



Terence J. Ryan
Parking Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Terry Ryan, Parking Director

DATE: March 3, 2020

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 1/28/20 BY COUNCILOR SAMARAS
REQUEST CITY MANAGER DEVELOP TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN AND
PARKING SOLUTIONS FOR THE OPENING OF THE NEW COURTHOUSE

Employees will begin moving in to the new Justice Center on March 9, 2020. Parking will be extremely tight and somewhat confusing for a short period until the new HCID Garage opens in October of 2020.

The Early Garage located on Middlesex Street has 900 spaces, a majority of which are leased to local businesses (Lowell Community Health Center, Lowell Community Charter School and multiple smaller entities) and individuals who work downtown. On average 270 transient parkers use the Early Garage each day between the hours of 8AM and 5PM and the typical stay is one hour. These parkers are customers of the Registry of Motor Vehicles, Lowell Community Health Center and numerous small businesses. Parking for users of the Justice Center will be extremely limited in the Early Garage at most times.

During the six month period prior to opening of the HCID garage, there will be fluctuations in garage usage at the Early Garage, Lower Locks Garage and other City owned garages and lots. An example of the fluctuation will be a reduction of spaces needed by Middlesex Community College at the Lower Locks Garage, and the Lowell Community Charter School at the Early Garage when school is out for summer break. This will reverse in late August/September when students return. There will also be opportunities for privately owned lots to supply parking spaces at market driven prices.

For the past several months, the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and Parking Department have been working diligently with the Office of the Trial Court, LRTA, and impacted businesses on various parking scenarios to provide parking spaces for employees and customers. Based on numbers provided to the City from the Trial Court we can expect approximately 400 employees to be located in the Justice Center.

The Office of the Trial Court and Parking Department would ask that people use public transportation and carpool during this period of transition. The LRTA is re-routing its train station shuttle route to include a stop at the Justice Center for both inbound and outbound



Terence J. Ryan
Parking Director

commuters. They will have transportation ambassadors available at the LRTA to direct passengers to the Justice Center. There are also existing bus routes that will stop at the Lower Locks Garage and bring people down Middlesex Street to the Justice Center.

166 parking spaces for court employees will be available at the existing District and Superior Court parking lots. One hundred (100) passcards will be available to be purchased at the Lower Locks Garage for employees at current standard rates. Due to expected heavy transient usage, the Parking Department does not advise selling passcards for the Early Garage.

The potential for parking at the Lower Lock Sub Lot (45 spaces), a paved lot located between the garage and Bagshaw Mills is currently being investigated. Discussions are currently underway with UML for the use of 83 spaces at the Lower Locks Garage and the Gorham Street lot is available for a small number of spaces (28). Additional on street parking along Jackson Street, and the HCID is also being investigated by the Transportation Engineer as the Jackson Street Extension will be opening this summer and will provide easy access out of the HCID.

For a majority of the transition time, June, July, August, parking is expected to be tight but available and if the current construction schedule holds for the remainder of the winter, the possibility of utilizing approximately 100 spaces in the new garage by August may also help alleviate the situation more.

The Parking Department will work to be flexible during the transition, but will be vigilant in enforcement of parking regulations in order to provide a safe and convenient experience for all parkers. The Parking Department will monitor the use of spaces on Middlesex, Appleton, Canal and Jackson Streets and if needed request changes to current parking times.

The Department of Planning and Development and the Parking Department are meeting with the Office of the Trial Court and the LRTA to finalize all options on Friday, February 28. The Parking Department, DPD and the LRTA will update the City Council with a presentation at the Tuesday, March 3rd City Council meeting.



City of Lowell Parking Department
75 John Street • Lowell, MA 01852
P: 978.674.4017 • F: 978.970.4044
www.LowellMA.gov

Terence J. Ryan
Parking Director

cc: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director