

**PRESENTATION TO TRIAD  
December 6, 2019**

**Purpose of this Briefing**

In Spring 2019, a group that included representatives of the South Capitol Neighborhood, City of Olympia and State of Washington (DES) was formed to use an interest-based process to resolve conflicts over parking enforcement costs, permit fees and associated issues. The Triad concurred with this process at its last meeting, June 3, 2019. This briefing is intended to inform the Triad of the outcomes of that process.

**Background**

Parking by non-residents in the South Capitol Neighborhood (SCN) increases significantly during the legislative session because the neighborhood is so close to the Capitol. This issue has been contentious among the State, City of Olympia and SCN for decades. In 1972, when the East Campus was being developed, increasing the number of state employees on Campus, and the State began charging parking fees to support debt service payments on the garage bond, parking demand was pushed out to the SCN. This led the City to establish a two-hour parking limit on the street for both residents and non-residents in the SCN.

In 1989, the City of Olympia implemented a courtesy notice for the first parking violation. Shortly thereafter, the residential parking permit system was implemented, modeled after what had been done in Seattle. This program allowed residents of SCN to purchase residential parking permits with which they could avoid parking time limits. Up to four permits per household were allowed.

The interest-based process was suggested to address neighborhood concerns resulting from the City of Olympia's 2018 update of the downtown parking strategy and proposal to increase residential parking permit fees in the SCN from \$10/year/vehicle to \$60/year/vehicle. In a meeting on December 13, 2018, a number of issues were raised by SCN residents that could not be sufficiently explained or resolved. It was agreed to form a work group that included representatives of the City, the SCN and the State of Washington who would use an interest-based process to try to resolve the conflicts over this issue and to develop an on-going system to address issues as they arise.

Each group of representatives reflects different elements of the problem.

- SCN residents need parking enforcement in the neighborhood to assure that they have access to their homes from the street to perform basic daily activities or accommodate visitors.
- City of Olympia provides parking enforcement and manages that program similarly to an Enterprise Fund, originally established for downtown parking.
- The State of Washington has an impact on the SCN as a result of visitors to the Capitol doing business with the Legislature and state agencies as well as state employees parking in the residential area. Although the State's policies support commute trip reduction programs, these do not affect the public doing business with the Legislature and State agencies or sufficiently incentivize employees to not bring their personal vehicles to the campus. Thus, State business creates parking problems in the SCN.

**Process**

The Interest-Based Group began meeting in June 2019. The first meeting was an orientation to the proposed process. There were 11 subsequent meetings which were used to:

- Understand the background of the issues;
- Identify interests of each party and issues for discussion;
- Propose options to address each issue; and

- Identify potential solutions from among the options.

It was understood that this process might take more time at the beginning but resolution through the process would likely be more durable than a conventional public engagement process. The interests that would need to be addressed in any final recommendation and the standards for making decisions about recommendations are attached in Attachment 3.

### **Conclusions & Recommendations**

A wide range of options was identified and discussed based on a review of:

- Background data from each party, including history of the issue dating back to 1972;
- Impacts of state activities on the SCN, particularly activities surrounding the legislative process;
- Impacts of employee parking in the SCN, particularly east of Capitol Way;
- Capacity and limitations of State-provided parking facilities;
- DASH and shuttle services, past and present;
- Capacity of on-street parking in the SCN residential area;
- How parking enforcement is conducted; and
- Data about the cost of enforcement

After applying interests and pros and cons, and considering other factors, the conclusions and recommendations are as follows:

#### **Conclusions**

There are several changes that should be made to City Code that would benefit both the SCN and the City. These are reflected in the recommendations below.

The State's parking impact on the SCN is harder to address because of the complexity of the State system. The majority of impacts to the SCN on the west side of Capitol Way are related to Legislative business. Parking facilities are limited, some parking spaces have been eliminated and not adequately replaced, and the Legislature has not funded additional parking in recent construction projects. As a result, there are not enough parking spaces on the west side of Capitol Way to adequately handle visitor parking during the Legislative Session, during committee days or for some special events at the campus. Parking at the Deschutes Parkway is available but not frequently used. Intercity Transit is not likely to add DASH service to that area because of the cost and because there are two regular transit routes from that area to downtown, allowing transfer to routes serving the campus.

Parking impacts in the SCN on the east side of Capitol Way are year-round.

#### **Recommendations**

**The following consensus recommendations will be made to the Olympia City Council in the form of amendments to existing City ordinances:**

- South Capitol Neighborhood Parking Zones. These should be renamed in city code as "South Capitol Neighborhood Parking Zones" and the boundaries of these zones should be redefined consistent with the map in Attachment 1.
- Addition of Paid Parking at Specific Areas Abutting SCN. Parking spaces should be added at areas shown in Attachment 2, utilizing mobile/phone payment parking at \$2.00/hour, for up to three hours parking maximum in the SCN parking zones west of Capitol Way and up to two hours parking maximum in SCN areas east of Capitol Way. Residents with permits and their visitors may park in those areas without paying parking fees or having overtime parking penalties, consistent with current City Code.

- Residential Parking Permit Fees. Residential permit fees should be raised to \$25 each for the first two vehicles, and \$35 for the third, with no provision for additional vehicles. The fee for qualified low-income residents should remain at \$10/vehicle.
- Fines for Parking Citations. Fines for overtime parking should be raised to \$25 for the first violation and \$50 for chain violations. The rate should be increased after a certain number of multiple citations. The City will develop a proposal for repeat offenders.
- Affidavits for Residential Parking Permits. The affidavit stating that off-street parking will not be leased or reserved for non-residents should be continued and renewed annually. The affidavit for home-based businesses should also be continued and required annually.

**The following consensus recommendations will be made to the City of Olympia parking program staff:**

- Targeted Enforcement on Days with High Volume Parking Needs Associated with State Activities. City parking program staff should be trained in reviewing the legislative calendar to alert enforcement staff of periods in which there is a need for increased enforcement patrol in the SCN. Additionally, DES Visitor Services weekly event schedules and high volume training schedules at Jefferson Building should be provided to the parking staff for similar consideration.
- Neighborhood Education Process. The South Capitol Neighborhood Association (SCNA) and City will jointly prepare and present an education program to the SCN residents so that they will be well-informed of regulations, how the enforcement system works, what their options are, etc. The program will also be provided to the State for employee and visitor information. Planning to develop this program should start no later than February 28, 2020.
- Future Issue Resolution Process. Continuing issues related to parking will be addressed as follows:
  - These recommendations for parking program changes will be considered a pilot program for which the assumptions need to be validated. The City will reach out to the SCNA and State to set up a meeting to discuss parking issues in Fall 2020. At this meeting there will be insufficient data about the new system but the meeting will serve to keep communication open.
  - Thereafter, an annual meeting between the City, the State, and the SCNA to address parking issues of mutual interest will be held in the Fall of each year, beginning in Fall 2021, prior to the Triad meeting.
  - At the Fall 2021 meeting, the City will report to the State and SCNA whether or not the assumptions used in this process were validated in the first year. The same cost analysis model as was used in this process will be used for the one-year review. There will be an annual report-out from the City when no changes are needed in fees and fines and also when there are changes in parking demand. There will not be any change in the residential permit fee without resuming an interest-based process.
  - During the interest-based discussions summarized in this report, the possibility of designating part or all of the SCN as a “resident only” parking zone was suggested. City staff expressed support for the proposal, as it would make parking enforcement easier. Given the progress on other issues, the group agreed to set this option to the side and raise it in the future, should the agreed actions fail to address the parking issues at hand.

**The following consensus recommendations will be made to the State:**

- Staff at parking booths on the west Capitol campus and the DES Visitor Services should be provided with maps showing appropriate alternative parking locations and rules about parking in the neighborhood and they in turn provide such material to visitors to Capitol Campus.
- The State will identify a person/position responsible for providing City Parking staff with timely information about events and high volume training schedules at the Jefferson Building.

- The State will identify an appropriate person(s)/position to participate in the Annual Parking Meetings with the City and SCNA.

One issue that was discussed did not arrive at a consensus. There is consensus that the State's activities are creating parking impacts in the SCN and that some form of strategic parking solutions are needed. Although the State is committed to commute trip reduction strategies with regard to the Capitol campus, this does not affect visitors to the Legislature who are impacting the SCN. Thus the following proposal was made but did not achieve full agreement among the group.

- The State should participate in some form of mitigation of the impacts on the SCN. There also should be long- and short-term strategies employed by the State consistent with the State's Capital Master Plan to increase parking capacity and/or reduce the need for parking and accommodate parking needs generated by the State's business adjacent to the SCN.

**Submitted by Participants:**

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Facilitator: Cynthia Stewart

**ATTACHMENT 1: South Capitol Neighborhood Parking Zones**  
*(to be added)*

**ATTACHMENT 2: Paid Parking at Specific Areas abutting SCN**  
*(to be added)*

**ATTACHMENT 3: INTERESTS & STANDARDS FOR DECISIONS**

The list of interests that would need to be addressed in final recommendations included these:

- Fairness
- Equity in Service Delivery
- Transparency
- Consistent law enforcement (everyone treated the same)
- Recognition of limitations
- Maintain neighborhood character
- Burden sharing
- Efficiency
- Safety
- Improved relationships
- Commitment to this process and the outcome

Additionally, standards for decisions were approved, including these. Any final recommendation from the group would need to meet these standards:

- Legal
- Effective
- Cost-Effective (return on investment)
- Feasible
- Fair (to all parties)
- Ratifiable