

Parking Rate Changes FAQ

How is the public parking system funded?

Nearly every cost associated with the Ann Arbor public parking system is paid for by parking patrons who pay to park at a parking meter, in a public lot, or in a structure. These revenues are used by the DDA to operate the parking facilities, pay for structure and lot repairs and on-going maintenance, and most parking structure debt service costs. In addition, 20% of parking revenues are provided to the City which helps enable it to provide services for residents.

Why are parking rates being increased?

There are a few reasons to increase parking rates. The costs to run the public parking system continually increase despite significant efforts to contain costs. Parking enhancements are being made to improve the customer experience. Just in the past couple years this has included doubling the number of epark stations that make it possible to use credit cards and adding a new stair and two high speed elevators to the Fourth & William garage. The DDA also recently upgraded its Epark app, and is absorbing user credit card costs rather than pass this along to patrons. And the DDA will be undertaking an expansion of the Ann Ashley parking structure to provide additional parking spaces for downtown visitors, customers, clients, employees, and residents.

Finally, the DDA has a goal to manage the ever-increasing demands on the public parking system as effectively as possible, and parking rates are an important management tool to help it achieve this goal.

When were the last times parking rates were increased?

2012: Structure, surface lots, and meter hourly rates were increased by \$0.10/hr and permit rates were increased by \$5/month.

2015: surface lot and meter hourly rates were increased by \$0.10/hr; standard monthly rate increased by \$10/mo, and premium monthly rates increased by \$25/mo. Structure hourly rate stayed the same.

What is the recommended timeline for adopting new parking rates?

October & November: Discussion of possible rate changes at committee and board meetings

November 13, 2017: City Council/DDA work session review possible rate changes

December 6, 2017: Slate of possible rate changes presented at DDA board meeting

January 3, 2018: Public hearing about rate changes. Public feedback can also be emailed to dda@a2dda.org or relayed by phone: (734) 994-6697.

January 2018: Committees review rate changes.

February 7, 2018: DDA board votes on rate changes

April 2, 2018: Rate changes go into effect

Note: in addition to the public hearing, there is time set aside at all DDA committee and board meetings for members of the public to share their comments.

Why present multiple years of rate changes at once?

By presenting rate changes as a 5-year plan, it will make it easier for parking system users to plan for these changes.

What are the strategies behind this set of rate changes

The proposed parking rate changes keeps the hourly rate in the parking structures at \$1.20/hour throughout the course of this plan. The last time this rate was changed was in 2012, and the plan proposes to keep this rate unchanged going forward.

This is a multi-year plan with small annual rate changes. In the past parking rate changes were less predictable. Over time this multi-year plan is intended to lessen the cost difference between paying to park in the garages by the hour versus paying to park using a monthly permit. Also, it is intended that over time the cost to park in the garages versus parking at a meter will become even more attractive, as the hourly rate in the parking structures will remain the same.