



## **Parking Technical Advisory Group**

**728 St. Helens; Room 16**

### **Meeting #99 – December 3, 2015, Notes**

#### **4:10 Meeting called to order by Co-Chairs**

Joe Loran, one of the co-chairs, called the meeting to order.

Eric Huseby from the City of Tacoma gave an overview of some of the things the City has been working on recently. The residential parking program packet the PTAG had been working on is being drafted into an ordinance that will likely go before Council in early 2016.

As part of the enhancements in the Lincoln Business District, parking enforcement will be normalized. The City has been conducting outreach to the businesses to talk about the purpose and intent of the enforcement – safety and availability for customers. The response has been positive from the community.

Rather than beginning immediate enforcement in Lincoln or along the area of South Tacoma Way with cars parked on the sidewalks, the City has decided to do a prolonged period of warnings, in large part due to the holiday season.

#### **4:30 Occupancy Data Presentation and Discussion**

Rick Williams, a consultant to the City, presented a wealth of occupancy data collected in October regarding the on-street system. He began by talking about the development of Tacoma's system and its data based approach to on-street parking really being a model for other jurisdictions. He noted that the maximum of 85% occupancy was really looked at by block-face, but acknowledged that if there is only one stall on a block-face, the data may not be very useful for that block.

His team evaluated 3,161 stalls in the system. On an inventory wide basis, the system peaked at 72% on the weekdays and 40% on the weekend. While these are below the 85% target, not all areas of the system had the same results. In particular, a closer look was taken at the UWT area.

The UWT sub-area (17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>) had a peak of 86% occupancy on the weekdays and 29% on Saturday. Of note, this area extended outside of the regulated area by crossing south of S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street. When this unregulated area is considered on it's own, these 439 stalls had a weekday peak of 98% and a Saturday peak of 18%. There was a period of 6 consecutive hours of parking occupancy exceeding 85% in this area. While this level of parking would typically imply new parking regulations, it is unclear at this time what the impact of the overparking is on the adjacent businesses.

Because the City has done regular parking occupancy counts of parts of the downtown core for several years, it is possible to compare year-to-year data as well. Of all the stalls studied in 2015, 59% of them were also evaluated in 2013. Based on new occupancy and turnover information gathered, this overlapped area is seeing 500 more cars per day. In a study of expenditures per vehicle in Vancouver, they found that they averaged \$33 per transaction. If these numbers held for Tacoma, this would mean an additional \$15,000 per day in sales.

The PTAG asked [RW] questions about data collection, what it meant compared to prior data, how to manage diverse groups desiring parking, and other questions.

#### **5:45                      Public Comment**

Some public comment was shared regarding jury parking around the County-City Building. The PTAG was reminded that it recommended eliminating on-street jury parking passes left over from a building remodel and construction project years ago. The elimination of the on-street passes was a direct attempt to relieve the parking congestion seen adjacent to the County-City Building. The PTAG was not being asked to take action on the issue, but was being made aware of the issue, in large part due to the group's history on the subject and an anticipated news story about the subject. The group was also reminded that they had no obligation to speak with media. It was recommended that comments desired from the PTAG be directed to the co-chairs, but anyone could certainly speak with the media on their own behalf.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:10PM with the next meeting on 1/7.**