

Minutes: Columbia City Parking Workgroup Walking Tour

June 25th 2002

Discussion Topics:

Off-street lot management

- The walking tour looked at several lots in the neighborhood. Karen Kinney of the Columbia City Farmer's Market stated that one lot on Edmunds St. was available to customers of the market but was often full. Other lots were perceived as too remote for their use.
- The consensus among the walking tour participants was that off-street lots were already used fairly well and other issues have higher priority.

Installation of time limit signs on select blocks.

- Adding time limit signs to select blocks in the neighborhood was seen as a good way to manage on-street parking. The block east of Rainier, where not adjacent to residential land-use, 37th between Edmunds and Ferdinand and Edmonds St. adjacent to Orca where all areas looked at on the tour.
- The workgroup members on the tour cited several businesses where it is difficult to do pickups and drop-offs. 30-minute load/unload zones may be an option for serving this need. Outreach to the business community can educate them on their parking options.
- It is important to note that the installation of parking limit signs can increase turn over for customer parking. While increasing on-street parking capacity is one option the new capacity will work better if it is managed for its intended use. Unrestricted parking works well for residents and time limit parking for businesses.

Addition of on-street parking where feasible.

- There are several streets east and west of Rainier where parking is currently not allowed that may be wide enough to add additional on-street parking. There are many concerns other than width of the street to consider. Traffic volume, bus traffic and van traffic were all brought up as possible impediments to adding on-street parking.
- The future of the angled parking on Hudson St. between Rainier Ave. and 39th Ave. was also discussed. Seattle Department of Transportation is currently scoping a project to install a walkway on the south side of Hudson. The project would improve the pedestrian connectivity but result in conversion of the angled parking to parallel parking. The workgroup members on the tour were lukewarm on the proposal and stressed the need for public input on the project.
- Dorothy Mitchell presented her idea for altering the street configuration of 37th Ave. between Edmunds St. and Ferdinand St. to install angled parking. While there is currently no funding for a project of this magnitude the idea sparked a discussion of the feasibility of adding parallel parking to the east side of 37th on this block. Adding

half a block of parallel parking was one idea for adding capacity and preserving traffic flow

Next Steps

Schedule next meeting

- Possible dates are July 16th, 17th, 18th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 30th, or 31st
- The conference room at St. Gobain, where the Kick-off meeting took place is one possible venue.

Agenda for next meeting

- Now that the issues have been identified and surveyed a discussion of priorities and goals will establish the work plan.
- Possible goals in need of prioritization
 - Adding on-street parking capacity where possible.
 - Managing on-street parking through time-limit signs.
 - Educating businesses and residents about their parking options.
 - Resolving bus parking, traffic flow issues around Orca.
 - Educating Residents west of Rainier about their options for dealing with possible Light-rail station impacts.
 - Improving off-street lot visibility.