

Downtown Austin Parking Strategy

The **Downtown Austin Alliance** has initiated this study to tackle the issue of parking in downtown. The Downtown Austin Alliance and its partners know parking must be addressed to ensure that downtown is active, vital, accessible, and diverse. The Downtown Austin Parking Strategy is a comprehensive, forward-thinking effort to improve parking in the downtown area.

Summary of Key Findings

- There are more than **71,500 parking spaces** within the downtown study area, which includes **65,099 off-street spaces** (lots or garages) and **6,405 on-street spaces**. On-street parking comprises only 9% of the total parking supply.
- At most times, **on-street parking** is **underpriced**. Hourly rates of \$1.20 or \$1.00 result in high demand for on-street spaces, especially since most off-street parking is more expensive.
- **Parking turnover varied substantially** across downtown, and **many are violating the posted time limits**.
- **The majority of downtown employees drive alone to work**, at a rate higher than that of City of Austin and Travis County employees. However, **people who live downtown drive far less**; almost one in five walks to work.
- The number of entities managing parking downtown has created a system that is **challenging to understand**.
- Free or discounted parking is available for most employees, and **benefits for those who carpool, walk, bike, or take transit are rare**.
- Survey respondents want more transportation options, yet they **disagree on the solutions**. One group wants to **build more parking and make it free**, while others support **better management of existing parking** and **multimodal investments** to decrease parking demand.
- There are many situations, depending on the time, day, location, and user group, in which parking is **very difficult to find**. However, even in areas with high demand, and even during peak periods, there are typically **underutilized parking spaces** within a relatively short distance.

For more information

Contact: Melissa Barry, Vice President, Planning
Study Website:

mbarry@downtownaustin.com
downtownaustin.com/daa/parking-strategy

