



Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Department of Transportation

Grace Crunican, Director

July 24, 2006

Dear Westlake Avenue North Community Members:

Thank you for your spirited participation in the Westlake Avenue North Draft Parking Management Plan Open Houses and for your input on the draft plan during the public comment period. Between the June 6 open houses and the July 7 comment deadline, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) received almost 300 individual responses in the form of completed surveys, letters and e-mails. The individual comments are now posted on the project's website at http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/paystation_westlake.htm.

As was stated at the open houses, I am writing to share with you the next steps in the public process for this draft plan. This letter is being sent to all those with addresses on the mail carrier routes that cover Westlake Avenue North, to all those who attended and signed in at the June 6 open houses, and to all others who have contacted SDOT previously on this subject.

The majority of comments expressed opposition to paid parking, with many describing the potential economic impact the additional cost could impose on businesses, employees, residents, visitors, and customers. Many comments also confirmed what our parking occupancy surveys showed, that there are periods during every day when parking is not readily available in large areas of the corridor.

Additionally, at the open houses and in the comments received, we heard your dissatisfaction with the process that had been used to date by SDOT to try to proactively involve the community in the development of the parking management plan. Your comments included many good suggestions for how to optimize the plan and minimize the inconvenience to those who regularly use Westlake parking. We are committed to exploring your suggestions and identifying opportunities to incorporate them into the final plan.

We want to move forward with your continued help and involvement. The need to provide balanced access to Westlake's resources and businesses requires that SDOT continue to develop a parking plan. The Department does not plan to adopt a moratorium nor impose an implementation schedule on the process. Instead, we have selected an experienced third-party facilitator, who has already begun contacting community members to identify effective ways to move forward. Our intent is to schedule a series of working meetings over the next several months to expand the ideas already gathered and constructively refine the plan's features. Meeting notices will be advertised via the project's email list, mailings to the neighborhood, and updates on the project website. Pending the results of these meetings, SDOT, will identify the most appropriate methods of sharing the final parking plan and implementation schedule with community members.



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Your continued active participation in the development of the parking management plan for Westlake Avenue North is encouraged. I will continue to monitor the process and recommendations. Please contact Meghan Shepard at 206.684.4208 or meghan.shepard@seattle.gov for more information and suggestions for community involvement.

Sincerely,

Grace Crunican, Director
Seattle Department of Transportation