



## **Parking Technical Advisory Group General Meeting Minutes**

Zoom Remote Meeting Hosted in Tacoma, WA 98402  
Thursday April 6, 2023 - Occurs First Thursday, Monthly

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<b>Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.
<b>Members Present</b>	Joe Loran Co-Chair, Stephanie Sarber, David Schroedel, (Consultant to PTAG)
<b>Members Absent</b>	Rachel Barra (Public Works) Dorene Callier, (PTAG Member) Steph Farber (PTAG Co-Chair) James Sinding, (PTAG Member)
<b>City Staff Present</b>	Eric Huseby (Public Works) Crystal Komenda (Public Works)
<b>Guests Present</b>	Eric Mcmillan (Republic Parking NW) Lee MacClellan (Public Works) Natalya German (Republic Parking NW)
<b>Regular Business</b>	PTAG Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No updates</li></ul> Transportation Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No updates</li></ul> City Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• McKinley Business District- conversations have kicked off on exploring parking management strategies. The business district voiced issues with life safety violations and short-term availability. This is being coordinated through CC Ushka who invited city staff. The set up will structured like a parking town hall. Staff will provide an overview of the process to establish parking controls and go over guiding principles. Then it will be an open forum to listen to perspectives on parking issues. Taking place April 19, 5:30pm 3502 McKinley Avenue 'Parabol'.</li></ul>



- Staff are preparing to on board two new enforcement staff members. One starts next week and the other will start at the end of the month. Both have a couple months of training before they can start on assignments.
- Bill Timmer, lead consultant on the 'ADA Enforcement Project' that is being coordinated with TACID, is actively conducting research and doing interviews. Staff are expecting to receive a draft summary of the research by end of April.

**4:30 p.m.**

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment

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**Agenda Items:**

Led by Rick Williams with Rick Williams Consulting, consultant to the PTAG working in affiliation with Public Works, Parking Services

4:35 p.m.

Overview of  
Downtown Occupancy  
Data

Overview on the methodology, scope and a snapshot of the parking occupancy performance in each subzone per the fall 2022 data collection. Walkthrough summary of downtown data

Key points in the presentation included:

- Methodology & overall observations:
  - Utilized integrated data collection of the on-street + off-street environment.
  - On-street- no significant changes statistically in occupancy between years (+159 stalls in 2022). Incorporating the Dome District added 28 blocks faces/200 stalls.
  - Off street- 169 (2022) versus 166 (2019) sampled sites. 1,259 additional stalls measured. The difference is due to 2 sites being closed due to construction in 2019.
- The combined inventory:
  - Largest supplies of on-street parking are in Mid CBD and North CBD.
  - Largest supplies of off-street parking are in Dome District & Mid CBD.
  - No identified peak hour constraints in combined supply.
  - In 2019, the off-street environment had surpluses in Districts with on-street constraints. UWT and UWT Extended subzones had off-street constraints.



- Low to moderate demand in all but one sub-zone (UWT)
  - UWT off-street peak hour at 75.5% (efficient)
- Areawide on-street findings:
  - 30% percentage point drop in peak occupancy.
  - The number of empty stalls has doubled since 2019.
  - The most consistent (smallest change) is the Mid CBD; -15.5 percentage points
  - The most dramatic change is the UWT Extended subzone; -52.3 percentage points.
- Areawide off-street findings:
  - 27 percentage point drop in peak occupancy.
  - Dramatic changes across all sectors.
  - Nearly double the number of empty stalls. 6,487 empty stalls (2022 peak hour) vs 3,490 (2023).
  - Most consistent (smallest change) = Brewery CBD, no change.
  - Most dramatic change = South CBD, 51.5 percentage points.
  - Standouts (% point change):
    - City (-27.2)
    - Hotel (-40.6)
    - Institution (-25.5)
    - Mixed Use (-40.9)
    - Office (-33.7)
    - Republic (-49.6)
    - Restaurant (-27.2)
- Takeaways:
  - Tacoma data represents post-COVID trends that is occurring in many west coast cities. Revenues are down and department budgets are being cut.
  - The post-COVID parking environment has been slow to recover: ECONW estimate of 30 – 40% remote work – recent data
  - Cities are encouraging employers to compel employees back into the office, though many are opting/evaluating hybrid schedules such as in office 2/3 days per week and building out “hotel” workstations. Many long-time monthly parkers have abandoned their passes
- Action Plan Implications:
  - COVID Impacts Still Linger in Tacoma’s downtown parking system. This is currently a “low risk” parking



environment and presents the opportunity to test new ideas.

- Next Steps:

- Target easy fixes- consider implementing changes that are 'low risk' to the parking system
- Collect Baseline Data on this Transition: Maintain the sequencing of 'initiating Employee/Resident Travel Survey' to support initiatives related to code housekeeping post 2024.

- Questions:

- Joe- Any recommendations on things we should be doing or deciding for the year term or just follow course with the workplan we laid out?
  - Rick- it's a low-risk environment. Could use this analysis as the base data to make decisions on items to pilot rather than rely on current occupancy captures. This would accelerate changes in the parking systems without the risk of creating unintended consequences.
- Joe- Have you come across any of those surveys that you found to be particularly good that you could share with us?
  - Rick- Yes I can provide some that would be great templates to mimic for Tacoma's area.
- David – Businesses around the UWT area used to be congested around the 6pm 'dinner hour' which is why the group chose to extend the enforcement hours in that area. It appears the occupancy is still there and we can only assume the hospitality crowd is still coming in. I am curious to know what other jurisdictions have for their hospitality peak hour for the restaurants shifting from 'happy hour' to 'dinner hour?'
  - Rick- Yes this is a trend that we are seeing in other cities. Employees WFH has impacted the lunch hour for restaurants, it appears they are still coming in for dinner time—if anything more. We can assume this shift is from folks wanting to get out from working at home all day. Two examples we have seen this is Oregon City and Milwaukie, Oregon. For these two they have decided to explore extending their enforcement



hours to support this shift.

### *Adjournment*

Joe Loran ended meeting at 5:15 p.m.

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### Acronyms and Terminology Used:

- PTAG- Parking Technical Advisory Group
- Parking Occupancy- a measure of parking performance as it reflects the intersection between parking demand and capacity. This type of data tells us how often and at what capacity stalls are full or empty.
- PEO- Parking Enforcement Officer
- Parking Surplus- more parking availability than what is needed or used; excess.
- Unintended consequences- outcomes of a purposeful action that are not intended or foreseen
- WFH- Work(ing) from home.
- CBD- Commercial Business District

# TACOMA PARKING

North CBD =



County CBD =



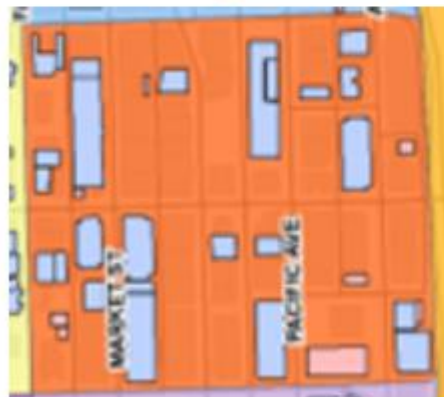
Mid CBD=



South CBD Extended=

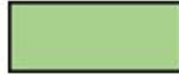


South CBD=

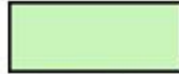


# TACOMA PARKING

UWT=



UWT Extended=



Dock Street=



Brewery CBD=



Dome District=

