

First Hill Community Parking Program – Parking Study Findings – June 2009

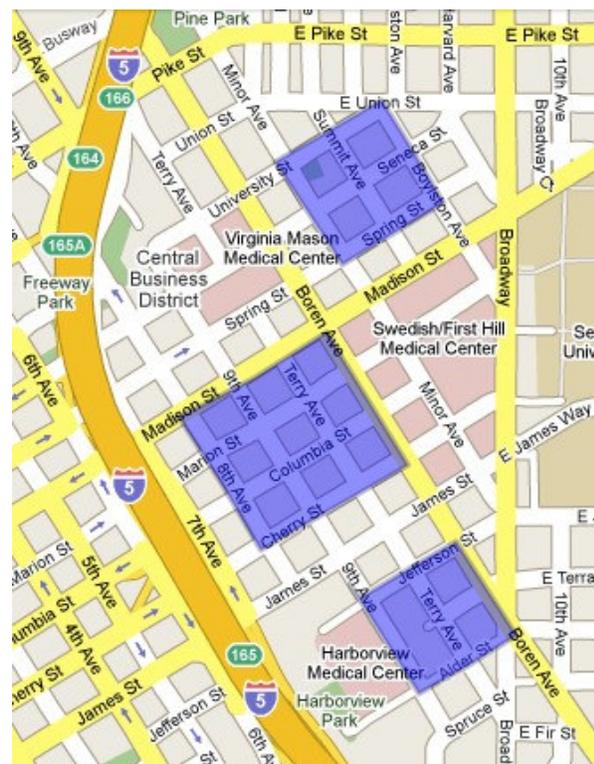
Through its Community Parking Program, SDOT conducted a parking study in First Hill in April 2009 that looked at:

1. Utilization: #parked cars/# available spaces = how full a block is
2. Compliance: % of cars parked within the posted time limit (i.e. # of people following the rules!)
3. Disabled parking permit use: what % of vehicles near First Hill’s major institutions display a DP placard or license plate

STUDY FINDINGS (table shows average utilization and compliance by parking space type for the overall study area, and the 3 sub-areas)

	Parking space type	# of spaces	Avg utilization	Avg compliance
Total study area	Unrestricted	128	106%	N/A
	1-hr time limit	13	80%	58%
	2-hr time limit	168	87%	53%
	2-hr pay station	103	54%	81%
		406	82%	64%
East of Virginia Mason Hospital	Unrestricted	39	92%	N/A
	1-hr time limit	9	66%	85%
	2-hr time limit	54	87%	56%
	2-hr pay station	64	46%	86%
		166	73%	76%
West of Swedish Hospital	Unrestricted	70	92%	N/A
	1-hr time limit	4	93%	31%
	2-hr time limit	25	83%	44%
	2-hr pay station	39	62%	75%
		138	83%	50%
Vicinity of Harborview Medical Center	Unrestricted	13	134%*	N/A
	1-hr time limit	0	N/A	N/A
	2-hr time limit	89	90%	59%
	2-hr pay station	0	N/A	N/A
		102	112%	59%

*Might be due to inventory inaccuracy – checking on this.



To maximize neighborhood access, it’s good to aim for:

- 75% utilization (full, but not to the point where you can’t find a spot)
- High compliance (the higher the better!)

What do all of these numbers mean?

- Parking is very well used and many parkers are not complying with the posted time limit
- Unrestricted spaces are the most full
- Paid spaces have the highest compliance and lowest utilization
- Some time limit signs are working, others are not

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FIRST HILL DISABLED PARKING PERMIT SURVEY

Vehicles with disabled parking permits (hangtags) or license plates can park in a time limited or paid parking space for longer than the posted time limit, at no cost. SDOT is concerned about the number of vehicles in First Hill displaying hangtags. We surveyed vehicles around the 3 hospitals and found:

Area	10am count	2pm count	% permits found at both counts
Virginia Mason	41%	37%	54%
Swedish	44%	40%	37%
Harborview	4%	8%	36%

SDOT will continue to work with SPD to track down illegitimate users and better serve the needs of the neighborhood and the disabled community that depends on the lawful use of these permits. Through the Community Parking Program, SDOT also hopes to engage First Hill major institutions in an education effort to minimize the incidence of disabled parking permit abuse by employees.

NEWS: In June 2009, Mayor Nickels proposed new legislation to allow Parking Enforcement Officers (PEOs) to cite a vehicle that is illegitimately using a disabled parking permit. Currently, PEOs can only issue a ticket directly to the driver.

NEXT STEPS:

- Develop proposed parking changes (July – Aug)
- How you can continue to be involved
 - Should we form a project committee?
 - Another meeting to discuss potential parking changes based on the findings?
 - Email/call me with comments/suggestions

OTHER PARKING NEWS:

Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) changes approved by City Council on June 8:

- Starting next year, there will be a limit of 4 permits/household
- New thresholds to establish a new RPZ
- Allow scooters and motorcycles to park in RPZ without a permit
- And more...

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact project manager Allison Schwartz at FirstHillParking@seattle.gov or (206)386-4654.
- Visit the project website at http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/cp_firsthill.htm
- Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Seattle-WA/SDOT-Community-Parking-Program/48132275788?ref=ts>