

Open House Summary

Olympia Downtown Parking Strategy

Overview

An open house on the Downtown Parking Strategy was held at the City of Olympia Council Chambers on July 13, 2017 to provide information and results of the Downtown Parking Strategy efforts and to gather input from the public on project findings and recommended strategies. The open house included an informal session at project boards, a presentation by city staff, a live polling event, a question and answer session, and additional informal question time with staff following the presentation program.

The following marketing efforts were done to advertise the open house:

- Online – including through a link off the City website home page
- Promotional flyer, distributed by the Downtown Ambassadors and posted in City buildings
- Posted on the TCTV reader board
- Posted on the City digital message boards
- News release
- Through parking meter touchpoint messaging
- 2 e-newsletters, distributed to 672 subscribed citizens
- Article in ODA e-newsletter during the week of June 19
- Event Posters at Welcome Center and the ODA window
- Invitation to City Council through flyer in their mailboxes

Attendees

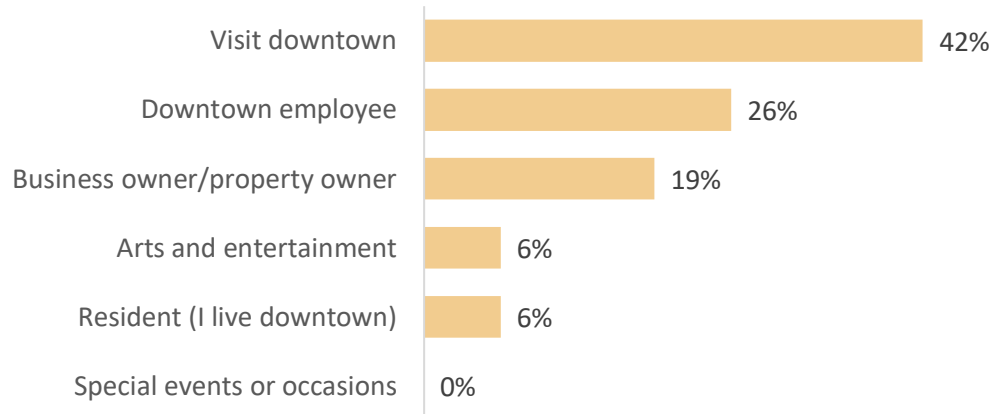
A total of 37 attendees signed in at the meeting. Several representatives from city staff and two members from the consultant team were present to manage the meeting and answer questions from attendees.

Slido Polling

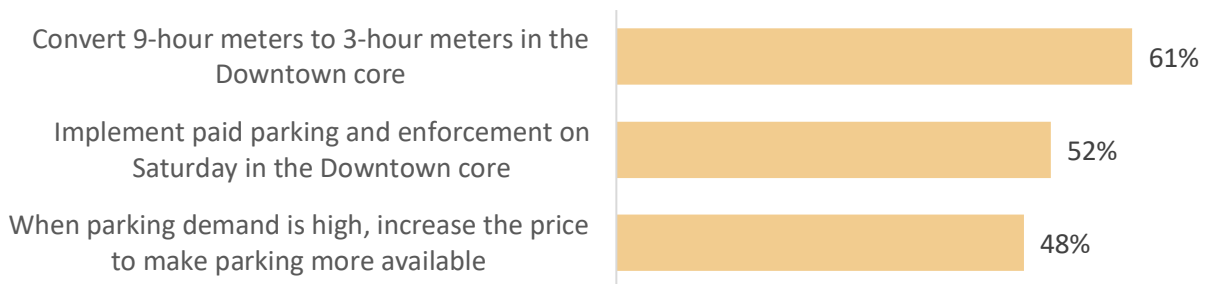
Slido, an online public engagement tool, was used to conduct live polls on potential project strategies during the meeting. Respondents were able to respond on their phones or on paper forms. Digital responses were shown on the screen in real time so that participants could see results. Attendees were polled on four questions. Those choosing to respond using print copies were provided handouts to complete.

The section below provides the question and responses for each including paper responses. Questions one and two had 31 responses and questions three and four had 35 responses.

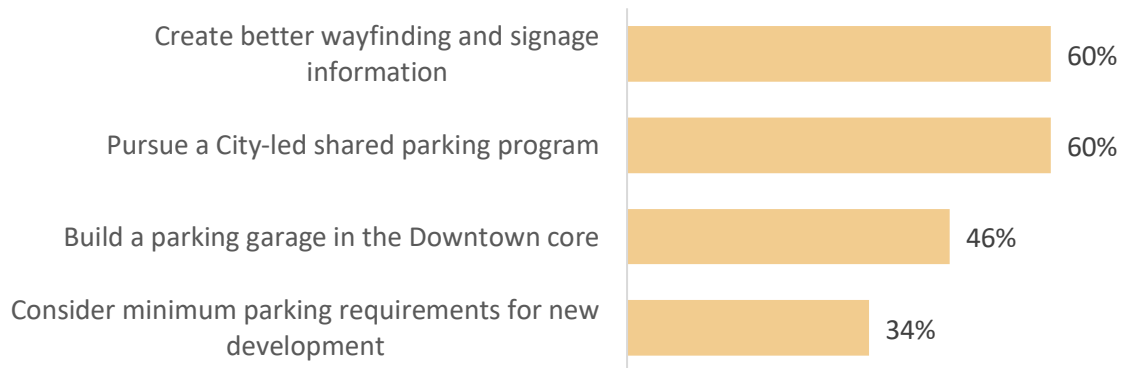
Question 1: What is the primary reason you travel downtown?



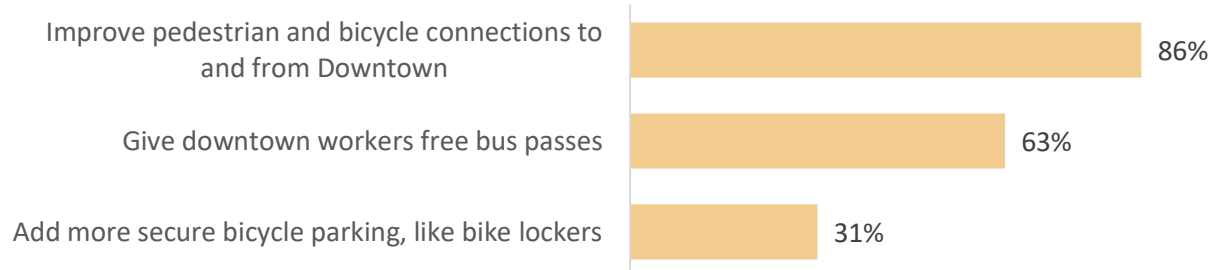
Question 2: What do you think are the best on-street parking strategies? (select up to two)



Question 3: What do you think are the best off-street strategies (select up to two)?



Question 4: What do you think is the best way to make it easier for people to bike, walk, or take the bus downtown?



Comment Cards

The comments below were received through comment cards during the meeting. The comments are transcribed as written by the submitter. The table below provides notes on the topics covered in each individual comment.

No.	Comment	Topic
1	We are losing disabled parking as parking lots are dev. for housing. Free parking doesn't mean accessible parking is available. Event parking at center for performing arts for disabled folks is non-existent. Same for arts center at SPSCC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disabled parking ▪ Event parking
2	We need at least two parking garages to provide enough parking for shoppers and business owners and employees as well as the new residences. Our customers always need to move during their visits of up to 3-4 hours. Handicap on every block open. It directly impacts business when guests have no space available to park and can't park long enough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parking garage ▪ Residential parking ▪ Restriction times
3	Thank you for an informative event. I arrived @7:50 & missed the presentation. Because the event was listed as 6:30 – 8:30 as an open house I was unaware there was a specific presentation I would miss. Would have loved to know when the presentation was set to begin. Thanks!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communications
4	If paid parking is implemented on Saturdays, is it possible for another day of the week to be free to the public? Is the problem money or availability?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paid parking on Saturday
5	Consider special parking permits for vanpoolers (removing potential 5 to 11 single occupancy vehicles. Minimum parking requirements residential + business + encourage use of alternatives to driving. Concerned about area closer to the Capitol. Lots of new employees... Encourage use of alternatives. Good sidewalks. Good lighting. Preference for those willing to vanpool. Don't take away 9 hr meters for workers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vanpool permits ▪ Minimum parking requirements ▪ Street design
6	Nice presentation materials. I travel primarily by bike. I was glad to see mention of bike parking, but would have appreciated some relevant date or map – based ideas, such as bike parking inventory. Or perhaps where to place secure bike parking. If the city pursues parking structures downtown, secure bike parking (possibly valet) should be included. Having secure, predictable bike parking nearby planned downtown bicycle routes would greatly enhance their value to would-be cyclist from nearby residential areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure bike parking
7	Need to have long term parking, near the OTC for people who commute by bus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long-term parking
8	I have a lobbying business in Olympia + pay B&O taxes. The parking on Capitol campus is very limited. We need parking for businesses that serve or work at the State Capitol.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employee parking ▪ State Capitol parking

No.	Comment	Topic
9	Has there been any discussion about encouraging residential apartments to partner w/car sharing (zipcar, etc.) to provide residents memberships as a way to replace privately owned cars?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car sharing, especially at residential buildings
10	Very supportive of minimum residential parking and associated in-lieu fee. Developers of residential buildings should contribute to parking structure(s). Also support Saturday meters and partnerships with off-street lots. To use off-streets lots effectively will require a Dash-type route. Most private & state lots are not near the downtown core.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum parking requirements Paid parking on Saturday
11	Need better disabled parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disabled parking
12	Need more disabled parking close to Washington Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disabled parking
13	Is it possible (in an attempt to address concerns of elevated rent costs in response to minimum parking requirements to new developments) for the city to somehow regulate this? Additional information / thoughts available upon request.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum parking requirements
14	Downtown parking meters should be able to be pre-loaded the night before. People who make responsible choice to taxi or walk home after having too much to drink should not be rewarded with a morning parking ticket.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking meter payment
15	Yes free bus passes for employees! Incentives for biking/ walking? Apartments – don't charge all residents for parking, only those with cars.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free bus passes Incentives for alternative commute methods
16	Centralia has attractively – designed surface lots – lots of trees that don't ruin pedestrian experience. I like the idea of co-branded signage w/spots available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-designed lots Signage & wayfinding
17	For visitors, parking needs to be <u>predictably available</u> at <u>known</u> locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predictability
18	Burlington Vermont appears to have some good parking strategies. I was very impressed during my many visits over 5 years. 2011 – 2016. You might want to check it out. Especially, its parking garage downtown – 2 hrs free.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking garage