

**Response to Comments – NAMA Parking Meter Proposal
Comment Period ending February 28, 2014**

The table below summarizes the public comments and provides NAMA staff response. Public comments were received on PEPC (14) and by letter and email (6). The majority of the comments were supportive of parking meters as a means to better allocate parking availability. Primarily, the comments offered recommendations and questions related to meter operations.

Public comments (grouped as appropriate)	NAMA Response
Why is the NPS metering the free public parking?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the public parking turnover allowing more visitors access to park sites • Encourage the use of public transit and other transportation alternatives. • Use parking revenue to improve and make more affordable visitor transportation related activities inside the park.
Utilize a performance parking approach/ allocate parking through pricing.	At this time, we are planning to utilize a fixed rate system similar to the District’s meters in the adjacent areas. However, the type of meter technology which we plan to utilize will allow the flexibility to adjust the payment system to a performance-type (variable rate) system if needed.
Number of parking spaces to be metered?	There are approximately 1,000 parking spaces which will be metered on: Parkway Drive, Constitution Avenue, Ohio Drive, Madison Drive, and Jefferson Drive. Parking lots at the Tidal Basin and south of the Jefferson Memorial (Lots A, B, C) will also be metered.
Provide multiple payment options for the meters and set the fees at an affordable rate.	We will be exploring all options such as coins, credit cards, mobile phone applications, etc. for convenient payment methods. Parking rates will be based on a comparability study of rates in the adjacent areas. We are exploring \$2 per hour which is the rate of the adjacent meters (in the “Premium Demand Zone”) owned by the District.
Provide clear transportation information and transparency on the use of the meter revenue.	We will provide transportation and parking meter information through social media, on signage, maps and brochures. The generated revenue will be used to improve and make more affordable visitor transportation related activities inside the park. This will be communicated to the public.
Ensure that the meter time limits provide	The time limit for the meters will provide

adequate time to visit the destinations. Will the spaces be metered in the evenings and on weekends?	adequate time to visit a number of destinations while providing the opportunity for space turn-over, allowing more visitors access to park sites. We are exploring continuing the 3 hour time limit used currently for parking spaces on the National Mall, Monday-Sunday, 7am-8:00pm. Adjacent DC meters are in operation through 10pm.
How will the meters impact the number of motorcoach parking spaces.	The installation of parking meters will not reduce the number of tour bus parking spaces or loading/unloading spaces. The meters will impact motorcoaches in two locations only. Along Ohio Drive, the parking spaces which are shared by both cars and buses will be metered. In addition, the motorcoach parking on Independence Avenue south of the Washington Monument will also be metered. Loading/unloading spaces will not be metered and will not be changed in any way. We expect that metering parking spaces will manage the public parking turnover allowing more access to limited parking resources in this urban park.
How will this program impact handicapped parking spaces?	The parking meters will meet accessibility standards. Handicap parking spaces will remain and be metered as they are elsewhere in the City.
How will the parking meters be enforced?	Parking meter enforcement will continue to be done by the U.S. Park Police. Pay and display meters allow enforcement personnel to determine quickly if a vehicle is in violation of time limits by simply looking at the receipt in the car window. The meters will state that they are owned by NPS.
Does the National Park Service have parking meters already in the area?	No, the parking meters in the adjacent areas are owned by DC.
How serious is the parking problem at present?	As some of the only free parking in the downtown area, the spaces are heavily in demand. Studies have found that free parking can increase the drive alone rate for commute trips by as much as 50%. Further, a study conducted by the District estimates that as much as 25% of the congestion downtown is attributed to people circling around to find an open parking space.