

Restricted Parking Zone Policy Review Project and Proposed Legislation Summary

April 2, 2009

RPZ Policy Review Project Goals -- Revise program to:

- continue to reduce traffic impacts to neighborhoods from large parking demand generators
- add support for mixed-use neighborhoods and local business districts
- maintain reductions in overall energy use and vehicle emissions
- implement program with simple rules that are easily understood and clearly applied

Community Outreach on Draft Recommendations

- Over 500 emails received
- Web page, electronic comment form, on-line survey, and community meetings over 80-day comment period during fall 2008

Proposed Major Changes

- Managing permit parking demand – Limit RPZ permit sales to 8 permits per household
- Permit eligibility–Require that vehicles be registered in resident’s name and permit-eligible address
- Major Institutions policy – For new or expanding major institutions, limit major institution permit payment to no more than two permits for first permit cycle
- RPZ location – Prohibition of RPZ implementation in downtown Seattle given high demand and multiple, competing needs for on-street parking
- Business and institution permit pilot program – Create a pilot program that allows eligible employees in the Sound Transit LINK Light Rail Initial Segment to purchase permits
- Guest permits– Create single-day guest pass in addition to biennial permit
- New RPZ zone creation process – Change technical and community engagement requirements. Parking study must generally demonstrate at least 75% parking occupancy along affected blocks, and 50% non-resident vehicles. Any proposed RPZ zone would need to contain at least 10 contiguous city blocks.
- Modifying and removing zones process – Change technical and community engagement requirements
- Parking enforcement – Create additional fines to address permit abuse
- Customer service – Create on-line permit payment and eligibility checks for permit holders
- Director’s Rule –Replace existing resolution with procedures in Director’s Rule

Next Steps

- Publish SEPA DNS Monday March 30 – no significant environmental impact
- Transportation Committee Briefings – April 21st, May 5th and May 19th expected
- Issue draft Director’s Rule for public review – early May
- Five Light Rail Station Area RPZs – Start early July 2009

Proposed Seattle Municipal Code Changes

11.16.120. Director of Transportation– Authority AMEND

No substantive changes to authority. Changes include adding other demand management tools; other changes are largely housekeeping. Moved here (from 11.16.315) were descriptions of variety of RPZs allowed (24-7; no parking except posted hours; 2-hour time-limit exceptions).

11.16.315. Authority for, administration of, restricted parking zones AMEND

Housekeeping to clean up text. Add proof of residency required. Effective Jan 1 2010: limit of 8 permits; authority to issue single-day guest permit; enhanced permit anti-fraud strategies.

11.16.316 RPZ Permits for Use by Business - Pilot NEW

Issue permits to businesses and institutions in RPZ around LINK light rail
Make rules, issue permits, and process for eligibility

11.16.317 Establishing, expanding and reducing restricted parking zones AMEND

Section covers community process:

- A. New policy section covering RPZ benefits and adverse effects
- B. Change from 25% to >50%, add 10 contiguous blocks as minimum RPZ size, remove petition requirement, add community engagement effort and the need to consider parking and demand management strategies as alternatives to RPZs.
- C. Effective Jan. 1 2010, add 2 permit limit and only one payment cycle for new or expanding major institutions
- D. Clean up appeal process: Copy SDOT Street Use appeal process. Remove requirement to print in Seattle DJC and for the Director to hold public hearing.
- E. Director may modify boundaries/hours per Director's Rule
- F. New language about dissolving zones or blocks within zone

11.16.319. Fees for restricted parking zone permits. AMEND

Add authority and criteria for how Director can consider waiving permit fees
No changes to fees are proposed. SDOT intends to submit budget legislation to add fee for single-day use guest permit

11.28.010. Abuse of privileges in restricted parking zones. AMEND

Add new section to prohibit illegal permit purchasing

11.31.121. Monetary penalties– Parking infractions AMEND

Add fine for improper display (\$20) and fine for illegal sale/purchase/possession (\$250)

Other Elements

- 1) Various sections – change word “residential” to “restricted”
- 2) Clean-up changes to remove streets for first few zones established in early 1980s since no longer needed – cleanup
- 3) Add definitions section