by up to 40%. Given the current economic conditions in Wisconsin and particularly those of the State and local public employees working in Madison, it is an unconscionable act to raise the parking rates. Has it escaped the City's notice that almost all of the employees who work in downtown Madison have suffered at least a 10% pay cut in the last year? Now, their level of income will be further reduced because the City of Madison's transit system requires additional financial support.

As I understand the situation, the costs of maintaining the "transit" system are being parlayed onto the backs of those who are currently paying a premium price for parking (as dictated in the Madison area). While increasing the costs of parking may not lead to immediate disuse of the parking structures, it will over time force people to seek less expensive alternatives. In the end, less money will come into the coffers of the City and again, a proposal of increased rates will occur. Stop this ridiculous cycle now. The City already has a monopoly on parking, thus it is not as though the "transit" system cannot support itself.

Cathy Lake
Jefferson, Wisconsin

4)

From: Barry Kasten [<mailto:kastenbr11@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 9:25 PM

To: Parking

Subject: New Rate Schedule

Hi,

I'm writing to voice my opinion that the hourly rate increases for "Cashiered Facilities/Garages" be spread out more evenly. As the proposal currently stands, Capitol North is seeing a disproportionate share of the increase. All other garages are going up between 0-.10 cents while Capitol North is seeing a .30 cent increase. Not only is the actual monetary increase the largest but, if you look at percentage increase, it blows every other garage out of the water and it's not even close.

I'm in a situation where I don't need a monthly pass but appreciate having a more affordable option within a few blocks of my workplace for use. Also, I've never had an issue finding a spot in the last several years. I could stomach the increase more if the ramp is constantly at capacity (like Gov't East) and an increase was needed to regulate usage but that hasn't been the case in my experience.

Thank you,
Barry

5)

From: Jennifer Lewis [mailto:jenniferlewis1984@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 2:07 PM

To: Parking

Subject: INCREASED CAPITOL PARKING RATES

To whom it may concern:

It is my understanding that the City of Madison is proposing an increase of parking rates in the parking ramps near the Capitol. It costs me at a minimum \$6.40 to park per day (that is on a short work day). \$32 (minimum) a week to park my car to go to work. Over \$1,000 a year to park my car to go to work. I live on the far west side, where there is no bus to take me downtown every day. It makes me ill to think of the money that I waste having to park in the already overpriced parking ramps.

Take a moment to think about what \$32 or more a week means to someone like me working in social services at a non-profit. Or what that might mean to someone who serves you lunch or dinner at one of the square's restaurants. Or to someone working at one of the hotels.

It is horrifying to think that the City is even considering raising these fees.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Lewis

6)

FROM: sara.finger@wiawh.org; on behalf of; Sara Finger [fingerwarmuth@gmail.com]

DATE: 3/6/2012

TO: Parking

SUBJECT: Opposed to Parking Rate Changes

Hello. As the Executive Director of a small nonprofit whose offices are located off the Capitol Square on King Street, I'm writing to urge you not to increase parking rates for the area ramps - especially for the Capitol Square North Garage. While I work by the Government East Garage, I have made a point of walking a couple blocks to work everyday to afford parking at the Capitol Square North Garage.

Currently at \$.80 per hour, I can barely afford to park at this lot 4 days a week. If you raise the rates by \$.30 an hour, it will no longer be affordable for me equaling an additional \$700 or so a year I'd have to come up with.

Please consider individuals like me who have a very limited income and for which an increase of \$.30 an hour makes an enormous difference in our family's budget.

Thank you.
Sara Finger
Executive Director of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health

7)

FROM: Amy Beth Olejniczak [amyybeth@gmail.com]
DATE: 3/6/2012
TO: Parking
SUBJECT: Parking Increase

Hello,

I'm writing to urge you not to increase parking rates for the Capitol Square area ramps. I park daily in the Capitol Square North Garage in order to walk to my part time job at a non-profit.

Busing in is not an option for me due to childcare restraints. I walk a number of blocks (even now, as a woman 30 weeks pregnant!) in order to park in this particular garage and make it affordable for my family and reasonable for me to work.

Please consider how this seemingly small increase adds up over the year (I expect a \$500 increase over the year) and affects women and families like mine along with our ability to work.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Olejniczak, MS MPH
4142 Carberry Street
Madison WI 53701

8)

From: Mark Hazelbaker [<mailto:Mark@hazelbakerlaw.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 3:29 PM
To: Parking
Cc: Bidar-Sielaff, Shiva
Subject: Opposition to Parking rate Increases

I oppose the increases prepared by staff for several reasons.

Monthly parkers.

I am not a monthly parker, but I am concerned because the increases far exceed the consumer price index. They impose significant additional costs at a time when many downtown employees have had to accept steep reductions in their take-home pay thanks to the budget repair bill. The bus is not a viable alternative for many people. Some of these increases in monthly rates approach 7 percent.

Pay-On-Entry Fee

There's no justification in this economy for a 20 percent increase in this rate. The downtown in general and the Overture in particular need every advantage to encourage people to come to downtown cultural events. Don't increase this fee and make it more expensive to come downtown for night events.

Meter Fees

The increases here range from minimal to 25 percent. Ouch. See above as to the wisdom of increases in this economy.

Your memo indicates that meter rate hikes are needed to pay for replacing street meters. Are you saying that we need to pay more to pay more? I like the new multi-space meters. But it would seem reasonable to expect the savings resulting from lower maintenance to finance them. If it doesn't, they may not be worth the "convenience."

General Comments

People drive downtown and park downtown because the efficiency of driving outweighs the cost. In the 1970s and 80's, the City experimented with the notion that if parking was expensive, people would not drive downtown, but would take the bus instead. The City was half right. People don't drive downtown. They drive to other areas which are convenient and have "free" parking. I agree with the studies which have concluded that retailer-provided parking is far from free. But in our reality, downtown parking costs impair the competitiveness of downtown businesses.

If additional revenue must be raised, I strongly urge the Commission to minimize the impact on monthly parkers.

In closing, let me say that Madison has well-maintained parking facilities and courteous staff. We do appreciate those things and the wonderful people who work in the facilities.

Mark Hazelbaker



9)

From: Amy Phillips [<mailto:amyphillips1234@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:51 PM

To: Parking

Cc: jarhead232@charter.net

Subject: Citizen Comment Re: Proposal to Increase Parking Rates

This message is in response to the proposal to modify rates at parking utility-operated lots, ramps & on street parking. As a state employee these rate increases couldn't come at a worse time. Given the recent pay cuts that state employees have taken this year, a 30 cents, per hour increase will be difficult for us to pay. I don't believe that there is enough street parking to accommodate an increase in state employees being priced out of the ramps. It doesn't seem fair to target the largest rate increases at the parking ramps where most individuals park while working. Why aren't the rate increases even across the board? If you must have higher rates, why not target evening or weekend events?

Safety is another issue that should be considered. I work until 6PM and then walk to the Capitol Square North ramp in the dark. Usually I'm toting a heavy bag or pulling a cart filled w/ work materials. And there are many nights when I work even later. Having to travel even further to a parking space just increases risks particularly for us female employees.

Thanks for this opportunity to comment. While I understand that the city may need to increase the parking rates, I believe that a more balanced and fair approach for those increases should be applied.

Amy Phillips
5902 Meadowood Drive
Madison, WI 53711