



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Public Works Director/City Engineer 
COPY: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee;
Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E., Deputy City Manager;
Josh Diekmann, Transportation Division Manager/City Traffic Engineer;
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Director/Executive Liaison;
Chris Bacha, City Attorney, City Attorney's Office.
PRESENTER: Keith A. Echterling, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office;
Eric Huseby, Assistant Division Manager, Public Works--Transportation
SUBJECT: Amending Chapter 11.05 of the Municipal Code for Parking Enforcement
Operations Enhancement
DATE: April 10, 2024

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Request for Ordinance

SUMMARY:

As part of a long-term, comprehensive, and ongoing review of the efficiency and usefulness of parking management and enforcement application tools within the code, as well as due to continuously emerging business needs, staff is proposing that this Committee forward for full City Council Consideration the following recommended updates and proposed additions to the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) as also set out in Exhibit "A":

Proposed Updates:

- Amend TMC Sections 11.05.707 and 11.05.708 to modernize the language therein to account for the developing ability of end-users of the City's Parking System to pay for parking through authorized online or digital applications and to permit enforcement options where users do not appropriately comply with such payment requirements.
- Amend TMC Section 11.05.605 to reflect the new additions of 11.05.246 and 11.05.255.

Proposed Additions:

- Amend the Municipal Code Section 11.05.250, to allow for the creation and administration of permit parking only zones, to provide administrative authority and flexibility to specified City personnel, and to provide for corollary enforcement options when end users do not appropriately comply with such zone use restrictions.
- Amend the Municipal Code to add a new section, Section 11.05.255, which identifies the prohibited and allowable parking behaviors in permit parking only zones and provides the penalty for violations.
- Amend the Municipal Code to add a new section, Section 11.05.246, to prohibit the obstruction of designated bike lanes and to provide an enforcement option for violations thereof. This provision seeks to address an emergent and continuing need for enforcement and seeks to redress impacts to bicycle accessibility in designated pathways.

BACKGROUND:

Parking Services has been working to identify areas of the Municipal Code that are in need of updating to align those provisions with current business practices, modernize the application of



the parking system laws, and address areas of developing and emerging need in the parking services context. In this vein, staff recommends amending two provisions of the Municipal Code to adapt to changing parking payment systems and recommends adding two new parking enforcement tools that will help address parking stressors and impacts. The proposed amendments to existing code provisions would account for the ability of parkers to pay for parking through City-authorized digital applications.

The first of the proposed additions would allow administrative flexibility in creating permit parking only zones and in catering to those zones' needs. The current policy of the City for its parking system is to: maximize the use of the right-of-way while encouraging utilization of parking to all users; manage the parking supply by using the 85 percent rule with the intent of accommodating existing and new economic growth; and mitigate any impacts on the adjacent neighborhoods. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, parking behaviors have shifted dramatically in certain areas. While the priority users in downtown and business districts remain the customer, client, and visitor, there are pockets of lower performing block faces that can benefit from an extended stay permit. This new tool would allow the City to proactively allocate appropriate roadway space to account for business patronage, visitors, and corresponding parking turnover. It would further allow staff to create permit parking only zones to better align with the strategy of maximizing use of the right-of-way in areas that may have an underlying need for parking resources and where the City has historically implemented no parking treatments.

The second proposed tool would provide parking enforcement with the ability to redress the vehicular obstruction of bicycle lanes as the Municipal Code currently lacks a specific and appropriate tool for this purpose.

ISSUE:

Parking Services provides a vital service to the ongoing functionality of the City's roadways and corridors. As part of an ongoing comprehensive review of available tools, staff has identified areas in the Code that are in need of updating to help match current business practices. To this end, staff recommends updating the Code to specify how parkers can electronically pay to park, and the ramifications for failing to appropriately do so where the end user does not otherwise utilize the pay and display physical payment option.

Additionally, providing authority for the development and administration of permit parking only zones throughout the City will help mitigate impacts of parking stressors, contribute to the vitality of the City's business corridors, and ensure those attempting to patronize and visit businesses and places of interest within the City have access to parking to do so. As such, staff recommends that this Committee forward to the full City Council for consideration the amendments and additions as set forth in Exhibit "A".

ALTERNATIVES:

Council could maintain the status quo and elect not to amend the Municipal Code as proposed. This approach is not preferable, however, as it would not account for developing and changing business needs in the parking services context, would maintain antiquated code provisions in the face of developing technology, and would prevent enforcement options in areas of need. As such, staff recommends forwarding the proposed updates and additions as set forth in Exhibit "A" to the full City Council for consideration and approval.



FISCAL IMPACT:

This proposal would have an impact by increasing expenses associated with deployment of administrative personnel time in creating and administering permit parking only zones. With that said, the net impact of introducing the new parking management tools as proposed is anticipated to be marginally positive to the parking system as the administrative efforts will largely be offset by making field enforcement efforts more efficient as well as the associated revenues that may come from any citations issued for failing to comply with updated and newly implemented City laws.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Public Works Department recommends amending Chapter 11.05 of the Municipal Code as outlined above.

The proposed updates to TMC Sections 11.05.707 and 11.05.708 will provide clarity and align the codes with current operational best practices and technological advancements.

The proposed new additions will add necessary additional parking management and enforcement tools to address existing and future influences more effectively. Both recommendations enhance the City's ability to maintain access and enhance safety for users of the right-of-way.

Next steps include forwarding the proposed amendments and additions as contained in Exhibit "A" to the full City Council for consideration and approval.