



Frequently Asked Questions

Updated July 6, 2017

Capitol Campus parking rate increase

OVERVIEW

Parking at the Washington State Capitol Campus is complex and often challenging. The Department of Enterprise Services (DES) maintains more than 6,000 parking stalls located in 28 locations, serving employee, visitor and vendor/service access to the Capitol Campus.

In July 2017, DES plans to implement an increase in parking fees to meet the cost demands of parking on the Capitol Campus. Per [WAC 200-200-290](#), DES will provide at least a 60-day notice to Capitol Campus parkers including a 30-day comment period before rates are changed. While the official 30-day comment period began on May 15, comments submitted before that time are being collected and reflected in this document. Rates have not been raised in nearly ten years.

CAPITOL CAMPUS PARKING RATES

Rate changes

Why do the rates have to change now?

State statute requires Enterprise Services to establish parking rental fees, to be charged to employees and visitors to the Capitol Campus. The fees are used to pay costs incurred in the operation, maintenance, regulation, and enforcement of vehicle parking and parking facilities, and help support capital investment costs. The DES parking fund is currently operating in a deficit.

[RCW 46.08.173](#) requires the director of DES to establish "equitable and consistent parking rental fees for the Capitol Campus ... to be charged to employees, visitors, clients, service providers, and others, that reflect the legislature's intent to reduce state subsidization of parking or to meet the commute trip reduction goals established in RCW [70.94.527](#)." The fees are not to exceed the local market rate.

Why isn't the parking increase being phased in over several years to reduce the immediate impact to families?

Enterprise Services did consider a phased approach, however based on the current financial state of the parking fund this was not a viable solution. As mentioned in our presentation materials, DES is legally obligated to be cost recovery, delaying the implementation of the full increase would result in non-compliance.

Will parking rates still increase if the Legislature doesn't approve cost of living increases for employees?

Yes. In order to meet our financial requirements including maintenance, enforcement, Commute Trip Reduction and capital expenses, parking rates must increase.

How was this rate increase determined?

In consultation with OFM, DES evaluated the cost of providing current services, maintenance, and necessary capital improvements. These costs were equitably distributed across the parking rates included in the [Parking Fee Schedule](#).



Why isn't the parking increase being phased in over several years to reduce the immediate impact to families?

DES did consider a phased approach, however, based on the current financial state of the parking fund, this was not a viable solution. DES is legally obligated to be a cost recovery agency. Therefore, delaying the implementation of the full increase would result in non-compliance.

Do parkers need to reauthorize payroll deductions at the new rates?

No.

How do I cancel my parking fee?

You can start the process to cancel your parking fee online:

- Go to <https://fortress.wa.gov/es/apps/Parkers/>
- Select "cancel parking/payroll deduction"
- Type in your eight-digit employee I.D. number (ex. 00012345)
- Enter your last name
- Submit request

You will need to return your parking sticker to the DES Parking Office. Once your parking sticker is received, Parking Services will cancel your parking fee.

You can also contact the DES Parking Office at 725-0030.

To review or update your parking record, go to <https://fortress.wa.gov/es/apps/Parkers/> and select "update existing parking information."

Will there be future parking rate increases?

SAAM [80.20.35.b](#) requires enterprise funds to operate on a cost recovery basis. With that said, parking rates have the potential to increase in the future to meet this requirement. Should future rate increases become necessary, DES will continue to provide the required notice to parkers.

Does this rate increase apply to parking garages other than the Plaza Garage?

The increase applies to all parking on the Capitol Campus.

Why is a visitor lot being added in the Plaza Garage?

In the [2015 Parking Implementation Plan](#), DES is directed to increase visitor parking, in part, by making parking available in the East Plaza Garage for those visiting the Capitol Campus for business and training.

If we're paying more, why can't we have assigned parking spaces?

Increasing assigned parking would go against the Legislature's direction to reduce reserved parking as outlined in [2EHB 1115 Sec. 1088](#).

What is the history of parking rate changes on the campus?

Parking rates were last increased in 2008. At that time, parking rates went from \$20 to \$25.00 per month for employee parking. The history of the capitol campus parking rates – employee zoned parking are outlined in the table below:

Year	Rate
1969	\$10



1992	\$15
2005	\$20
2008	\$25

How do our parking rates compare with the private sector and other public sector markets?

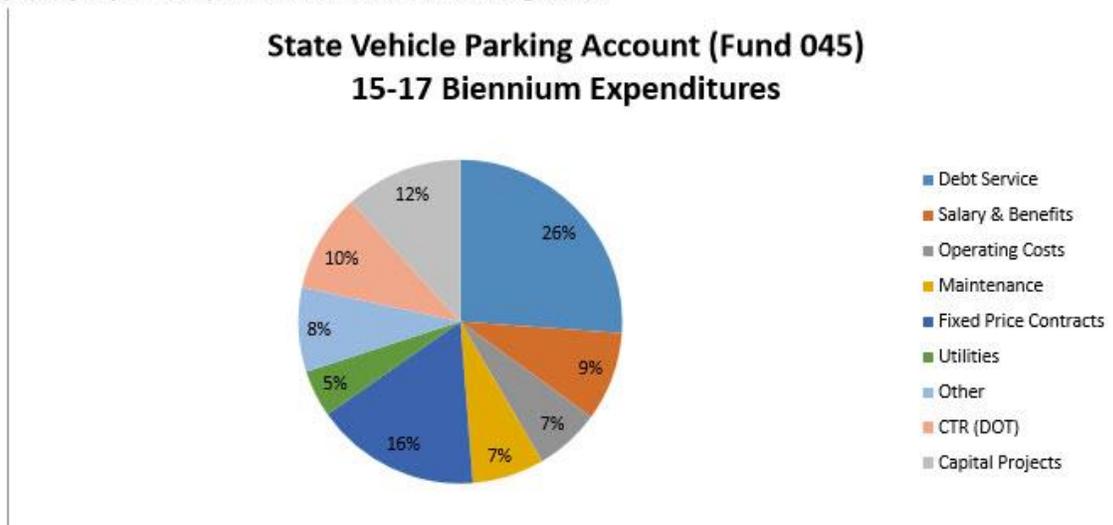
Parking fees on the Capitol Campus are lower than market rates. When considering raising parking fees, DES compares our rates against local parking rates to ensure our proposed fees do not exceed and are typically well below the local market rate of a comparable privately owned parking as outlined in [RCW 46.08.172](#).

How the fees are used

What do parking fees pay for?

Fees pay for Capitol Campus parking operations, utilities, maintenance, repairs, renovation, security, and enforcement. Portions allocated to taxes go to the state’s general fund and local governments to be used for various public services. A portion also goes to the Department of Transportation for the state agency Commute Trip Reduction program, which provides the STAR Pass and emergency-ride home program.

Prepared by Dept. of Enterprise Services Finance Division Budget Office



Legend:

- Debt Service - Garage lighting upgrade and the East Plaza repair debt.
- Salaries and benefits - five staff
- Operating costs - include a fleet vehicle, program supplies, staff training, rent, software licenses etc.
- Maintenance - includes custodial, refuse and recycle and Buildings and Grounds trades such as electrical, HVAC, paint and carpentry
- Fixed price contracts - share of Capital Campus costs for WSP security and enforcement, elevator contract maintenance and repairs and fire protection services from the City of Olympia.
- Utilities - includes water, electricity and storm water
- Other - includes DES internal admin and overhead and external statewide costs (Results Washington, Risk, Archives, WaTech Enterprise System Rate etc.)
- CTR (DOT) - is the appropriation for DOT to provide statewide CTR approved in the operating budget.
- Capital Project - this amount shows the portion for capital project approved in the 15-17 capital budget. The minor works project completed this year allowed DES to study the parking trends on campus and implement parking strategies.

Do the parking rates include taxes?

Yes. Rates include taxes.

Are the fixed price contracts, capital funding and debt service specific to parking facilities or do they also pay for other projects?

They are specific to parking facilities.



What is your budget and how much revenue do you expect from the fee increase?

Our budget is \$6.9M for the biennium and we expect to collect \$800,000 per year from the increase.

If more people start taking public transit instead of paying for parking, how will you fund the parking account?

If available parking increases due to use of public transit and other CTR options to the point that the parking fund can't fully pay for parking operations, DES would close parking areas and make available campus parking that would meet the demand.

What does "parking management" include?

- Managing parking policies and procedures
- Managing parking request intakes, close out, temporary passes, refunds, etc.
- Ensure that payment meters are maintained and operational at all times
- Collaborate with other DES programs to maintain parking lots and facilities
- Supporting the Governor's initiative to increase zero emission vehicles by increasing the number of electric vehicle charging stations on the Capitol Campus.
- Operational reporting as needed/requested
- Contract management
- Communication and stakeholder management Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) and Transportation Demand Management activities

Parking enforcement

I see cars without stickers parked in my garage but I don't see them being ticketed. Is there parking enforcement on the Capitol Campus?

DES currently contracts with the Washington State Patrol to provide security and parking enforcement on the 468 acre Capitol Campus. In May, the two agencies implemented an interagency agreement to increase parking enforcement by dedicating a full time cadet to patrol the East and Southwest Campus parking facilities.

Are you going to enforce oversize parking in the Plaza Garage?

At this time, we are recommending that only compact and midsize vehicles park in the standard size stalls. DES will be monitoring the use of both standard and oversize stalls. If there is a need for enforcement, DES will evaluate options for additional compliance measures. We ask that you be courteous of your fellow parkers and park in stalls that are appropriate for the size of your vehicle.

Why did it take so long to get a dedicated full-time position to enforce parking on the Capitol Campus?

The contract between DES and WSP specified that state troopers are responsible for law and parking enforcement on the Capitol Campus. The new interagency agreement recognizes that a trooper's time is better spent focused on campus safety and a cadet-level position is sufficient for parking enforcement.

Does the full time cadet come as an additional cost above the current contract with WSP?

Yes. Based on feedback from parkers, we are working with WSP to modify the current contract to add a component to hire the cadet to focus on parking compliance on the Capitol Campus during working hours.

Why did DES get rid of the position that was doing audits of parkers in the garage?

That was a temporary, unfunded light-duty position.



What do the citation penalties pay for?

[RCW 46.08.170](#) requires that revenues collected from citations go to Thurston County Courts.

Motorcycle parking

My motorcycle is my primary source of transportation. I ride it year-round. Do I have to pay \$35 a month?

No. Employees who only ride motorcycles to work pay \$20 per month. Employees who switch between a car and a motorcycle now pay \$35 per month instead of \$25 for the car and another \$20 for their motorcycle.

How many motorcycle stalls were in the Plaza Garage before the restriping project vs. now?

Before the restriping project, there were 14 motorcycle stalls in the Plaza Garage. Now there are 50.

Commute Trip Reduction program

What are my commute trip reduction options?

[Several commute trip options](#) are available to State Employees. Some of which include "Star" bus passes, vanpool or car pools, and the use of bike cages/racks located around the Campus.

I rideshare most of the time. Do I still have to pay the full rate?

No. If you rideshare or carpool and are registered, you can park for free or at a reduced rate. [Learn more](#) about ridesharing and carpooling.

Why are capitol campus parkers paying for the statewide commute trip reduction program?

The Legislature allocated a portion of parking fee revenue to fund the WSDOT [Statewide Commute Trip Reduction](#) program.

Parking on the Capitol Campus

Why is there no parking at the new 1063 Building?

The bill creating the 1063 Block Replacement Project did not include funding for the construction of a new parking facility to replace the 261 stalls lost with the demolition of the parking garage at the corner of 11th Avenue and Columbia Street.

Will the 1063 Building create a parking shortage?

In late 2017 and 2018, the new tenants will move into the new office building. Some of these tenants already park on the Capitol Campus, but we anticipate more than 300 new vehicles will be seeking parking on the Capitol Campus and will have an impact on parking availability. DES will continue to follow the [Capitol Campus Parking Strategy Implementation Plan](#) to ease the demand on the parking supply for employees and visitors.

When will the 300 additional parkers begin arriving on Campus?

The tenant moves will begin in Nov. 2017 and continue through Feb. 2018.

Are legislators receptive to increasing parking on the Capitol Campus?

Yes. In July 2015, the Legislature directed the Department of Enterprise Services to carry out a [plan](#) based on recommendations from a [2014 study](#) to improve parking on the Capitol Campus. Included in the plan are recommendations to increase parking by



Washington State Department of **Enterprise Services**

- Restriping the Plaza Garage to add 133 parking stalls
- Reduce agency reserved parking stalls to general zoned parking from 26 percent to 15 percent

When DES has recommendations about parking on the Capitol Campus, who do you go to in the Legislature?

In addition to House and Senate leadership, we make recommendations to the House Capital Committee and the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

Why didn't the state build a new parking garage instead of [restriping the Plaza Garage](#)?

Building a new parking structure would cost millions of dollars and would greatly increase parking fees.

How many zoned parking stalls are in the Plaza Garage?

As of June 2017, there are currently 2,182 zoned parking stalls in the Plaza Garage. That number will increase as agency reserved parking is reduced.