



Demand-Based Parking Meter Rate Setting

One-Page Fact Sheet

Beginning in the Summer of 2017, the Parking Authority of Baltimore City will use actual demand for parking spaces to determine the hourly parking meter rate on blocks in the Central Business District. Using data collected every six months, the Parking Authority will adjust rates to help create one or two available parking spaces on each block, making it easier for parkers to find parking downtown and spend more time enjoying Baltimore.

The goal of a parking meter is to create availability of parking so that patrons of shops, restaurants, and attractions, and short-term visitors to offices can quickly and easily find a parking space within close proximity to their destinations.

To do their job, parking meters must have the right rates – rates that will regularly produce one or two available parking spaces on each block face (15-25% availability; or 75-85% occupancy).

Data will be collected and analyzed every six months to determine the average occupancy rate on each block. Meter rates will be adjusted incrementally and slowly. Rates will be adjusted up or down in 25¢ increments no more than once every six months.

- If occupancy is higher than 85% in a particular block, the rate will go up.
- If occupancy is lower than 75% in a particular block, the rate will go down.
- If occupancy is between 75% and 85%, the rate will not change.