On-Street Parking Enforcement

Scope Statement – April 6, 2020

Background

On-street parking is part of the city's transportation infrastructure. On-street parking is designed to offer convenient parking for short-term uses such as eating at a restaurant; conducting a transaction at a store, bank, or government office; or making a delivery. On-street parking can be regulated through paid parking (parking meters and pay stations), posted time limits, and consistent parking enforcement, all of which encourages longer-term parkers to shift to garages, parking lots, or other locations.

Why audit on-street parking enforcement?

The redevelopment of the city's downtown area has increased demand for parking. During times of peak demand, on-street parking availability can be limited, which may affect access to businesses and jeopardize business viability. According to Walker Parking Consultant's 2017 Crossroads District Parking Study, "Enforcement is the lynchpin for effective parking policies."

In 2018, the city and the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to increase the level of parking control activities in the downtown area. The police agreed to hire and maintain a minimum of 10 full-time employees whose responsibilities would include issuing parking citations or warnings and ordering the towing of illegally parked vehicles. The city agreed to fund these additional positions from the Parking Garage Fund.

Audit objective

Our objective is to answer the following question:

- What actions could improve on-street parking enforcement in downtown Kansas City, Missouri?

Audit methods

We will examine the 2018 MOU between the city and the Police Department; interview Police and Public Works staffs involved with on-street parking enforcement; review professional parking literature, parking studies performed for the city, documents related to police parking enforcement, and Parking Control staffing levels, coverage areas, and enforcement times.

Anticipated release date

We plan to issue the audit report in August 2020.