



Parking Technical Advisory Group

728 St. Helens; Room 16

Meeting #136 – March 7, 2019 Notes

4:10 Meeting called to order by Co-Chairs

Steph Farber, one of the co-chairs, called the meeting to order. The attendees introduced themselves.

Eric Huseby, Parking Services Manager, gave an update on things they have been working on. He noted that they have returned to Lincoln District with some enforcement now that construction is complete.

May, June, July will be the next RPZ roll-out in 3 areas. They are seeing applications in Stadium District, Hilltop, & South Tacoma Way. Old zones are remaining during transition while the other old RPZs will be out soon.

4:30 Pierce Transit Presentation

Tina Lee, with Pierce Transit, presented information on two key initiatives that were underway with Pierce Transit: Bus Rapid Transit and new parking options being considered for the Tacoma Dome Parking Garage.

Lee gave an overview of the Tacoma Dome Parking Garage located at 2433 East E Street. The garage has nearly 2,400 parking spots. Often, the stalls are filled before the morning commute ends on weekdays. The current system has no priority stalls and operates on a first-come-first-served system. This can result in over-crowding on early morning trains and buses, and commuters arriving later in the morning have limited, if any, access to transit parking.

In response to increased parking demand, Pierce Transit is exploring options to manage parking supply and increase rider access to regional transit service. One way to do this is to encourage people to carpool to the Park & Ride. Another is to offer an option to people who have later work, school or appointment schedules.

Pierce Transit may offer up to 200 optional, reserved parking permits to paying transit users who use transit with an ORCA transit card at least 12 times per month. A permit would give priority

parking access on weekdays during the morning rush hour. Permitted spots would be open to all users after 8AM and on weekends (except during special events).

	HOV (Carpool)	SOV (Single-Occupant Vehicle)	ORCA-LIFT (Low Income)
Price	Free	\$80/mo	\$27/mo
Pricing objective	Encourage Carpooling	Market Rate	1/3 SOV price

The PTAG shared concerns around Tacoma LINK riders not being eligible for the program. Some people noted that while the program is scheduled to roll out this summer, it would take some time to find the balance with the system while the Tacoma LINK is only scheduled to remain free for 2-3 more years. There was additional discussion to better understand Pierce Transit's pricing system and how they plan to enforce ridership only permits.

After a discussion on the Tacoma Dome Parking changes, Tina shared a few of the details around the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) with the group. The focus of the conversation was around the routing through downtown Tacoma. With stops spaced approximately 1/4 mile apart, there are limited stops downtown, but it does include stops at the Tacoma Dome Transit Center, UWT, and the Commerce Street Transit Center. The PTAG wanted Pierce Transit to be aware of the concern that the loss of parking stalls should be avoided due to the impact on the local transportation network.

5PM Parking Management for Mixed Use Discussion

Huseby opened the discussion around a slightly different approach to looking at on-street parking. He began with a background on both the downtown parking and residential parking programs as well as how they have been adjusted over the years to better fit the community's needs.

He noted the challenges of identifying a priority user in mixed use areas. Much of the work to date has focused on identifying a priority user based on the zoning. He suggested that instead the zoning AND land use AND methods to maximize use of ROW. The PTAG was open to this adjustment and recognized that this was effectively how RPZs were evaluated for locations within mixed use center zoning.

5:30 Public Comment

There were three members of the public who provided comments:

- 1) A resident near 3rd & Tacoma noted that the Residential Parking Zone is working well in maintaining available spaces.
- 2) A representative of The Grand Cinema at 6th & Fawcett spoke to some of the challenges they have had around parking for their patrons. He noted that 90min limits and unregulated

parking aren't the right mix for Fawcett between 6th & 7th. He requested that the PTAG consider changing the entire block to 2hr parking.

3) A Stadium High School representative noted that the RPZ near 3rd & Tacoma was impacting students that drive to Stadium HS as well as the potential significant expansion of Residential Parking Zones. There are approximately 220 on-site parking stalls with 125 dedicated for staff and 95 dedicated for students. There are a total of about 800 students that are juniors and seniors at Stadium High School. He noted that neither staff nor students are part of the current list of PTAG priorities today; something he felt was an oversight. He would like an evaluation of what a "school parking zone" would look like that prioritizes students.

Staff noted that there are only two additional stalls that have received RPZ signs beyond those previously signed. They also noted that all the "old RPZ stalls" have more flexibility by allowing them to be used as short term parking as opposed to the prior system where all stalls were reserved for only those with residential parking permits. Enforcement has been increased, but warnings have been mostly issued to date to improve compliance. There are 36 additional stalls that are pending RPZ application.

PTAG members noted that even if none of the existing stalls were designated as RPZs the high school is still far short of being able to accommodate 800+ drivers. One PTAG member suggested coordinating with Downtown On The Go to help find solutions to the significant number of drivers.

The Stadium representative noted that any significant changes to increase parking capacity would have to be part of a new school district wide bond - a very high bar to reach.

The meeting was adjourned at 6PM with the next meeting on 4/4.