

7/31/2026

MEMORANDUM

To: Seattle City Council
From: Amanda Allen, Analyst
Subject: Council Bill 121264 - Coin Revenue Collection ORD

Introduction and Overview

On August 4, 2026, the City Council will discuss and possibly vote on [Council Bill \(CB\) 121264](#) that would amend [Section 11.16.480 of the Seattle Municipal Code \(SMC\)](#) to transfer responsibility for the physical collection of coin revenue from parking payment devices from the Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) to the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to implement an operational change made via the 2026 Adopted Budget.

Purpose of the Legislation

The proposed ordinance would provide SDOT with the legal authority to collect coin revenue from parking meters, aligning current operations with legal authority. In the SMC, this authority currently resides with FAS due to a past operational structure.

SDOT already oversees the installation, maintenance, and day-to-day operations of the City's parking payment devices. By folding coin collection into their existing operations, SDOT will efficiently collect coins during routine pay station site visits. While coin payments account for about one percent of all paid parking revenue, coins are an important option for those who may not have access to credit cards, smartphones, banking, or are just making small payments.

Historically, FAS has employed the Parking Meter Collections Team to retrieve coin revenue from parking payment equipment. The SDOT Parking Shop temporarily supervised this work under prior agreement with FAS due to lack of sufficient supervisory staffing in 2025. The 2026 Adopted budget then transferred this team of 3.0 FTE from FAS to SDOT's Paid Parking Maintenance program. Coin collection and pay station maintenance go hand in hand with SDOT already performing related duties, including ad hoc coin collection. SDOT's Parking Pay Station Shop already coordinates technician dispatch, manages routine maintenance of parking payment equipment, and is structurally positioned to integrate physical coin collection duties. Consolidating these tasks within SDOT is expected to increase efficiency, streamline operations, and reduce coordination complexity between departments.

Importantly, while SDOT will assume responsibility for physical collection, FAS—through the City Treasury—will retain responsibility for all official deposits, financial controls, and accounting associated with coin parking revenue. This maintains the City's established financial oversight structure consistent with [Section 3.39.020 of the SMC](#).

Summary of Legislative Changes

The ordinance amends Section 11.16.480 of the SMC to:

- Authorize SDOT to physically collect coin payments from parking payment devices
- Permit SDOT to temporarily store collected coins in secure facilities prior to transfer
- Clarify that official deposit and accounting duties remain with the Department of Finance and Administrative Services
- Remove outdated references to FAS as the department responsible for physical coin collection

Conclusion

The proposed ordinance would update City code to reflect current operational realities and improve the efficiency of coin collection for paid parking devices. By centralizing installation, maintenance, and coin collection within SDOT while maintaining FAS's financial oversight, the ordinance would modernize the City's approach to its parking revenue system

cc: Lish Whitson, Director
Calvin Chow, Deputy Director