

Parking Advisory Committee Report to the City Commission

Date: April 10, 2026

To: Mayor and City Commission

From: Parking Advisory Committee

Subject: Parking Advisory Committee's Annual Report and Recommendations for FY27

This board will fulfill its obligations to review, analyze, and recommend to the Helena City Commission goals, and objectives for Helena's Parking Advisory Committee to promote cost-effective and efficient management of the parking system; to develop long-range goals pursuant to the supply and development of parking facilities; to evaluate user input regarding the operation, location or management of the Helena parking system; and, to provide input to the Helena City Commission regarding annual budget allocations and parking pricing policies.

Parking Advisory Committee Recommendations:

1. Support increasing parking rates for FY27. Priority for increased funding use is to address maintenance, preservation, structural and immediate health and safety issues identified in the Walker Consultants Asset Management Plan for City parking structures. Transportation staff to identify the best use of available funding to include waterproofing, structural, architectural, electrical, and/or mechanical systems repair and preventative maintenance;
2. Support a TIF Grant. Priorities are: 1) ADA access issues; 2) Wayfinding; and, 3) Landscaping.

Parking Advisory Committee Goals:

1. Establish low-income permit parking opportunities. Goal is to dedicate five percent of the parking spaces in each lot at a reduced rate for individuals meeting income qualifications for affordable housing.
2. Review parking staffing. Potential to add a seasonal FTE to address maintenance and landscaping.
3. Improve existing asphalt parking lots. Sealing asphalt and re-striping to preserve and extend the life of existing lots.
4. Work with the Business Improvement District to provide education about downtown Parking. BID to provide social media and tri-fold parking information pamphlet. Promote parking as an economic driver that needs to be maintained.
5. Update City parking website to make it easier for users to find information and access services.
6. Update parking maps. Existing parking map will be replaced by two maps. One map for hourly parking and one map for permit parking. Chamber to provide updated parking map graphics.

7. Address how enforcement is managed in residential parking districts.