

# City moving forward with proposed parking plan

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Rapid City is moving forward with the new proposed downtown parking plan.

They are trying to get as much feedback as possible about the proposal, which was introduced in April. Since then Community Planning Coordinator Monica Heller said some minor changes have been made around the Rapid City Public Library but the plan has relatively stayed the same.

"People have called and e-mailed and there has been some minor concerns. Mostly people parking in front of their buildings," Heller said. "That's why minor changes have been made but overall people are happy with it. I think people understand our reasoning behind it."

One aspect of the plan includes the

city acquiring state land across Fifth Street from the City/School Administration Center. Heller said the city has worked through most of the agreements with the state and the land acquisition should go forward to the Planning Commission today (Thursday, June 26). The city is simply looking to trade land off Catron Boulevard and Highway 16B with the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

"We're just swapping land," Heller said.

The land acquisition would provide the city with 50 additional parking spots. Heller said they want to begin construction for that parking lot immediately and have it completed before the construction of the third level of the downtown parking ramp begins either late this summer or early fall. That way those people

who park on the ramp will have another option.

The plan calls for two-hour parking on Main Street from Fourth Street to Ninth Street and on St. Joseph Street from Fifth Street to Ninth Street. The streets between Main and St. Joe from Fifth to Ninth will also have two-hour parking.

Two-hour parking meters are proposed on Kansas City Street from Mount Rushmore Road to Ninth Street and on Ninth from St. Joe to Kansas City. Four-hour parking meters will be set up on the periphery of downtown with 10-hour meters placed beyond that.

The two-hour meters will cost 50 cents per hour; four-hour and 10-hour meters, 25 cents per hour. The meters will take prepaid parking cards. First-time parking violators would receive a warning with a

proposed coupon for a free coffee or bagel or a 10% discount at one of the downtown stores. After the first offense a \$5 fee would be implemented which would increase to \$10 for the third violation.

Heller said the latest cost for the plan is \$700,000. However she added the plan would pay for itself within a year.

Heller said the plan still has to go through the city system. She said the plan has to go the City Center Revitalization Task Force, which would make a recommendation to the Rapid City Council. The City Council would then have to approve it twice and ordinances would have to be changed.

She added the plan may be fully implemented by late fall if all goes smoothly.