

November 20, 2107

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Bellevue City Code time-limited parking status update in follow-up to the October 23 City Council Study Session.

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POLICY ISSUES

Over the past year, Council has been engaged in a broad review of the City's approach to responding to the challenge of homelessness, with specific discussions about the appropriate provision of facilities, services, and enforcement. The outcome of this review is to ensure a compassionate, coordinated response that meets community expectations.

Council provided specific direction on three areas of enforcement, and Ordinances reflecting that direction are included for action on tonight's Regular Session agenda. Following discussion of vehicle parking and parking enforcement, Council directed staff to gather additional information about parking challenges in certain "hot spots" in the City, where anecdotally there is a history of complaints about long-term parking in the right-of-way, including outreach to identified stakeholders. Council also requested outreach to stakeholders active in addressing the regional response to homeless living in vehicles.

Preliminary outreach and more comprehensive review of recent complaints and enforcement activity around these "hot spots" indicates that the significant remaining policy question facing Council is whether the major challenge in these particular hot spots is ensuring availability of adequate, regularly available on-street parking for the visitors and customers of adjacent property owners, or whether the regulatory need is more closely related to creating a mechanism to designate certain areas of the city as appropriate or inappropriate as a location for people sleeping in vehicles.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

ACTION



DIRECTION



INFORMATION ONLY



Staff will present an update on the preliminary outreach and research done to date on the question of time-limited parking, as well as present the outreach plan that will allow staff to complete its analysis and recommendation for Council around the policy issue above.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

At the October 23 meeting Council directed staff to perform outreach to businesses and eastside interfaith groups to develop information about additional restrictions, imposing day time, time-limited parking at “hot spot” locations. Those locations were identified as 130th Avenue NE and 132nd Avenue NE in the BelRed area, and on SE 41st Place in Factoria, between 124th Avenue SE and Factoria Blvd. As a result of Council direction on October 23, these restrictions, if pursued, would be layered over the city-wide 24-hour parking limitation, which is being clarified and improved through the Ordinance being considered by the Council on the November 20 Regular Session agenda.

Time Restricted Parking Generally:

Time restricted parking limitations can be implemented per Bellevue City Code 11.23.022. Time limits for on-street parking generally allow for increased turnover rates to improve accessibility, economic vitality of street level businesses and the delivery of goods. Other factors often considered when evaluating parking time restrictions include interface with adjacent land use, use of street capacity, and providing turnover in areas where adjacent land use has parking shortages. Time restrictions should also consider the functional use of the roadway, enforcement needs, and duration of the concern. For instance, the City has implemented 2-hour time limits in areas of the downtown to ensure that public on-street parking is available for customers and visitors, rather than office and construction workers. Time limited parking in the downtown is enforced through a contract with Diamond Parking, who regularly patrols the downtown areas. Under the City’s code, unpaid parking tickets can lead to vehicle impoundment after appropriate notice.

Additional Information - Nature of Complaints around “Hot Spots”:

Since the October 23 discussion with Council, we have reviewed available information reported to MyBellevue and the Transportation records management systems to determine if there are general themes around the kinds of enforcement tools that are needed to address issues in these hot spot areas. Preliminary review of this information shows that complaints generally fall into four types: traffic related, misc. code violations, maintenance, and parking. The parking complaints are related to semi-truck parking, blocking of driveway site lines, abandoned vehicles, and RV parking with associated impacts related to vehicle residency. On SE 41st Place in Factoria, the City implemented a road channelization and signing project in 2016 to address complaints. The project moved the parking of larger vehicles to the north side of SE 41st Place, and modified parking limits to address visibility concerns from driveways. In addition, recent construction activity for the East Link project has led to road and lane closures in the vicinity of Spring Blvd, from 120th Avenue NE to NE 20th Street. All of these factors are relevant to determining whether additional regulatory response is needed.

Preliminary Outreach - Interfaith Community and regional efforts around vehicle residency:

The Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness (IFTH) convenes a regional Vehicle Residency Work Group (part of King County All Home), which encompasses the larger King County area. This work group is

working to identify best practices related to vehicle residency, from initial outreach and assessment to assistance and referrals. In addition to countywide and state legislative objectives, they are working toward building the community locally and addressing outreach more holistically across jurisdictional boundaries and faiths.

More specifically, regional subgroups have been formed for the South, East, North and Seattle regions. City of Bellevue human services staff participate in the East regional subgroup consistent with Bellevue's on-going role to monitor and participate consistent with Council policy in the efforts of King County All Home. This more localized east side group, while still in relative infancy, is working through identifying best practices to provide outreach and coordinated services to vehicle residences, and ultimately in assisting them in locating permanent housing.

Existing Safe Parking Locations:

Safe parking programs are operated at several locations on the eastside, serving different populations. These locations include:

Population served	Location	Number Served/Night
Adult women, women/men with children	Lake Washington United Methodist Church (Kirkland)	Average 40
Adult men and women	Overlake Christian Church (Redmond)	15
Adult men and women	St Jude's Parish (Redmond)	6
Women or families	Our Savior Lutheran Church (Issaquah)	6

None of the locations can accommodate RV's, trailers or campers.

This preliminary outreach indicates that there are a number of efforts underway to provide alternatives for vehicle residency outside of public rights-of-way. Additional research is needed to understand how any Bellevue vehicle residency regulatory scheme would fit within those efforts.

Additional Outreach Needed: Stakeholders Using Rights-of-Way in Hot Spot areas

Some of the complaints received in these hot spot areas have related to driveway access and visibility, and accessibility for public parking in the rights-of-way. City policy supporting time-limited parking supports use of this tool in certain circumstances. Additional outreach, following standardized methods, is needed to confirm that time-limited parking is an appropriate approach to addressing the majority of the issues in these areas. In addition, outreach will help paint a complete picture around the potential impacts of time-limited parking on all users of the rights-of-way.

Methods of outreach have been developed over time as a best practice to ensure opportunities for adjacent property owners, business owners and residents to provide feedback on any proposal to impose time restrictions. Typically, the approach also includes a feedback loop back to the community about the results of the outreach, and next steps with the Council in terms of considering whether to impose the parking restrictions.

For the three hot spots, the outreach process involves:

- Determining outreach limits for engagement
- Designing a survey to get needed input from businesses and residents within the outreach limits

- Distributing surveys and compiling results
- Providing survey results back to the outreach area with alternatives
- Engaging Council at Study Session with survey results, considerations, and alternatives
- Preparing Ordinance(s) based on Council direction from Study Session

It is anticipated staff would return to Council with results and considerations sometime after the first of the year.

Additional Considerations -- Enforcement:

Currently parking enforcement is carried out in three ways:

1. One Police Support Officer handles nearly all the parking complaints in the City
2. Diamond Parking provides services to enforce downtown time-limited parking
3. Motor officers will provide enforcement in some instances where the travelling lanes are blocked, for instance with delivery vehicles or taxis

When staff returns with final analysis and recommendations on this subject, we will have information about the resources needed for effective enforcement.

Additional Information – Other City Codes and Parking Consistency:

At the October 23 meeting, Council asked to ensure that nothing in the updated parking rules under consideration would conflict with land use code provisions about the storage of recreational vehicles. Staff reviewed Sections 20.20.720 and 20.20.890 in the Land Use Code related to parking or storage of recreational vehicles, watercraft, and utility trailers in neighborhoods. These regulations apply to vehicles parked on private property and do not restrict vehicles parked in the right of way. As a result, any such vehicles parked in the right-of-way would be subject to the same regulations as all other vehicles.

Next Steps:

In order to complete the analysis and prepare a recommendation on whether any additional regulatory approach is needed to address issues at these “hot spot” locations, staff will:

- Implement the changes already discussed with Council regarding modifications to clarify that a vehicle must not occupy the same street over 24 hours;
- Monitor compliance and enforcement, particularly in hot spot locations, to see if complaints of all or certain types are reduced;
- Conduct outreach to the adjacent property owners, businesses and/or residents to understand potential benefits and impacts of time-limited parking in these specified areas; and
- Continue a review of regional efforts around vehicle residency and how Bellevue efforts complement the policy objectives of those efforts.

OPTIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

N/A