A budapesti parkolási reformok és eredményeik/

The parking reforms in Budapest and their results

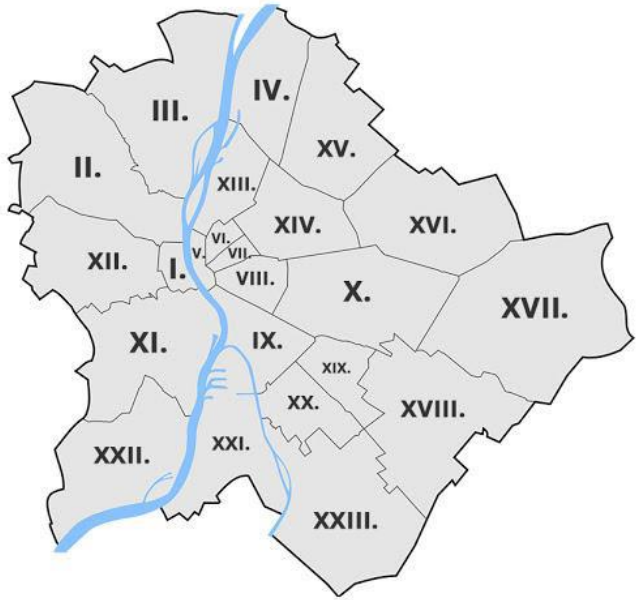
Tamás Strang

21/05/2025

BKK BUDAPESTI KÖZLEKEDÉSI KÖZPONT

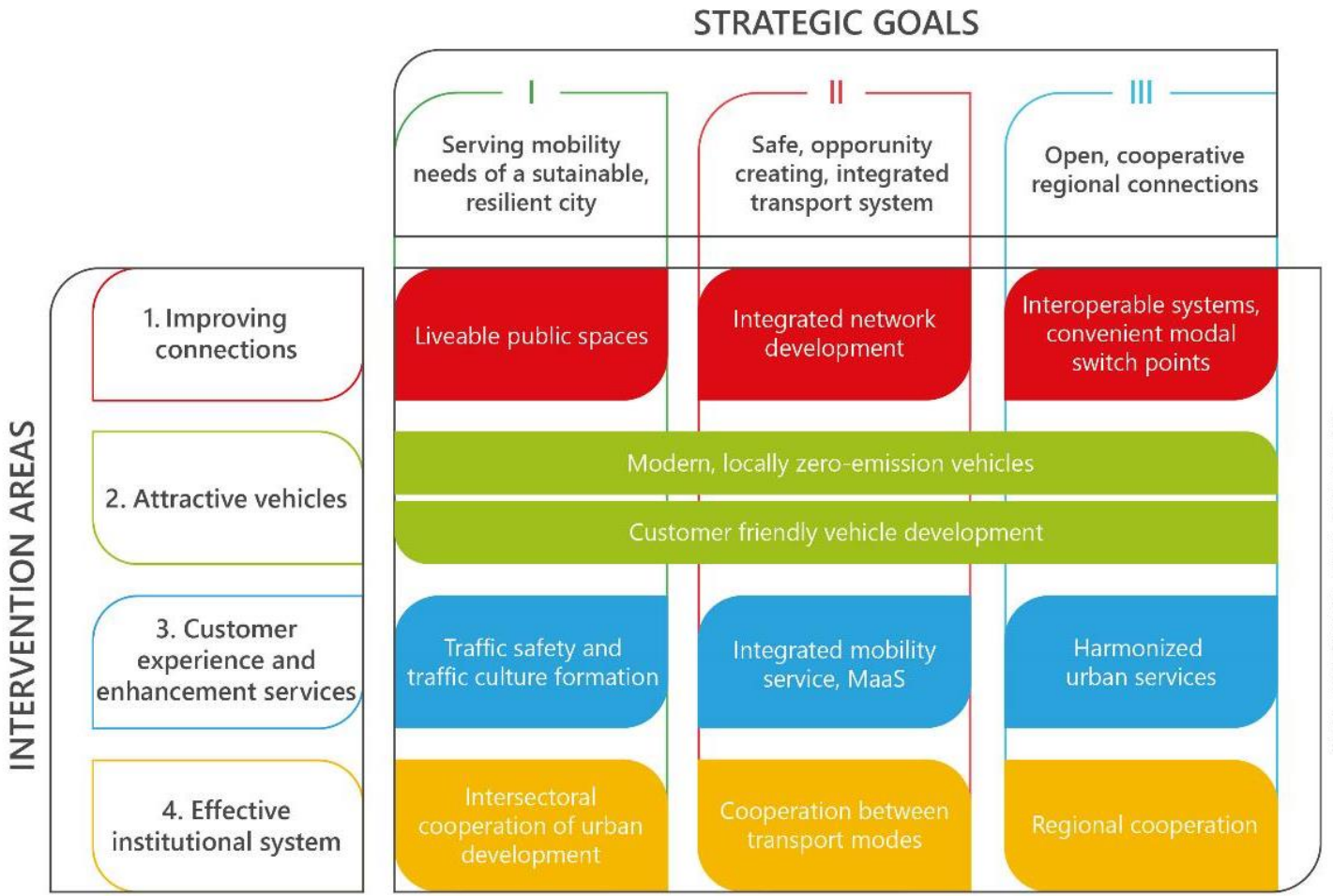
Budapest city overview

- 1.680.000 inhabitants, 525 km2
- Economic, touristic, social, educational, transport hub of the country
- Divided to Buda and Pest by the River Danube
- Complex, two-tier municipal system
  - Municipality of Budapest (Mayor of Budapest)
  - 23 districts - 23 municipalities and mayors
- Metropolitan region (80 towns/villages)
  - Further 900 000 inhabitants



BKK – Main tasks

- Development and implementation of BMT Budapest Mobility Plan (SUMP)
- Organizing public transport
- Public bike sharing (MOL Bubi)
- Strategic decisions in connection with city-logistics, **parking management** e-mobility and car sharing
- Authorizing taxis
- Strategic road network operation and reconstruction management
- Development, maintenance and operation of the extended infrastructure
- Macroscopic transport modelling
- International R&D projects



Parking in Budapest – Main challenges

From an operational perspective

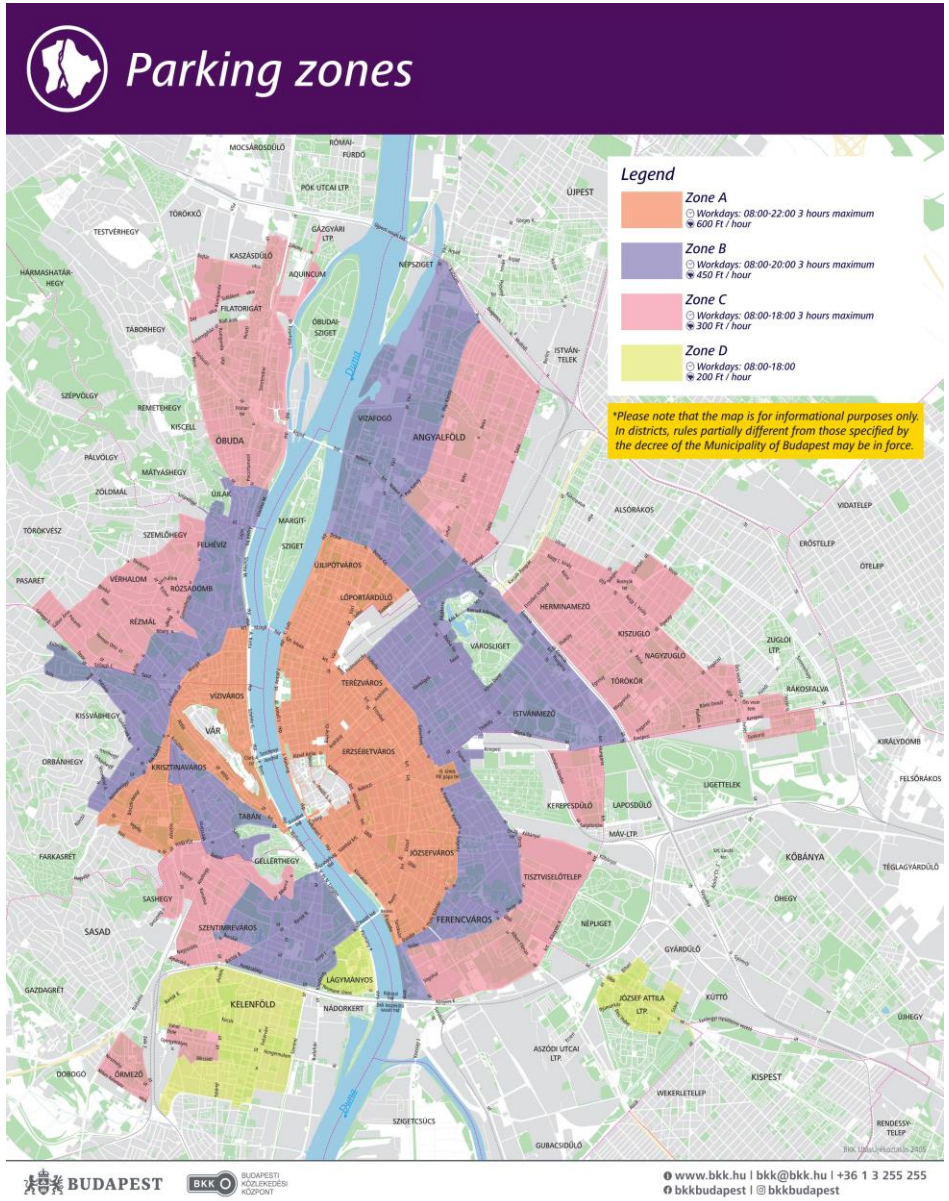
- Limited public parking spaces, with inefficient space utilization
- Approximately 30% of the public spaces in the capital (public roads) are used for parking, 30-40% of the public parking spaces are used for vehicle storage, typically private vehicles are parked or stored on public land 96-98% of the time
- Overcrowding and disorder are common characteristics
- The collection of parking fees is inefficient
- The operation of parking meters is costly (appr. 40%-of the revenue)

From the perspective of car users

- Too many cars, too few parking spaces
- Unnecessary trips to search for parking spaces
- The parking spaces are becoming increasingly narrow compared to the average car size
- While the zoning system is unified, the start and end times of the payment periods are not consistent between zones
- Residential parking permits and contribution rules are primarily under the authority of individual districts
- Free parking for vehicles with green license plates that are not necessarily electrically powered increases social and economic inequality
- Lack of transparency between parking revenues and their usage
- There is no widespread information or awareness-raising

From 2022 September new paid parking system was launched

- Budapest introduced significant changes to the public paid parking system, consoldiating the previously 27 separate zones into 4 new categories
- The aim was to increase the transparency of the system, standardize the fees and regulate the parking periods
- **Zones and fees:**
  - Zone A: 600 HUF/hour (1,5 EUR/hour), from 08:00 to 22:00
  - Zone B: 450 HUF/hour (1,125 EUR/hour), from 08:00 to 20:00
  - Zone C: 300 HUF/hour (0,75 EUR/hour), from 08:00 to 18:00
  - Zone D: 200 HUF/hour (0,5 EUR/hour), from 08:00 to 18:00
- **Current implementation practice:** district municipalities, as operators prepare the zone modification plans, the Municipality of Budapest approves them and the district carries out the implementation
  - For planning, the district must conduct an occupancy study (justified if occupancy exceeds 70%)



Main changes in the parking system

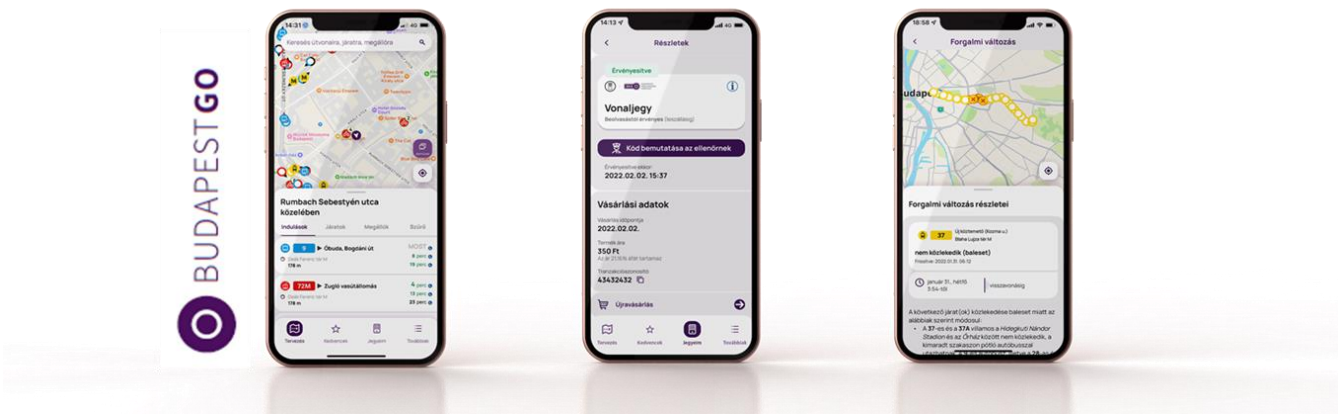
The Municipality of Budapest has approved significant reforms to the public parking system, with changes being introduced gradually starting from January 1, 2025, based on a decision made by the Budapest General Assembly in November 2024

Parking fee:

- From July, 2026 parking fees will increase e.g. in Zone A: 600 HUF (1,5 EUR) -> 800 HUF (2 EUR)
- From January 2027: parking fees for passenger cars exceeding 2000 kg in weight will be charged double the parking fee

Increasing the efficiency of parking operations:

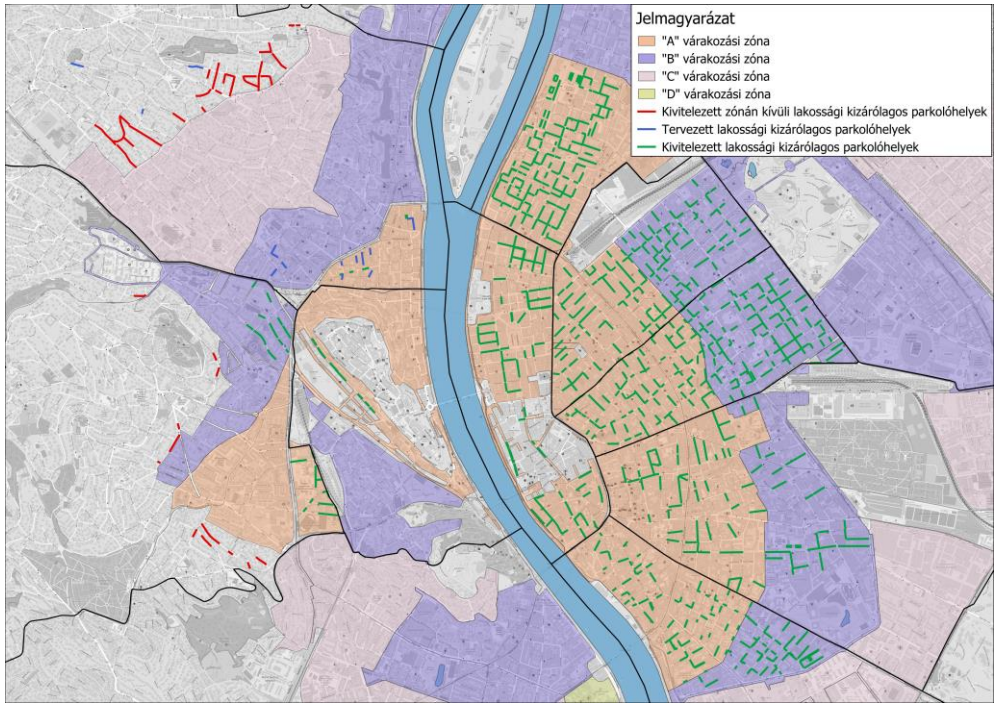
- From July, 2026 parking meters will be eliminated
- From July 2026, digitalization of parking – parking will be available through the BudapestGO app



Main changes in the parking system

Parking discount system:

- From January 2025, carsharing discounts have changed, monthly fee increased
- From January 2025, the range of discounts available from the district is extended
- From July 2026, a 25% discount will apply for those who pay parking fees through the BudapestGO app and hold a valid, full-price BKK monthly pass
- From January 2027, free parking for vehicles with green plates will be abolished

Residential parking spaces

- Overuse of paid parking areas and P+R use outside paid parking areas cause problems
- **Objective**: to provide car parking spaces exclusively for vehicles of residents with an address in the given district, outside of the official parking operation hours
- Design of residential parking spaces:
  - Max. 30% of all paid parking spaces in the district
  - Max. 50% of paid parking spaces in a street
- Several central districts have created parking spaces as a pilot in 2021-2022 – more districts are developing