

# Safe Parking Program

Homelessness Response

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# Direction

Direct staff to develop a detailed implementation plan, legal analysis, cost estimate, and budget proposal to support a safe parking pilot program, or an alternate program defined by the Council.



# Agenda

1. Background
2. Program Models
3. Next Steps



# Background

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## **Council Priority #17:**

Explore a safe parking program for homelessness response.

## **What is safe parking?**

Safe parking programs provide residents who live in their vehicles a safe place to sleep and access to vital resources.



# Background: Data

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## **2020 Point in Time Count:**

- Countywide: 11,751 individuals experiencing homelessness, including 2,748 vehicle residents
- East King County Subregion: approximately 300 vehicle residents

## **December 2021 Informal Count in Bellevue:**

- 83 vehicle residences

**Approximately 50% of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness live in vehicles**



# Background: Considerations

- Operational models
- Site management
- Site facility requirements
- Community engagement
- Partnerships and access to supportive services
- Costs and funding sources
- Legal risk/liabilities
- Evaluation of SEPA compliance needs
- Future Land Use Code Amendment(s)



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# Program Models

OPERATIONS AND SITE TYPES



# Operational Model

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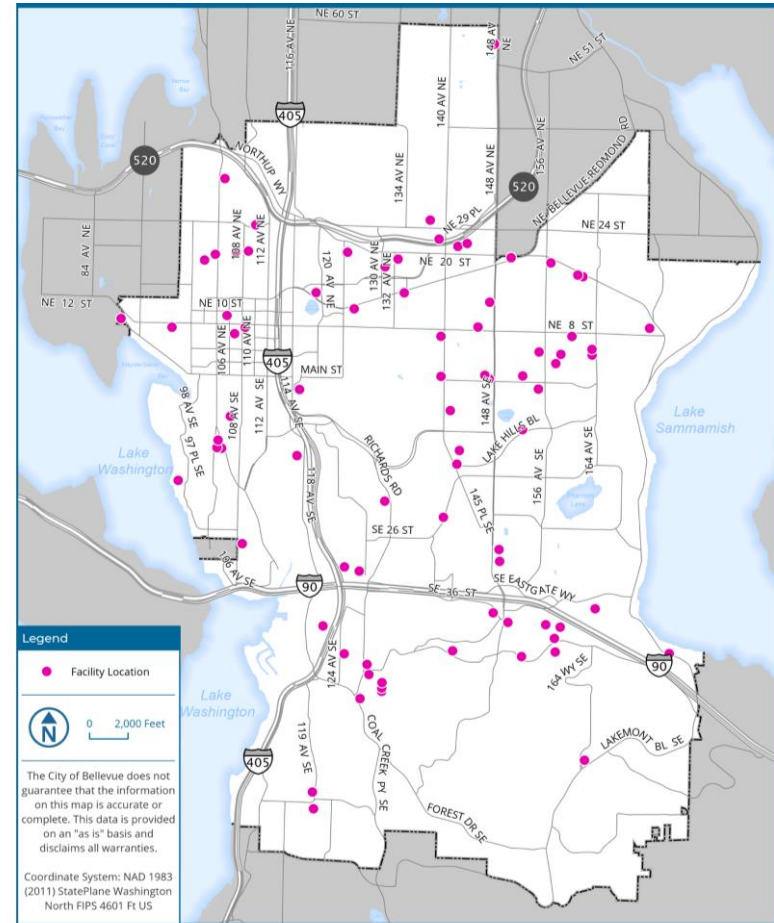
- **Recommend centralized site operations:**
  - **City contract** with service provider
  - Provides **24/7 staffing**, centralized point of contact, enhanced oversight
  - **Case management** services tailored to specific needs of vehicle residents; support individuals in addressing barriers and accessing housing
  - **Costs** vary, initial estimates approximately \$30k – \$55k/month depending on program size.





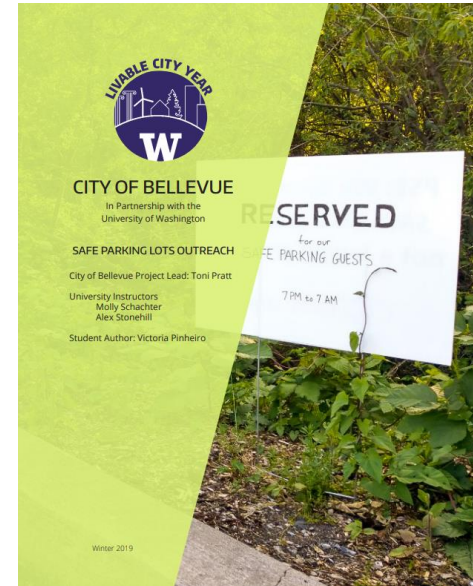
# Site: Religious Organizations

- Approximately 75 religious organizations established across Bellevue



# Site: Religious Organizations

- May host safe parking on property they own and control
- No code changes required
- Organization provides parking, community support, and access to services
- Support successful safe parking programs with a start-up guide, information-sharing
- Offer access to city-contracted site/case management services



# Site: City-Owned Property Pilot

- 1-year pilot program with careful evaluation of successes and impacts
- Consider allowing variety of vehicle and occupant types
- On-site program management staff 24/7; contract with non-profit provider for site management and case management services
- Ongoing community engagement



# Site: Other Private Property

- Not recommended at this time
- Research needed to identify appropriate property types, site requirements
- Future Land Use Code Amendment could address regulations for location, size, on-site facilities, and other best practices
- Recommend contract for on-site program management staff



# Site: On-Street Zones

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- Not recommended
- On-street safe parking typically establishes designated locations for extended parking, with access to services
- Challenges include street maintenance, sanitation, site management
- Would require amendments to the parking ordinance to identify time limits and locations



# Next Steps

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- Develop program implementation framework
  - Legal review
  - Establish program goals and metrics
  - Contracting needs, program costs, potential partnerships
  - Identify City-owned property for pilot
  - Develop operational regulations
  - Outreach to religious organizations, other stakeholders
- Budget proposal for consideration in 2023-24 budget







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