

## **COLUMBIA CITY PARKING ACTION STRATEGY**

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### **GOAL #1: INCREASE ON-STREET PARKING**

“Create new on-street parking spaces for businesses in the downtown area, for residents, and for library patrons,” and under strategy d: “Investigate possible improvements to S Hudson east of Rainier Ave S to improve pedestrian access on the south side of this block where back-in angled parking exists and intrudes into the pedestrian ‘desire line’.”

March 5, 2004

On Tuesday, November 25, 2003, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) staff (John Marek, Charles Bookman, and Randy Wiger) conducted a field check of the southern side of S Hudson, between Rainier Ave S and 39<sup>th</sup> Ave S (the 3800 block), to survey conditions of pedestrian access. The south side of this block has front-in angled parking, and the north side has no parking. This block of S Hudson slopes up to the east from Rainier Ave S towards 39<sup>th</sup> Ave S. Nearby streets all have curbs and sidewalks, as does the north side of this block.

The sidewalk and curb on the Rainier Ave S wraps around onto the south side of S Hudson for approximately 10 feet (until the end of the crosswalk ramp) at which point the sidewalk ends. Between this tail end of curb and the adjacent building is a strip of grass perhaps 5 feet wide with a visible pedestrian “desire line.” Further north on this block, the pedestrian trail is blocked by the parked cars, and pedestrian traffic if forced into the travel lane.

SDOT staff does not see wheel stops as a viable solution to stop the parked vehicles from blocking the pedestrian trail because of the safety issues and tripping hazard they pose. Staff determined that this block of S Hudson is perhaps wide enough to allow for a curb and sidewalk to be built on the south side. To do so, the existing angled parking would need to be removed. The rebuilt street may possibly allow for parallel parking on both sides, which may come close to, or equal, the number of angled spaces lost.

City staff believe this project is eligible for Community Development Block Grant funding available through the Department of Neighborhoods (DON). SDOT has secured funds for preliminary design work (including drainage review). SDOT is currently conducting an internal review which will result in a finalized design. Then the DON will submit this project for Community Development Block Grant funding for the actual construction.

For more information on the Making the Parking System Work program, contact Randy Wiger at (206) 684-8186 or [Randy.Wiger@Seattle.gov](mailto:Randy.Wiger@Seattle.gov), or visit the program website at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/transportation/neighborhoodparking.htm>.



*Photo 1: Facing east, looking along the south side of the 3800 block of S Hudson St (on the east side of Rainier Ave S).*



*Photo 2: Looking south across the crosswalk to the south side of the 3800 block of S Hudson St (on the east side of Rainier Ave S).*