2019 PAID PARKING STUDY REPORT

Making it Easier to Find Parking





OUR PERFORMANCE-BASED APPROACH TO PARKING MANAGEMENT

People often drive to get around in Seattle. For trips made by car, it is crucial that the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) makes it easy to quickly find a parking space. This reduces how much time drivers spend circling for parking, which provides other important benefits:

- Reduces congestion Drivers circling for parking contribute to congestion.
- **Speeds transit** Less congestion means faster, more reliable public transit.
- Decreases greenhouse gas emissions Less circling means fewer emissions.
- Saves people time Time spent looking for parking is wasteful.
- Improves safety for pedestrians and cyclists – Drivers circling for parking are often distracted drivers.
- Enhances access People can more reliably park close to their destination.
- Improves neighborhood commercial vitality People can more reliably access commercial, retail areas.

Making it easy to find parking doesn't mean more driving – more parking *supply* means more driving. Knowing there is a large amount of parking encourages driving. We are simply trying to do a good job of managing our limited supply of existing parking so that the transportation system works better for everyone, even those who never drive.

To manage demand for our finite parking supply as effectively as possible, we use a data-driven approach to find the lowest hourly rate that leaves at least one or two parking spaces available on every blockface throughout the day. This data also helps us evaluate expanding paid parking to improve access.

Our process is straightforward. Every year we gather parking occupancy data on every paid block to adjust rates by neighborhood and time of day. We generally lower rates in areas and at times of day where there are few cars parked and more than two spaces available on a blockface. Conversely, we generally increase the rates in areas and at times of day where there are many cars parked and fewer than one or two spaces available on a blockface. In areas and at times of day where there are generally one to two available spaces on a blockface, we consider the area and time period to be in target.



OUR PAID PARKING MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE

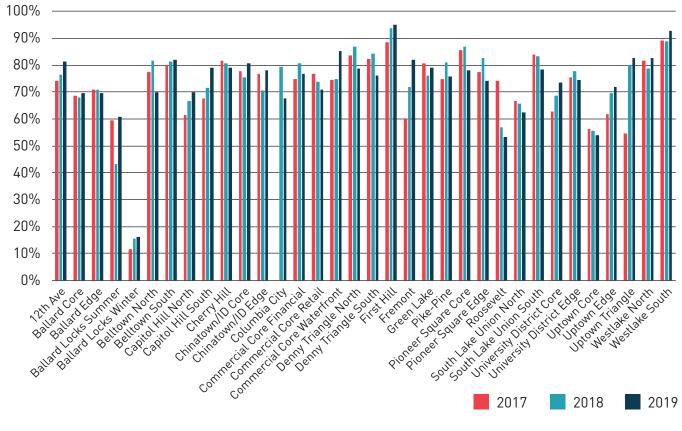
The data we gather allows us to monitor how well we are achieving our goal of making it easy to quickly find a parking space. It also helps us determine when and where we use paid parking as part of our curbspace management toolkit. City policy, as specified in the Seattle Municipal Code, is that rates and hours of operation are set such that one to two spaces per block are open and available throughout the day. Since 2011, SDOT has made over 300 different rate and hours of operations changes. We have made as many rate decreases as increases, all based on the annual parking study data results.

The bottom-line measure of our performance is the average level of use and availability. In other words,

on average, is on-street parking well-utilized and are drivers able to find a parking space.

This chart shows for all the paid parking areas, the average occupancy from the 2017, 2018, and the 2019 Annual Paid Parking Studies. This presents the average over the day so hides the peaks and valleys that may be present – which is why SDOT sets rates by morning, afternoon and evening data. For the most part, on average over the day, paid areas are in or near the target range of one to two available spaces on a blockface. There are some areas that stand out for lower occupancy - namely Ballard Locks in the winter. SDOT adjusts rates seasonally there because of the significant difference between summer and winter parking activity.

Average Occupancy by Paid Area 2017-2019



OUR DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH

DATA COLLECTION

Every spring we collect occupancy data on every block of Seattle's 34 paid parking areas over the entire day from 8 am until two hours after paid parking ends in that neighborhood (paid parking ends at 8 pm in most areas).

We collect data on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday (avoiding holidays and major events) to represent typical parking conditions. Occupancy is the percent of publicly available on-street paid parking spaces that are occupied by a vehicle. The number of possible parking spaces on each block takes into account parking restrictions near intersections, driveways, and fire hydrants. Occupancy can be over 100% as vehicles sometimes park close together or partially in illegal areas.

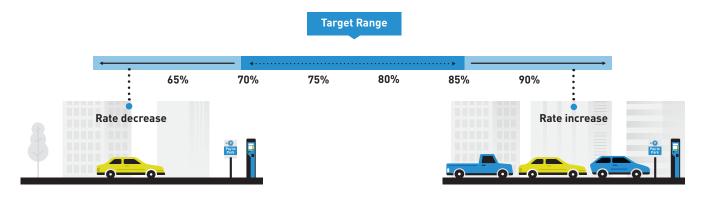
This report summarizes the spring 2019 data we used to recommend parking management changes. All data sets are available on data.seattle. gov under "Annual Parking Study Data," with data sets available back to the 2014 Annual Study.

PROGRAM STEPS

1. COLLECT AND ANALYZE PARKING OCCUPANCY DATA



2. MONITOR CONDITIONS AND ADJUST RATES



HOW WE ADJUST RATES

Seattle's areas with paid parking total about 11,500 spaces and range in size between 50 spaces in a smaller area to over 1,000 spaces in others. Since 2015, SDOT has adjusted rates by the time of day to account for different demands:

 Morning 8 am - 11 am Afternoon 11 am to 5 pm/6 pm Evening 5 pm to 8 pm/10 pm

Our target occupancy is between 70% and 85% for each time period in each area. That means we set rates to achieve a performance goal of one or two spaces being open and available per block throughout the day. For each area time period, we use the following rules to adjust rates:

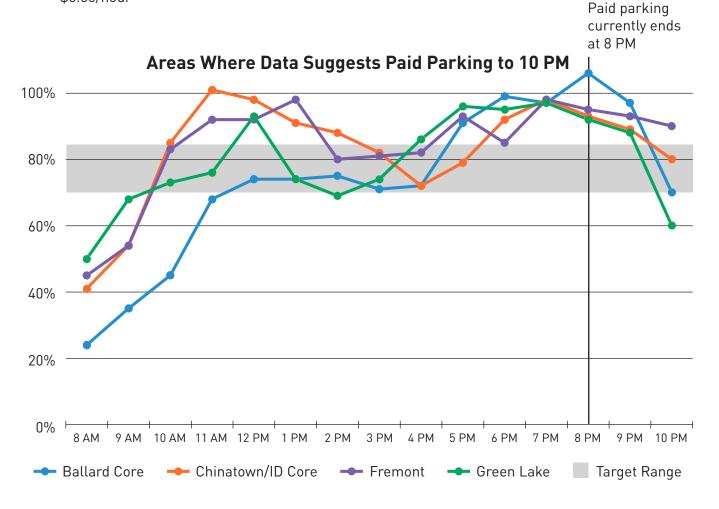
- If occupancy is over 85%, increase rate by \$0.50/hour
- If occupancy is between 70% and 85%, rates do not change
- If occupancy is below 70%, decrease rate by \$0.50/hour

Rates cannot go below \$0.50/hour or above \$5.00/hour (as currently defined in the Seattle Municipal Code).

WHEN TO USE PRICING

Managing curbspace with paid parking helps to create availability in high-demand commercial areas. Over time, following the same data-driven approach, SDOT has been extending parking hours later into the evening in some areas to better ensure reliable access and open spaces for when people visit restaurants, theaters, shops, and other attractions at night. This is consistent with the policy guidance in the Seattle Municipal Code.

To evaluate when it may make sense to extend paid parking hours, we gather data for two hours after paid parking currently ends. In the example below, the discussion is about whether to extend paid parking from 8 pm when it currently ends



to 10 pm. Data from both this year's 2019 study, as well as last year's 2018 study, found that for those two hours, parking occupancy exceeds 85% in the Ballard Core, Green Lake, Fremont, and the Chinatown ID Core areas. These data results suggest that paid hours be extended from 8 pm to 10 pm to improve customer access. SDOT is considering this change in 2020-21 and will engage these communities directly as part of making this decision. An important part of this discussion is how employees who work late shifts continue to have access to and from work, given that they travel at times when transit may not be as frequent as it is during the daytime.

WHERE TO USE PRICING

In some areas, we also gather occupancy data on blocks adjacent to currently paid areas to see where expanding time limits and/or paid parking can improve customer availability and access for those commercial areas. Our goal is to manage the limited supply of existing parking so that customers and visitors can easily and reliably access commercial areas. Circling to find parking is frustrating, time consuming, and further adds to congestion.

In 2018 and 2019, SDOT collected data on adjacent streets in the Ballard, Fremont, and Green Lake areas. The data suggest that each area would benefit from expanding where paid parking is used to provide more reliable customer access. SDOT is considering this change for 2020-21 and will engage these communities directly as part of making this decision.

PAID AREA MANAGEMENT CHANGES

The following rate changes are planned for early 2020 based upon the 2019 data in this report:

- No rate changes in 47 area time periods
- Increase rates in 27 area time periods
- Decrease rates in 18 area time periods

These changes are summarized in the following maps and tables, followed by detailed information for each of the 34 areas:

- Planned rate changes table
- Planned rate changes map
- Occupancy data table
- Neighborhood pages

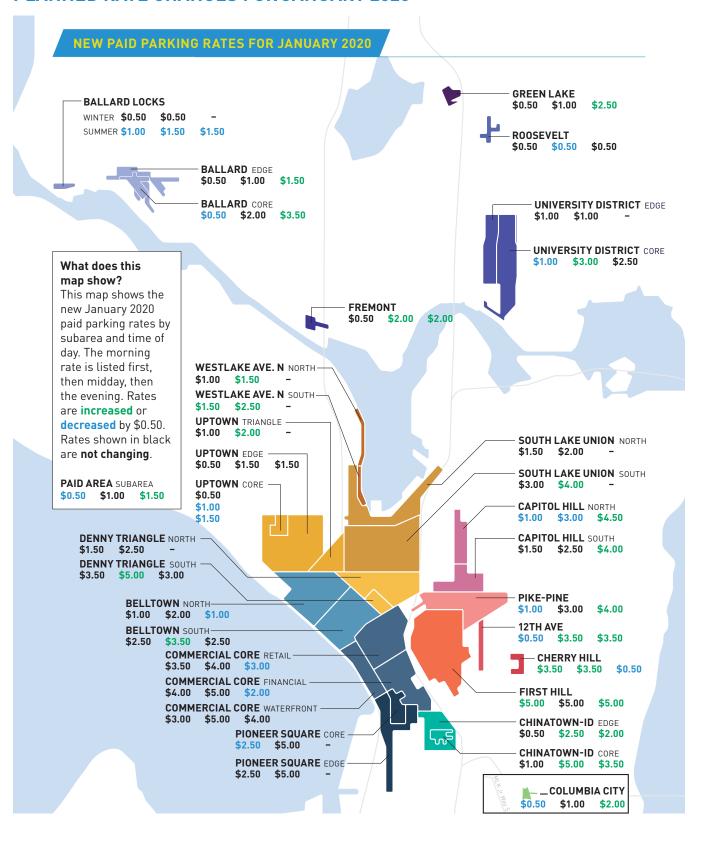
PLANNED RATE CHANGES FOR JANUARY 2020

		Plan	ned rate ch	anges for	January 2020	
Area	Subarea	8 AM – 11 AM	11 AM – 5 PM or 6 PM [a]	5 PM – 8 PM / 10 PM	Hrs	Time Limit (during paid hours)
12th Avenue		\$0.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours/3 hours after 5 pm
Ballard	Core	\$0.50	\$2.00	\$3.50	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours/No time limit after 5 pm
Ballard	Edge	\$0.50	\$1.00	\$1.50	8 AM - 8 PM	4 hours
Ballard Locks	Winter	\$0.50	\$0.50	-	8 AM - 6 PM	4 hours
Ballard Locks	Summer	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$1.50	8 AM - 8 PM	4 hours
Belltown	North	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	8 AM - 8 PM	4 hours
Belltown	South	\$2.50	\$3.50	\$2.50	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours/3 hours after 5 pm
Capitol Hill	North	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$4.50	8 AM - 10 PM	2 hours/No time limit after 5 pm
Capitol Hill	South	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$4.00	8 AM - 10 PM	2 or 4 hours/No time limit after 5 pm
Cherry Hill		\$3.50	\$3.50	\$0.50	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours/3 hours after 5 pm
Chinatown/ID	Core	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$3.50	8 AM - 8PM	2 hours/No time limit after 5 pm
Chinatown/ID	Edge	\$0.50	\$2.50	\$2.00	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours
Columbia City		\$0.50	\$1.00	\$2.00	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours/No time limit after 5 pm
Commercial Core	Financial	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$2.00	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours/3 hours after 5 pm
Commercial Core	Retail	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$3.00	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours/3 hours after 5 pm
Commercial Core	Waterfront	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	8 AM - 8 PM	2 or 4 hours/3 hours after 5 pm
Denny Triangle	North	\$1.50	\$2.50	-	8 AM - 6 PM	4 hours
Denny Triangle	South	\$3.50	\$5.00	\$3.00	8 AM - 8 PM	2 or 4 hours/3 hours after 5 pm
First Hill		\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours/3 hours after 5 pm
Fremont		\$0.50	\$2.00	\$2.00	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours/No time limit after 5 pm
Green Lake		\$0.50	\$1.00	\$2.50	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours/No time limit after 5 pm
Pike-Pine		\$1.00	\$3.00	\$4.00	8 AM - 10 PM	2 or 4 hours/No time limit after 5 pm
Pioneer Square	Core	\$2.50	\$5.00	-	8 AM - 6 PM	2 hours
Pioneer Square	Edge	\$2.50	\$5.00	-	8 AM - 6 PM	2 hours
Roosevelt		\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	8 AM - 8 PM	4 hours
South Lake Union	North	\$1.50	\$2.00	-	8 AM - 6 PM	10 hours or 2 hours
South Lake Union	South	\$3.00	\$4.00	-	8 AM - 6 PM	10 hours or 2 hours
University District	Core	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$2.50	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours/3 hours after 5 pm
University District	Edge	\$1.00	\$1.00	-	8 AM - 6 PM	4 hours
Uptown	Core	\$0.50	\$1.00	\$1.50	8 AM - 8 PM	2 hours/3 hours after 5 pm
Uptown	Edge	\$0.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	8 AM - 8 PM	4 hours
Uptown Triangle		\$1.00	\$2.00	-	8 AM - 6 PM	10 hours or 4 hours
Westlake Ave N [b]	North	\$1.00	\$1.50	-	9 AM - 4 PM	2 hours or 72 hours
Westlake Ave N [b]	South	\$1.50	\$2.50		9 AM - 4 PM	4 hours or 72 hours

Legend

- Rates are increasing by \$ 0.50
- Rates are decreasing by \$ 0.50
- Rates are not changing (though data indicates they should) because they are already at the minimum or maximum (\$ 0.50/\$ 5.00)
- [a] The rate changes at 5 PM in neighborhoods with paid hours until 8 PM or later. Otherwise, paid parking hours end at 6 PM
- [b] Westlake Avenue N paid parking is only in effect Monday-Friday

PLANNED RATE CHANGES FOR JANUARY 2020



OCCUPANCY DATA

			Parking Occupancy Comparison for Paid Parking Areas - 2015-2019	Occupan	cy Comp	arison fo	or Paid P	arking A	reas - 2	015-201	6					
			9:00	00 - 11:00 AM	АМ			11:00	11:00 AM - 6:00 PM	0 PM			9:0	6:00 - 8:00 PM	W	
Paid area	Spaces	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
12th Avenue	74	%89	%89	%95	%92	%89	84%	91%	%98	%88	86%	104%	104%	%26	%68	101%
Ballard Core	207	45%	45%	% 77	45%	%07	81%	75%	78%	72%	74%	101%	102%	87%	%76	%86
Ballard Edge	341	52%	%69	%89	%69	26%	72%	77%	83%	77%	72%	%76	%88	%68	78%	%98
Ballard Locks (Winter)	80	3%	%7	%7	%9	2%	19%	36%	19%	23%	28%	26%	21%	10%	% 77	29%
Ballard Locks (Summer)	80	14%	15%	16%	18%	19%	%76	83%	81%	%49	62%	21%	61%	71%	%49	39%
Belltown North	1214	26%	21%	72%	%9/	71%	71%	74%	87%	%76	81%	74%	%69	%62	75%	%29
Belltown South	682	%99	77%	%08	77%	78%	82%	86%	91%	%06	92%	82%	%98	85%	%08	84%
Capitol Hill North	110	22%	45%	36%	%97	24%	%62	%92	71%	73%	%69	%26	%06	92%	82%	%98
Capitol Hill South	256	%99	%29	% 79	%19	73%	%//	72%	%02	%89	78%	%26	%96	84%	%98	93%
Cherry Hill	22	%26	%26	100%	%26	%76	%86	%86	%86	95%	91%	%09	25%	%67	%99	%79
Chinatown/ID Core	152	23%	78%	61%	21%	%02	%76	51%	%96	85%	%26	91%	%87	92%	84%	%26
Chinatown/ID Edge	274	24%	%97	73%	%19	74%	82%	%02	93%	87%	86%	%98	28%	72%	85%	%98
Columbia City	70	-	-	-	%92	25%	-	-	-	86%	75%	-	-	-	93%	91%
Commercial Core Financial	305	%08	84%	83%	85%	%92	91%	%76	%06	91%	%98	%59	%99	23%	%89	51%
Commercial Core Retail	265	73%	%89	71%	%89	%02	%68	77%	88%	84%	82%	%89	%29	71%	%89	26%
Commercial Core Waterfront	211	%69	84%	26%	21%	71%	%86	%76	86%	87%	95%	74%	73%	77%	%62	84%
Denny Triangle North	413	81%	%88	83%	%98	%92	%88	%76	88%	%26	%08	%62	%82	%69	73%	%02
Denny Triangle South	129	73%	%96	75%	83%	71%	%68	%66	%76	95%	%06	71%	%98	%08	78%	70%
First Hill	1037	93%	93%	%06	97%	100%	93%	74%	93%	101%	%66	%96	%99	84%	85%	89%
Fremont	78	38%	45%	43%	34%	%69	77%	82%	76%	87%	%76	85%	85%	%49	%88	92%
Green Lake	113	26%	28%	73%	%49	%02	%62	102%	%08	%62	85%	%26	105%	103%	92%	%96
Pike-Pine	715	%89	47%	%09	%89	28%	83%	73%	78%	83%	%92	101%	92%	%86	%86	91%

- Above target range
 Target range
 Below target range
 No data

		Parkin	Parking Occupa	ncy Con	nparison	for Paid	Parking) Areas	vancy Comparison for Paid Parking Areas - 2015-2019 (continued)	119 (con	tinued)					
Pioneer Square Core	231	83%	%98	73%	85%	%89	101%	101%	%86	%26	85%	%98	84%	82%	83%	72%
Pioneer Square Edge	413	%06	84%	75%	83%	72%	%66	103%	95%	%26	87%	%82	%08	81%	77%	%02
Roosevelt	84	23%	20%	28%	45%	45%	73%	24%	91%	%29	%09	84%	61%	%92	74%	%89
South Lake Union North	258	%68	%59	%92	71%	73%	%76	81%	83%	81%	%62	28%	20%	%77	45%	36%
South Lake Union South	1242	%76	85%	%68	%68	78%	%86	91%	93%	93%	%98	%92	77%	75%	75%	78%
University District Core	561	23%	97%	28%	28%	%69	75%	77%	75%	84%	88%	%92	84%	%29	73%	75%
University District Edge	233	%09	75%	78%	77%	71%	%99	77%	79%	85%	81%	30%	52%	71%	%59	21%
Uptown Core	127	39%	36%	36%	%89	37%	%09	72%	%29	75%	%89	85%	102%	78%	91%	%79
Uptown Edge	480	24%	20%	25%	24%	%89	75%	%02	%99	73%	82%	%69	91%	71%	%98	%92
Uptown Triangle	237	48%	35%	41%	%62	%92	%02	%79	%29	95%	102%	28%	26%	72%	%89	%09
Westlake North	442	1	1	1	%02	73%	1	1	1	84%	87%	1	1	1	75%	1
Westlake South	263	-	1	-	83%	95%	-	-	1	%26	%26	-	1	1	25%	ı
Westlake	705	%67	%69	%62	1	1	17%	79%	%06	1	ı	28%	20%	25%	1	1

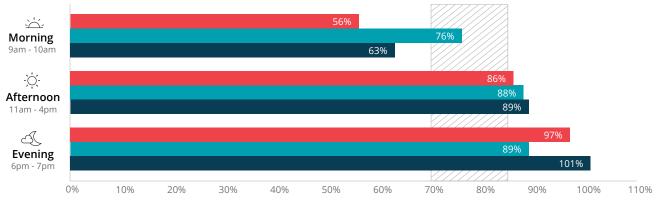
- Above target range
 Target range
 Below target range

12th Avenue

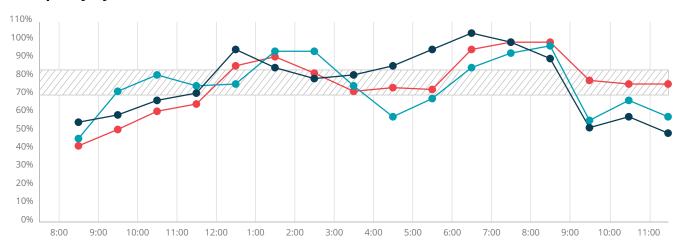


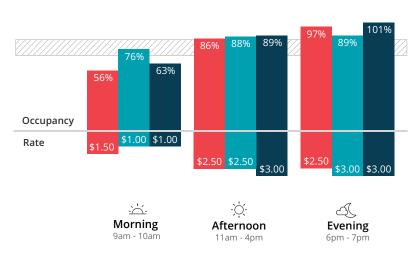


Average Occupancy



Occupancy by Hour









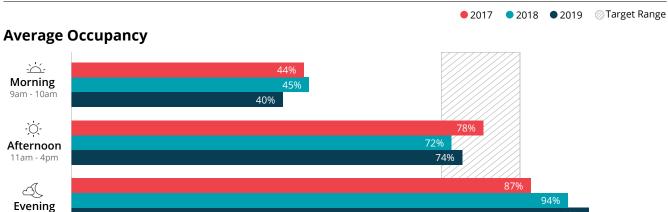
Ballard Core



98%

100%

110%



50%

60%

70%

80%

Occupancy by Hour

0%

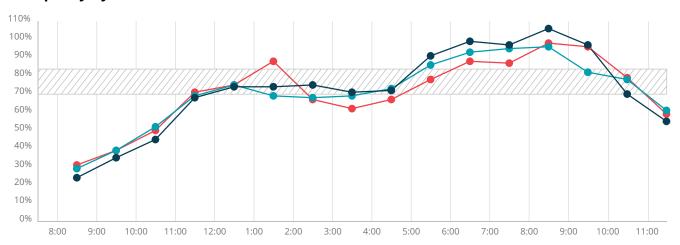
10%

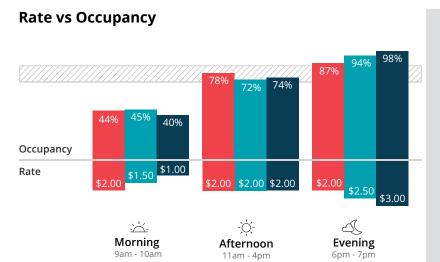
20%

30%

40%

6pm - 7pm







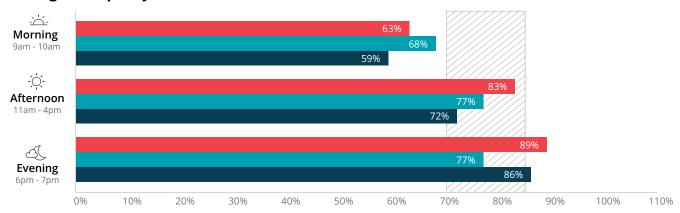


Ballard Edge

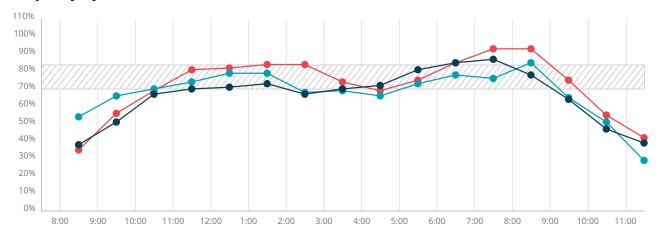


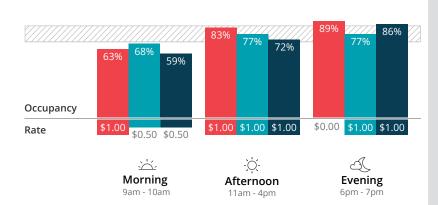
● 2017 • 2018 • 2019 ⊘ Target Range

Average Occupancy



Occupancy by Hour







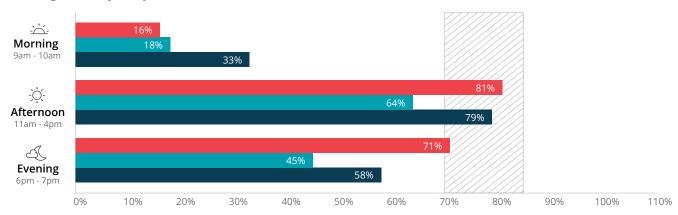


Ballard Locks Summer

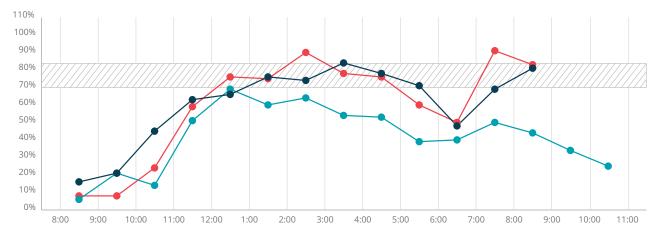


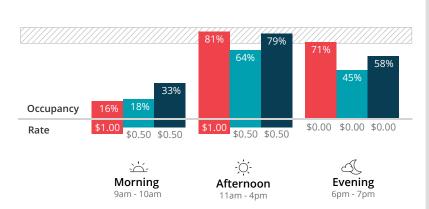
● 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 Ø Target Range

Average Occupancy



Occupancy by Hour







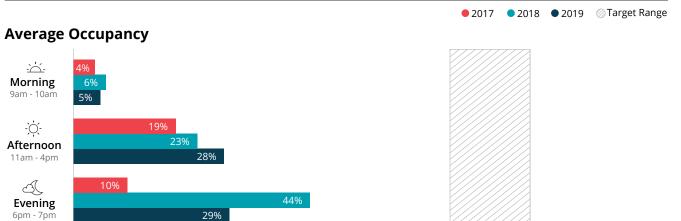


Ballard Locks Winter



100%

110%



50%

60%

70%

80%

90%

Occupancy by Hour

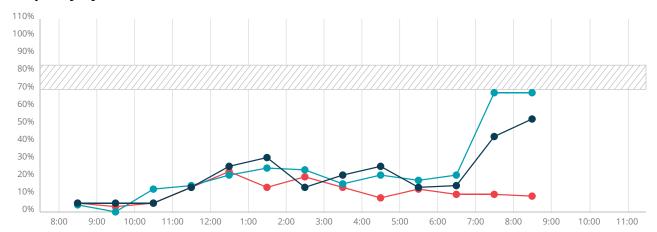
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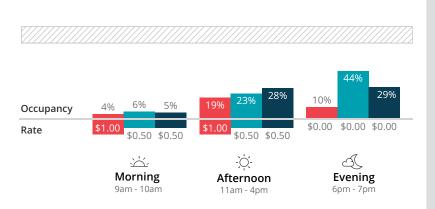
10%

20%

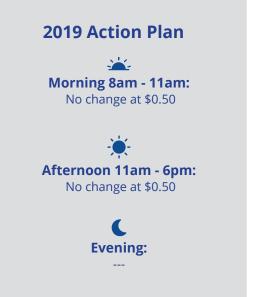
30%

40%







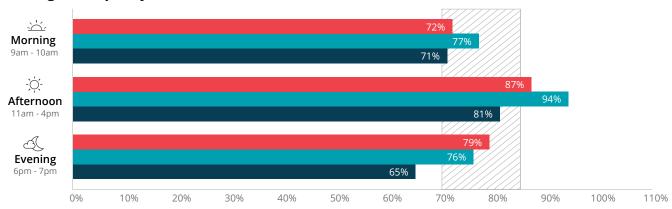


Belltown North

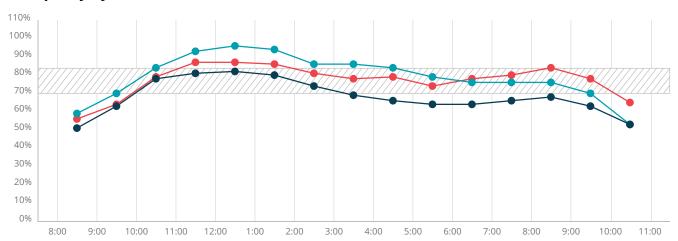


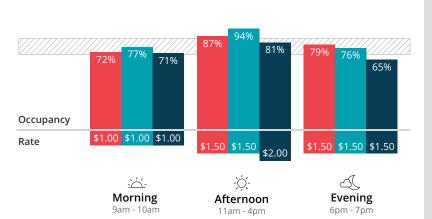


Average Occupancy



Occupancy by Hour





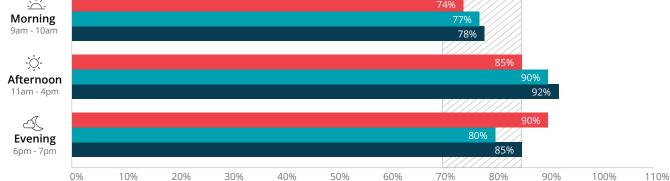




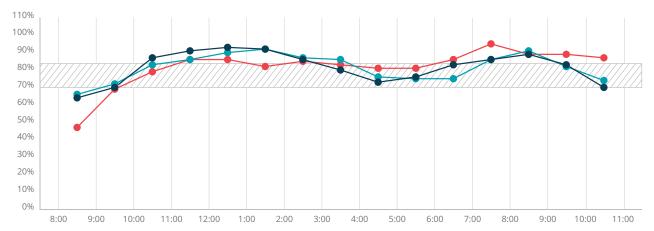
Belltown South

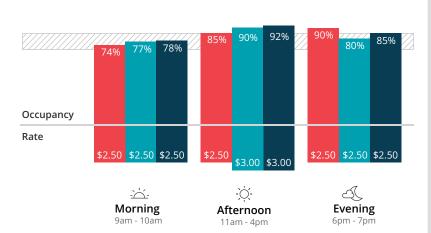






Occupancy by Hour







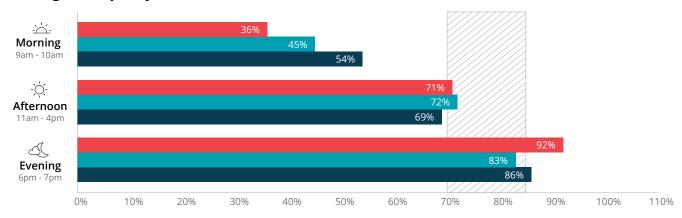


Capitol Hill North

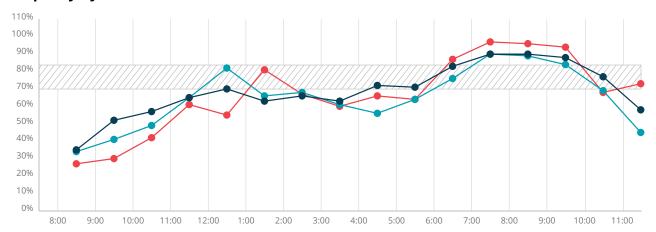




Average Occupancy



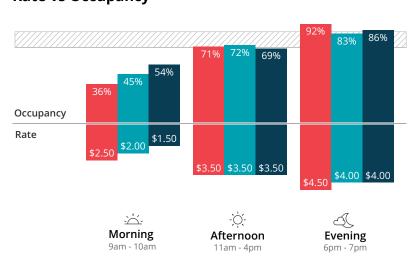
Occupancy by Hour



Rate vs Occupancy

Time Limit:

8am - 5pm 2hrs | No time limit after 5pm



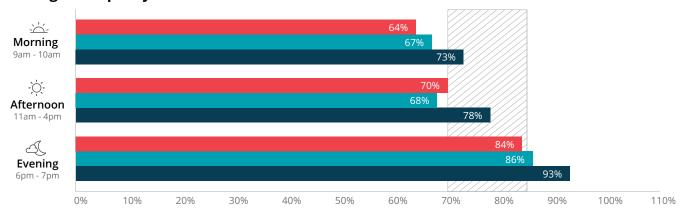


Capitol Hill South

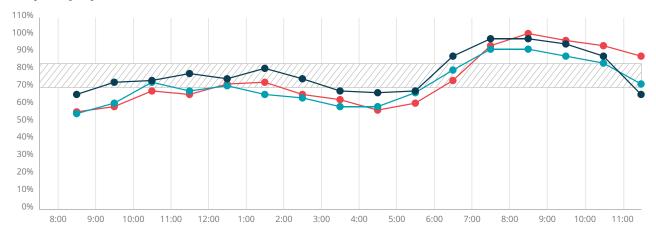


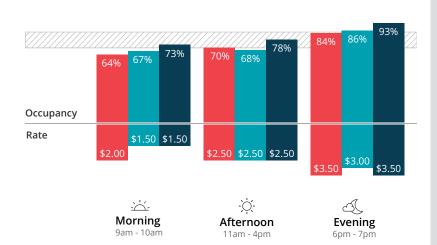


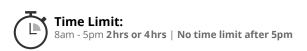
Average Occupancy



Occupancy by Hour







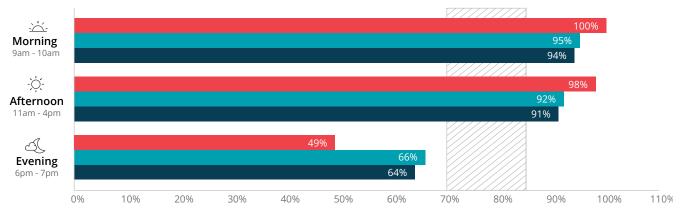


Cherry Hill

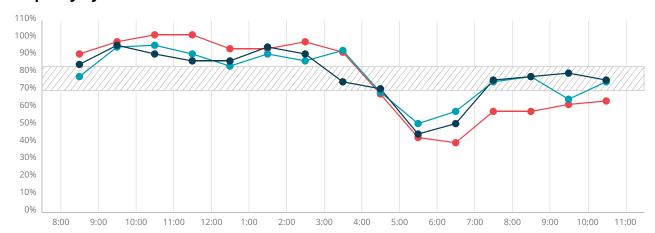


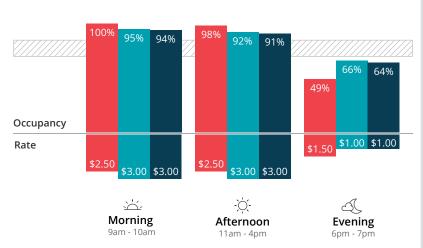
● 2017 • 2018 • 2019 ⊘ Target Range

Average Occupancy



Occupancy by Hour







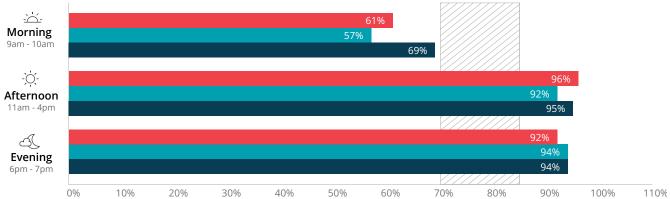


Chinatown/ID Core

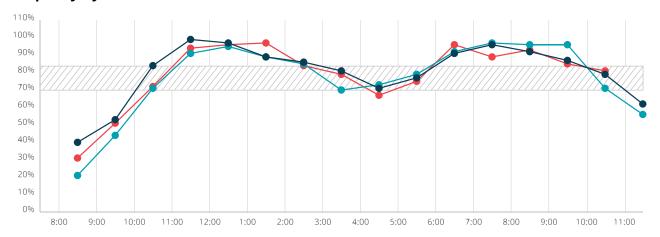


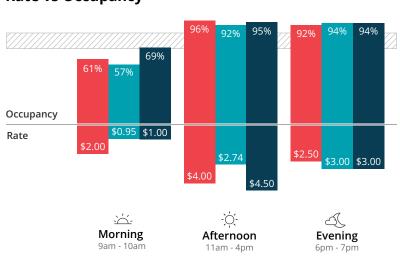


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Occupancy by Hour



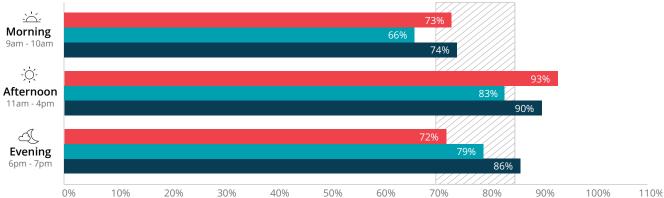




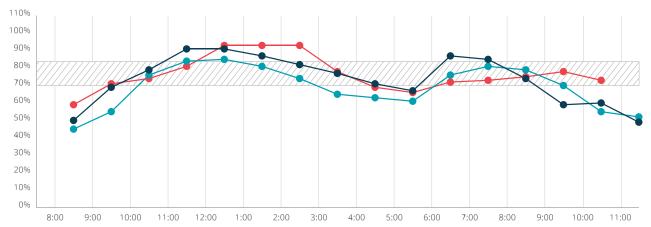
Chinatown/ID Edge

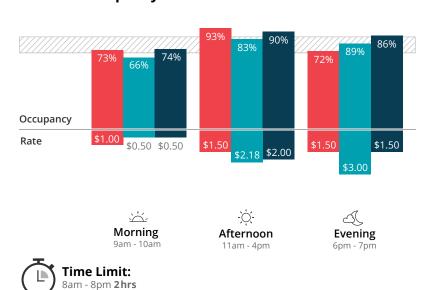






Occupancy by Hour





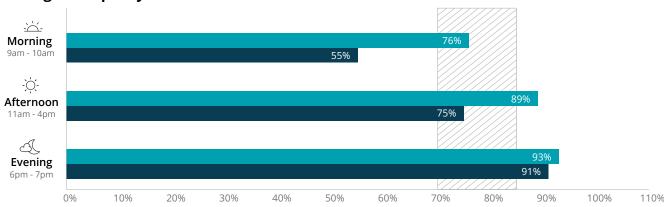


Columbia City

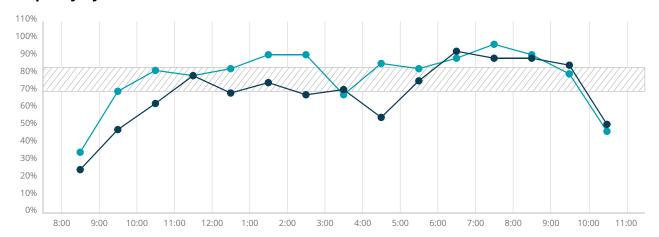


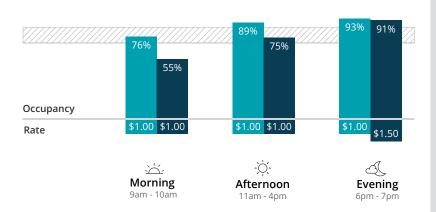


Average Occupancy



Occupancy by Hour



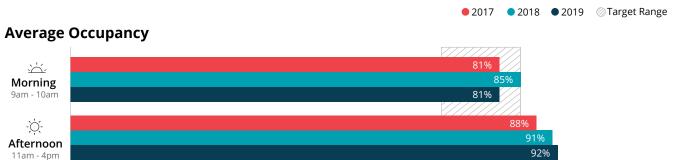






Commercial Core Financial





52%

50%

60%

70%

80%

90%

100%

110%

40%

Occupancy by Hour

0%

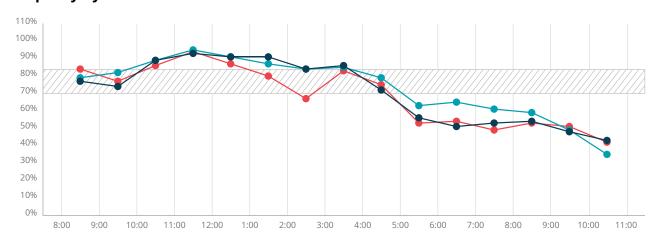
10%

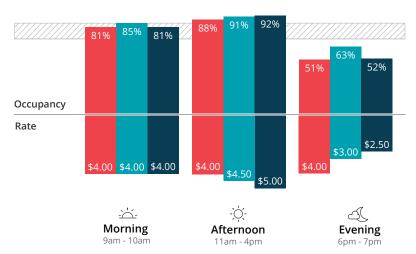
20%

30%

4 **Evening**

6pm - 7pm





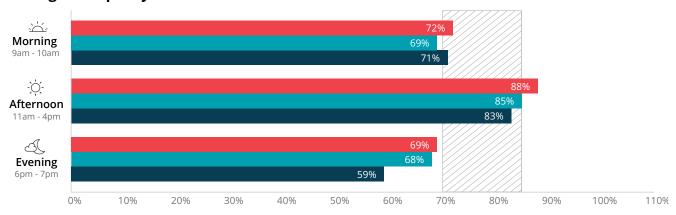


Commercial Core Retail

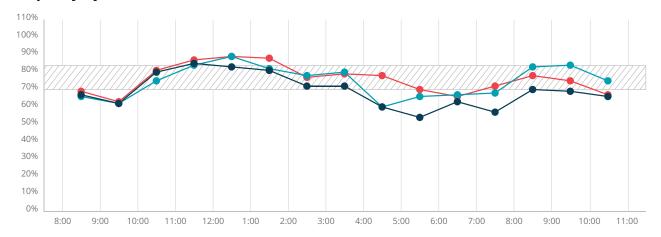




Average Occupancy

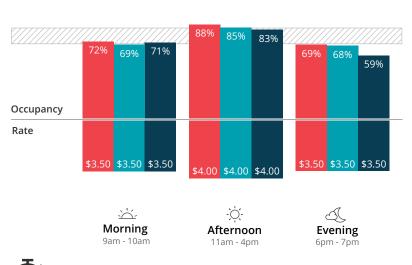


Occupancy by Hour



Rate vs Occupancy

Time Limit:





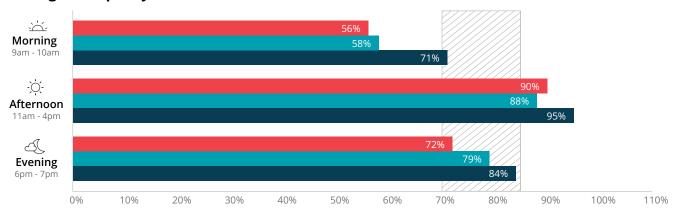
8am - 5pm 2hrs | 3hrs after 5pm

Commercial Core Waterfront

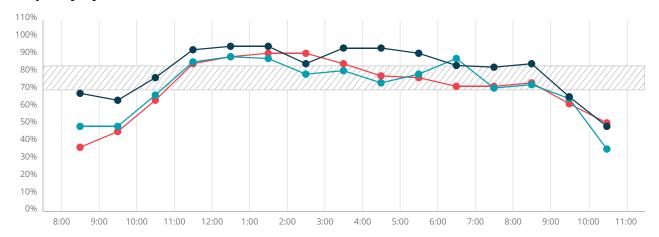




Average Occupancy



Occupancy by Hour



Rate vs Occupancy

Time Limit:

8am - 5pm 2hrs or 4hrs | 3hrs after 5pm



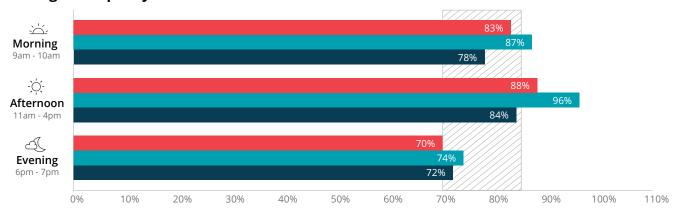


Denny Triangle North

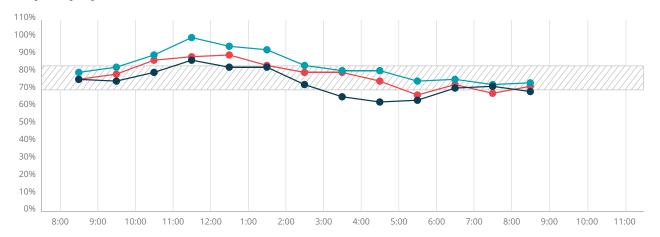


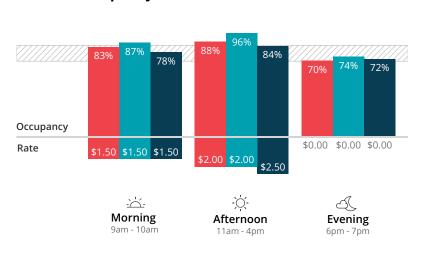


Average Occupancy



Occupancy by Hour







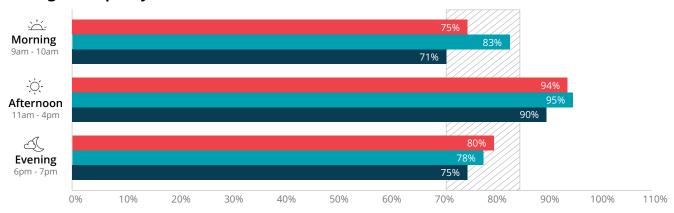


Denny Triangle South

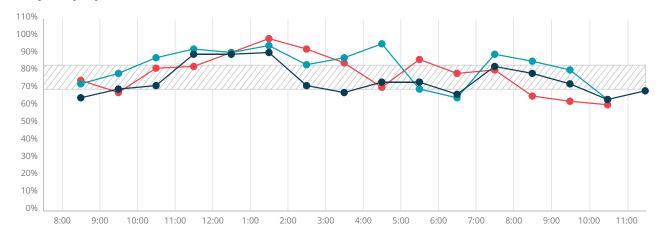


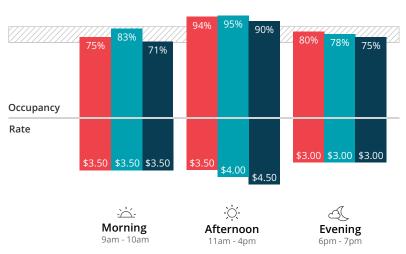


Average Occupancy



Occupancy by Hour





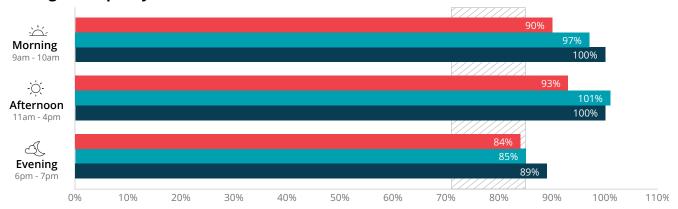


First Hill

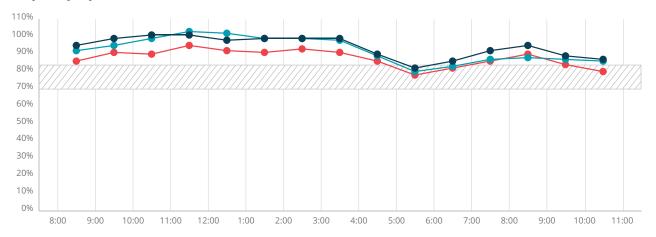


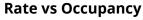


Average Occupancy



Occupancy by Hour





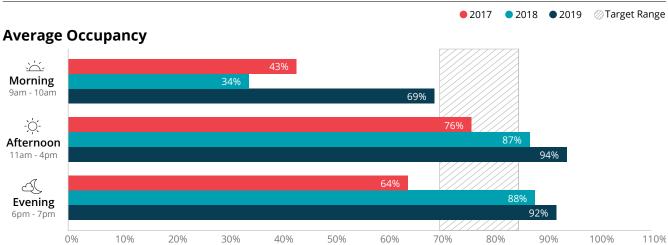




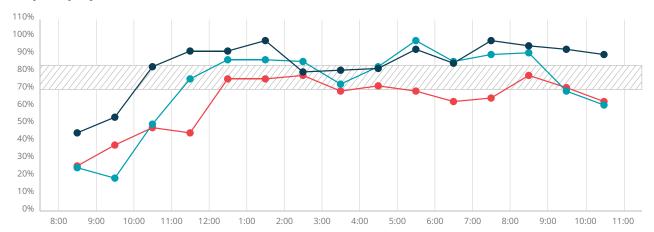


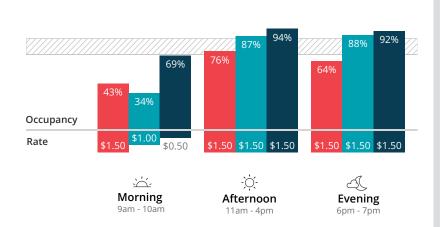
Fremont





Occupancy by Hour







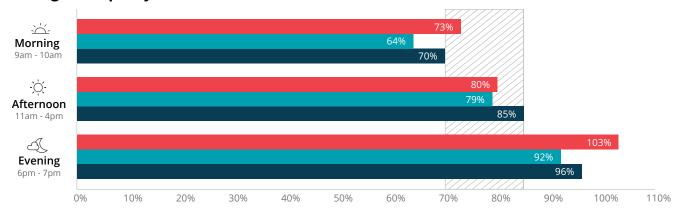


Green Lake

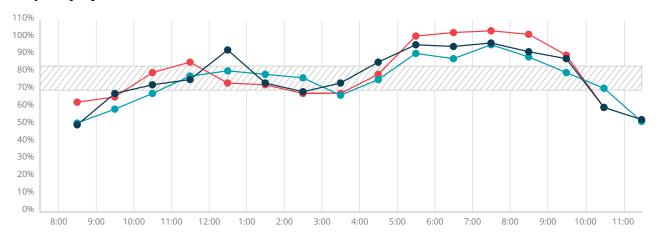




Average Occupancy



Occupancy by Hour



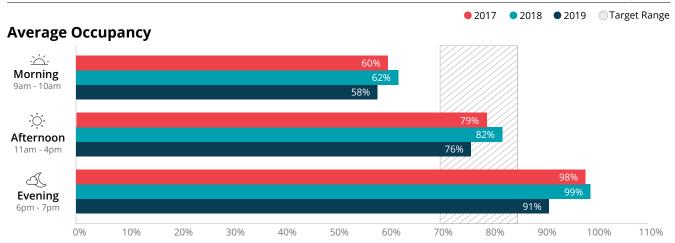




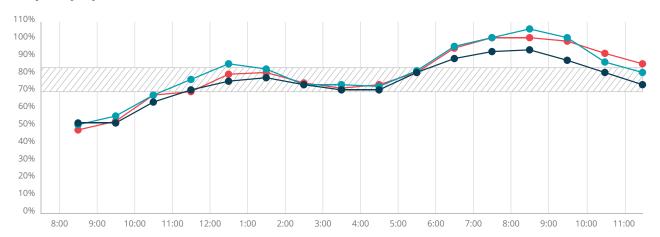


Pike-Pine





Occupancy by Hour

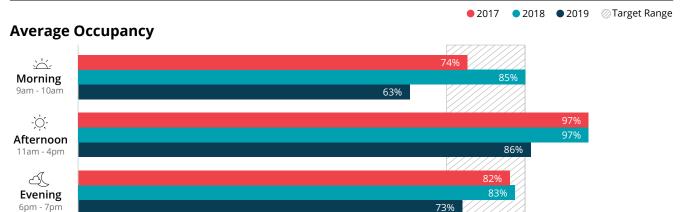






Pioneer Square Core





50%

60%

70%

80%

90%

100%

110%

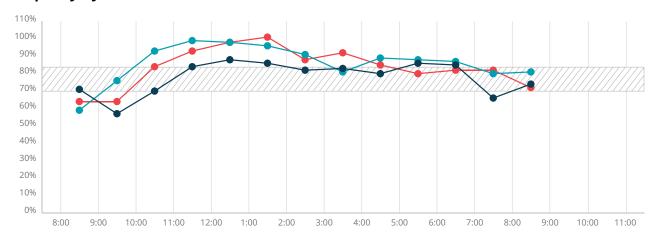
Occupancy by Hour

10%

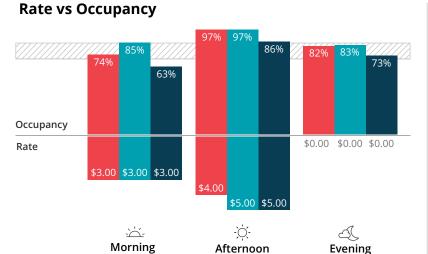
20%

30%

40%



6pm - 7pm



11am - 4pm



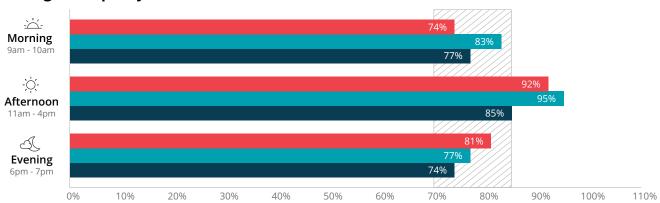


Pioneer Square Edge

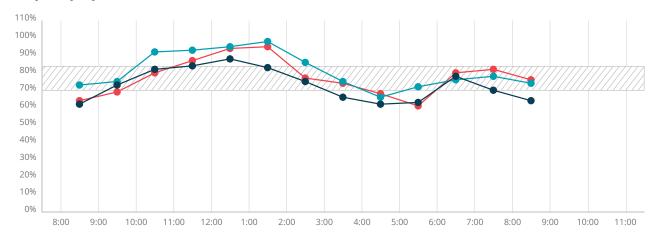


● 2017 • 2018 • 2019 Ø Target Range



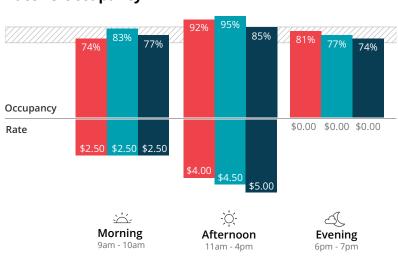


Occupancy by Hour



Rate vs Occupancy

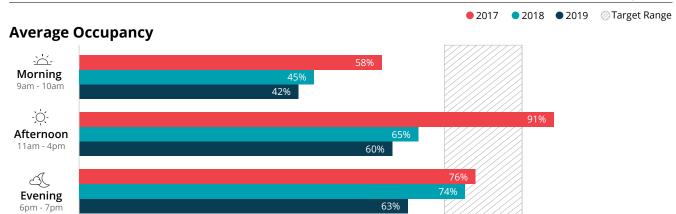
Time Limit: 8am - 6pm 2hrs





Roosevelt





50%

60%

70%

80%

90%

100%

110%

40%

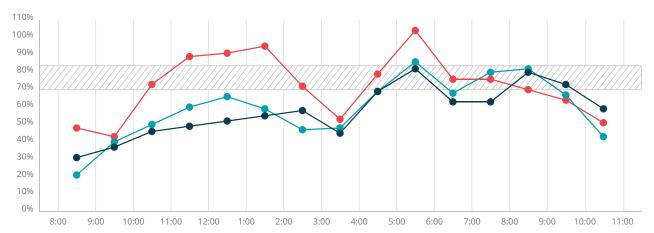
30%

Occupancy by Hour

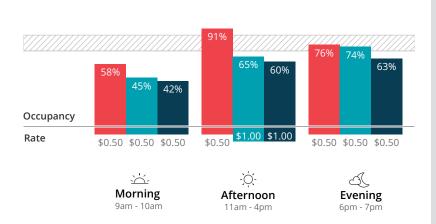
0%

10%

20%



Rate vs Occupancy





2019 Action Plan

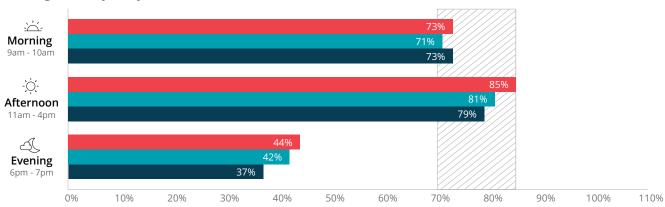


South Lake Union North

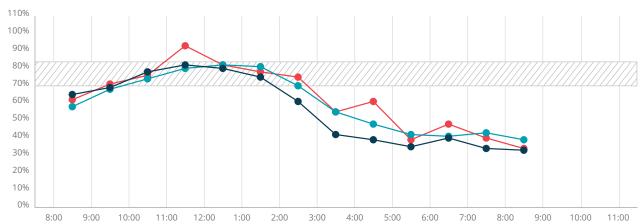


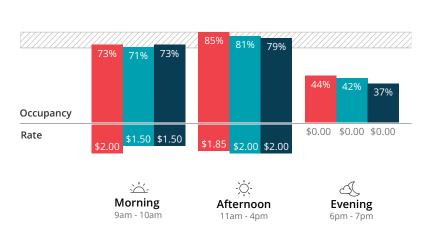
● 2017 • 2018 • 2019 ⊘ Target Range





Occupancy by Hour







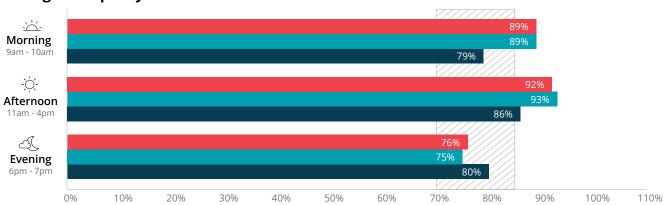


South Lake Union South

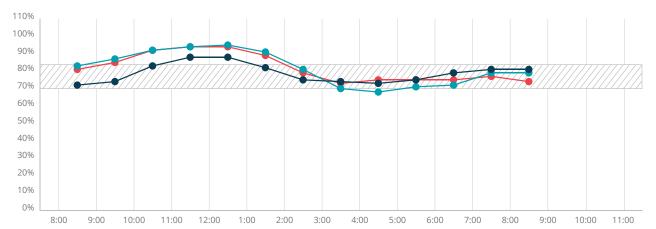


● 2017 • 2018 • 2019 Ø Target Range





Occupancy by Hour



Rate vs Occupancy





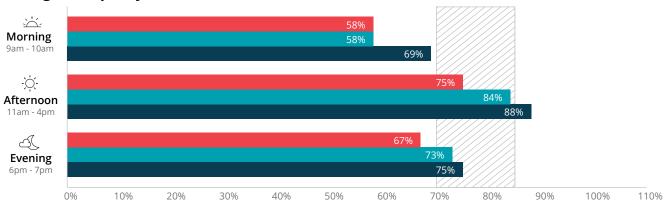
8am - 6pm **2hrs or 10hrs**

University District Core

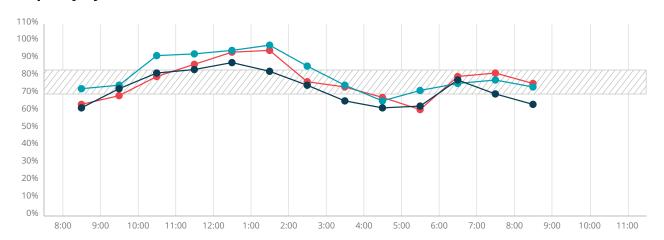


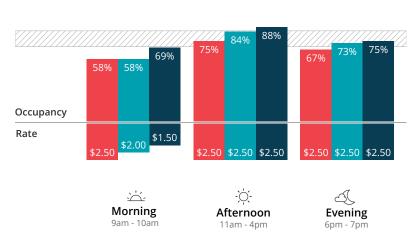
● 2017 • 2018 • 2019 Ø Target Range





Occupancy by Hour







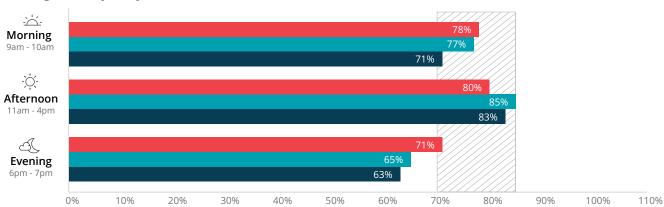


University District Edge

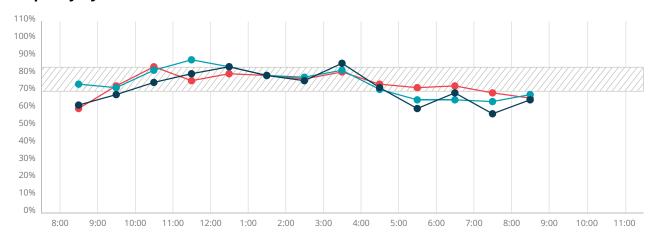


● 2017 • 2018 • 2019 ⊘ Target Range





Occupancy by Hour



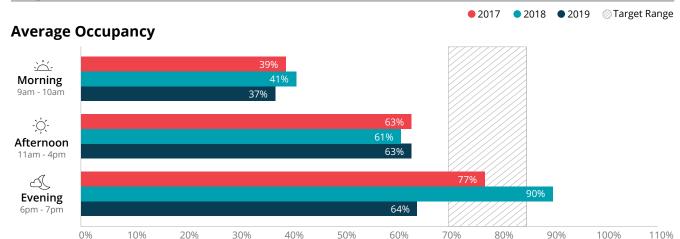




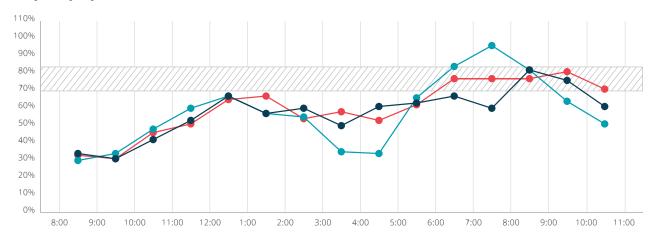


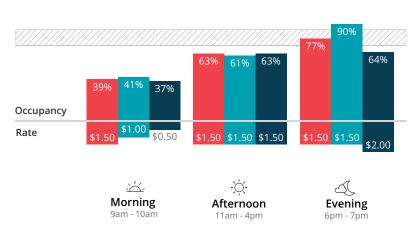
Uptown Core





Occupancy by Hour







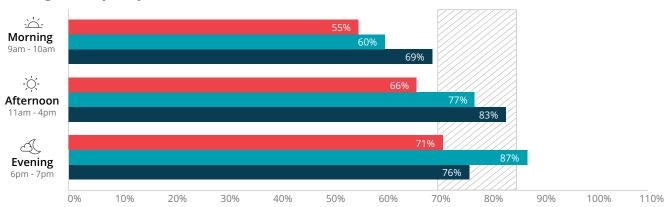


Uptown Edge

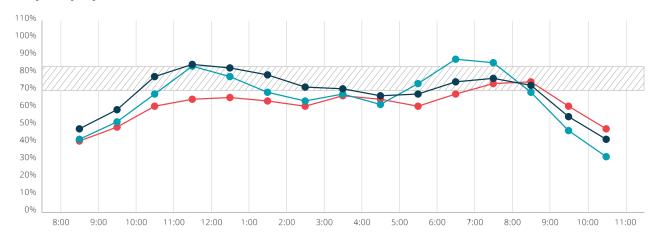


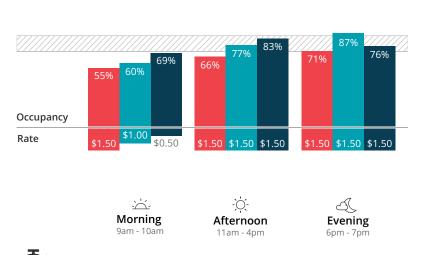
● 2017 • 2018 • 2019 ⊘ Target Range





Occupancy by Hour





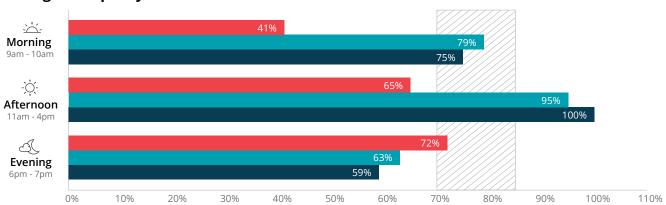


Uptown Triangle

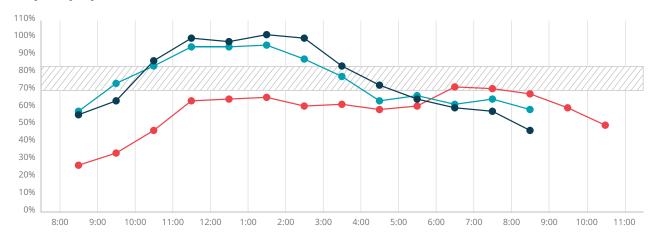


● 2017 • 2018 • 2019 ⊘ Target Range





Occupancy by Hour





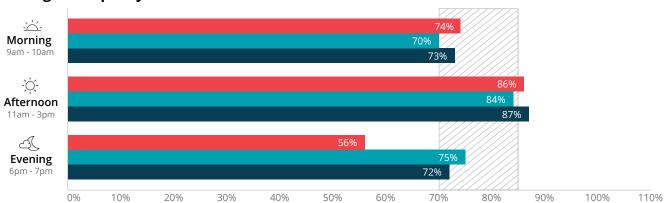


Westlake Ave N North

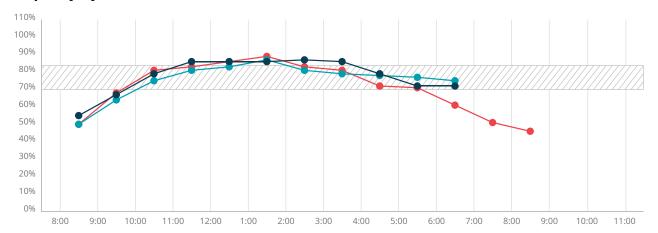


● 2017 • 2018 • 2019 ⊘ Target Range





Occupancy by Hour



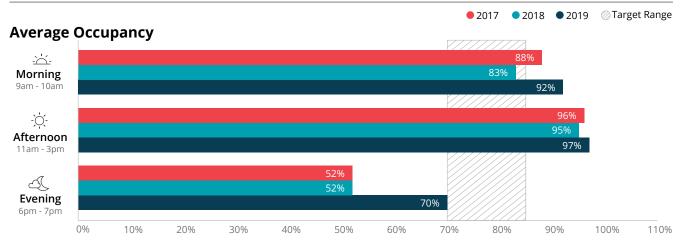




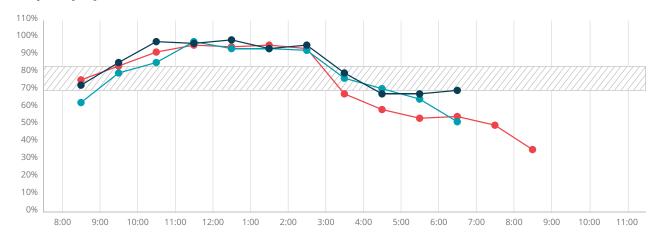


Westlake Ave N South





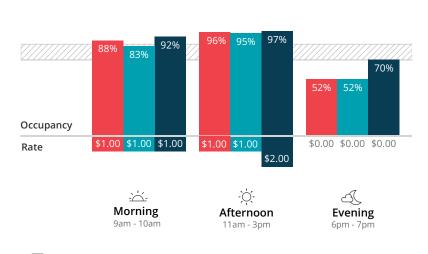
Occupancy by Hour



Rate vs Occupancy

Time Limit:

9am - 4pm 4hrs or 72hrs





The Seattle Department of Transportation 700 5th Avenue, Suite 3800 PO Box 34996 Seattle, WA 98124-4996 [206] 684-ROAD [7623] www.seattle.gov/transportation

