



**MEMO TO:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Carol Helland, Interim Director, Planning and Community Development

**DATE:** February 18, 2020

**SUBJECT: Informational Update on the Downtown Parking Management Strategic Plan Existing Conditions**

**I. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Staff is not requesting action at this time. This is an informational update on the findings from the Downtown Parking Management Existing Conditions Report and the outreach plan proposed for development of the Preliminary Strategy Recommendations. Discussion of the Preliminary Strategy Recommendations themselves will occur at a future Study Session after community stakeholder feedback has been incorporated.

**II. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS**

Carol Helland, Interim Planning Director	425-556-2107
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<i>Planning and Community Development</i>	

**III. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND**

In late 2017, staff began a phased approach to developing a Downtown Parking Management Strategic Plan that considered feedback from system users. The intention of the plan was to both update the data from the 2014 study and to develop a roadmap for more efficiently managing existing parking resources that can evolve with continued growth.

Development of the plan consists of the following phases:

- 1) Downtown Parking Management Strategic Plan Existing Conditions Report – Complete.
- 2) Preliminary Strategy Recommendations – Drafted, to be taken to the community stakeholders for refinement.
- 3) Implementation Plan – Anticipated completion in Q3 2020.

The goals of the Downtown Parking Management Strategic Plan are twofold:

- Maximize safe and efficient management of parking resources in Downtown.

- Develop strategies that support a vibrant Downtown for all users which recognize current conditions and support a sustainable transition into a compact multimodal urban center.

The Existing Conditions Report is based on data collected in March and June of 2019 and the results from a community survey. The Existing Conditions Report will inform the proposed strategies to improve the management and efficiency of the Downtown parking system. Once stakeholders have had a chance to review and refine the Preliminary Strategies, they will be brought back to City Council for study session in March 2020, and then adopted as part of an Implementation Plan.

While the goals of the plan are focused on addressing current conditions and constraints, strategies for effective management of parking resources and regulatory updates will be developed that consider future intensification and the changing needs of the community over time.

## **A. Analysis**

### *The Existing Conditions Report (Attachment A)*

Framework Consulting, with feedback from the staff working group and Parking Advisory Committee (membership listed in Attachment B), has finalized the Downtown Parking Strategies Existing Conditions Report. Key Findings from the Existing Conditions Report include:

- 42 percent of land in Downtown is dedicated to parking, or approximately 13,000 stalls.
- Demand for parking is variable across the Downtown district, with an overall occupancy peak of 62.5 percent on-street and 44.7 percent off-street.
- Turnover rates are healthy and have an average, on-street parking turnover of 4.29 cars per day.
- Commuter parking demand is high, and facilities are at capacity.
- Certain on-street areas of Downtown have occupancy rates above 85 percent, which suggest a need for new management strategies.
- 32 percent of survey respondents said the greatest challenge to parking in Downtown was a lack of signage and information on where to park.
- 56 percent of questionnaire respondents find parking Downtown to be inconvenient, difficult, and a deterrent to coming Downtown.

### *Development of Preliminary Strategy Recommendations*

Preliminary Strategies have been developed with the input of staff, the Parking Advisory Committee and the consulting firm. The following goals for the Preliminary Strategies have emerged based on the Existing Conditions Report:

1. Prioritize customer and visitor access for on-street parking (i.e., short-term parking);
2. Improve management of City-owned facilities
3. Improve management of commuter parking facilities

4. Adopt policies & regulations that enhance efficiency of on- and off-street parking resources
5. Facilitate more effective use of private parking facilities

These strategies will be reviewed and refined by community stakeholders before a plan to implement the changes is brought forward to Council for adoption. The *Community Involvement Plan* provides the strategies and tools that will be used to involve community members in the final strategy development (*Attachment B*). The goals of this outreach are to:

- Inform the community on findings of the Existing Conditions Report;
- Confirm public feedback is accurately reflected in the Existing Conditions Report and Preliminary Strategies;
- Consult with the public to prioritize and refine the Preliminary Strategies; and
- Focus attention on specific stakeholders who utilize or rely on the parking system to inform appropriate timing and prioritization of strategies.

#### **IV. PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS HELD**

- October 2017: Committee of the Whole, Planning and Public Works
- March 2018: Committee of the Whole, Planning and Public Works update on formation of Parking Advisory Committee
- November 2018: Consultant contract approved by Council
- February 11, 2020: Committee of the Whole, Planning and Public Works

#### **V. IMPACT**

##### **A. Service/Delivery:**

1. More efficient management of parking resources in Downtown.
2. Provide parking that supports a vibrant Downtown for residents, businesses, and visitors and supports a sustainable transition into a compact multimodal urban center.

##### **B. Fiscal Note:**

Recommendations for budget allocations will be considered and reflected in the Final Strategies and Implementation Plan.

#### **VI. ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

#### **VII. TIME CONSTRAINTS**

City Council Study Session: March 10, 2020

Public Outreach on Preliminary Strategies: February/March 2020

**VIII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Downtown Parking Management Strategic Plan Existing Conditions  
Report

Attachment B: Community Involvement Plan

*Carol V. Helland*

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**Carol Helland, Interim Director of Planning and Community Development**

*Angela E. Birney*

Approved for Agenda \_\_\_\_\_  
**Angela Birney, Mayor**