

**MAKING THE PARKING SYSTEM WORK IN THE FIRST HILL AREA  
KICK-OFF MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2003 FROM 6:00 TO 8:00 PM  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AT 1111 HARVARD AVENUE**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**OPEN HOUSE: 6:00 – 6:20**

Kick-Off Meeting attendees designated the location of their residence and/or place of business on a First Hill aerial photograph and viewed boards showing existing on-street parking regulations and FlexCar locations.

**THE MAKING THE PARKING SYSTEM WORK PROGRAM: 6:20 – 6:40**

Darlene Flynn in the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON) opened the meeting at 6:20 and welcomed the participants. She explained the purposes of the “Making the Parking System Work” program and the previous parking work done in the First Hill neighborhood.

Meghan Shepard, “Making the Parking System Work” program manager in the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), presented “The Parking Puzzle.” “The Parking Puzzle” demonstrates the lessons learned from the 2000 Comprehensive Neighborhood Parking Study and subsequent neighborhood parking strategy work.

**GROUP ACTIVITY: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE ABOUT PARKING ON FIRST HILL?  
6:40 TO 7:00**

The participants were asked to split into groups to discuss and prioritize what they would most like to improve about parking on First Hill. The individual comments from each group discussion have been incorporated into the First Hill Parking Matrix.

Group 1

Facilitator: David Allen, SDOT  
Scribe: Tracy Krawczyk, SDOT  
Additional Assistance: Bonnie Nygren,  
King County Metro

Group 2

Facilitator: Randy Wiger, SDOT  
Scribe: Chris Partman, SPD

Group 3

Facilitator: Meghan Shepard, SDOT

**GROUP ACTIVITY REPORT BACK & PRIORITIZATION: 7:00 TO 7:15**

Each discussion group reported its list of parking priorities and ideas to the larger group. This combined list of priorities forms the basis of the workplan guide for the First Hill Parking Workgroup.

**Group 1**

- Parking has the biggest impact on resident’s lives

- Focus on capturing and creating new spaces
- The existing Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) has many limitations – the zone should be much more restricted
- Increase enforcement, especially in the RPZ
- The City’s land use regulations prevent more parking being built – revise city regulations
- Provide more shuttles and marketing
- Add more bus routes and improve the availability of transit

**Group 2**

- Install parking meters in the RPZ; all parkers have to pay unless their car displays the zone permit
- Extend RPZ, time-limit hours, meter hours and enforcement into the evenings
- Place a limitation on disabled parking to 4 hours
- Increase the amount of angled parking where possible
- Tow abandoned cars
- Shorten and/or relocate the long cab zone at 700 Marion and increase the amount of carpool parking

**Group 3**

- Make the RPZ work for residents
- Get people to First Hill without their cars
- Expand the Ride Free Zone
- Create more parking through shared uses

**PARKING AND MOBILITY STRATEGY TOOLBOX: 7:15 TO 7:45**

Short presentations were given on the following topics by staff from the City of Seattle, King County Metro and Sound Transit.

- David Allen, SDOT and Bonnie Nygren, King County Metro, discussed Transportation Demand Management (TDM) tools that residents and employees of First Hill can use to reduce demand for parking by reducing the number of automobiles in the neighborhood. Examples include the FlexCar car-sharing program, transit passes and benefits for small employers, and improved bicycle facilities.
- Meghan Shepard, SDOT, described typical on-street changes that can be made to increase parking supply for specific needs, off-street programs that can be developed such as lot-sharing agreements and parking validation programs, and the role that improved enforcement can play in helping the parking system to function.
- Tracy Krawczyk, SDOT, spoke for Mark Troxel in the Department of Design, Construction and Land Use (DCLU). She described a study that DCLU will be conducting to determine the appropriate parking supply that should be required for new residential developments in First Hill.

- Lauren Swift from Sound Transit explained the agency's progress in determining the alignment of Phase II of the LINK light rail project. Mass transit projects can be the most effective tools in improving a neighborhood's parking situation because they increase the alternatives people have to travelling by or owning a car.

#### **NEXT STEPS (7:45 TO 8:00)**

Randy Wiger, SDOT, distributed worksheets for meeting attendees interested in participating in the Parking Workgroup. He explained the time commitment, which is typically one meeting per month for approximately six months followed by individual commitments to achieve implementation of the Workgroup's recommendations.

Next steps include taking the newly formed Parking Workgroup on a walking tour of First Hill to identify problems and opportunities.

Meghan and Randy then took questions from the audience.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**