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DART ends paid parking, creates reserved lot in Plano



By Brandon Formby
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1:41 pm on March 31, 2014 | Permalink

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Dallas Area Rapid Transit is doing away with paid parking at three light-rail stations this week. Beginning Wednesday, people who live outside of the agency's service area will be able to park for free at the **Belt Line**, **North Carrollton/Frankford** and **Parker Road** stations.

The agency is also converting **three of the eight lots at Plano's Parker Road Station into reserved lots** for people who live in a DART member city. Drivers who have been using a parking permit to park for free can use that same permit to park in one of the reserved lots, which have **828 spots**. People without a parking permit who use the lots will have their cars towed. People who live in a DART member city, like Plano or Richardson, can obtain a permit at the station from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 3p.m. Saturday to Sunday.

DART launched the paid parking program when station parking lots filled up with suburban commuters from outside the DART service area. Thirteen cities give 1 cent of sales tax revenues to the agency, while non-member cities use that money on initiatives like economic development.

The parking program never garnered more money than it cost to operate. The DART board last year decided to do away with the practice.

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