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COPY: Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee
Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E., PgMP, Executive Liaison/Environmental Services Director
PRESENTER: Eric Huseby, Assistant Division Manager, Public Works
SUBJECT: Parking Citation Fine Structure and Adjudication Process
DATE: June 10, 2026

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:
Public Works staff will present an overview of the parking citation adjudication process, enforcement program goals, current challenges, and anticipated actions to improve compliance and strengthen parking management throughout the City.

BACKGROUND:
The City’s parking system manages parking operations throughout the City, including on-street, off-street, parking enforcement, as well as various supported programs such as the Residential Parking Program. The system is expected to be self sufficient and operate without General Fund subsidies.

City staff, with the assistance of the Parking Technical Advisory Group (PTAG), routinely evaluate parking policies and procedures to ensure they are aligned with the system’s established guiding principles including, *“managing the integrity of the parking system with an understanding of systemic and fiscal impacts.”*

The PTAG conducted five meetings over the first half of 2026 to analyze the full life cycle of a parking citation, including review of the enforcement culture and citations issuance practices, opportunities for customers to engage for payments once a citation is issued, and how citations are adjudicated once they are referred to the Municipal Court.

As a result of these conversations, PTAG has identified key challenges with the existing practices and has made recommendations on key strategies to improve compliance with parking regulations and to streamline citation collections and appeals processes.

ISSUE:
To support the goal of maintaining high levels of compliance, the PTAG has conducted a review of Tacoma’s enforcement practices, citation types and fines, appeals process, citation payment rates, and penalties for disregarding citations. That review identified several key issues that should be addressed, as well as proposed strategies to improve compliance. This presentation will outline those issues and the recommended strategies to improve compliance with parking regulations to better streamline citation collections and the appeal process.

ALTERNATIVES:
This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.



FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.



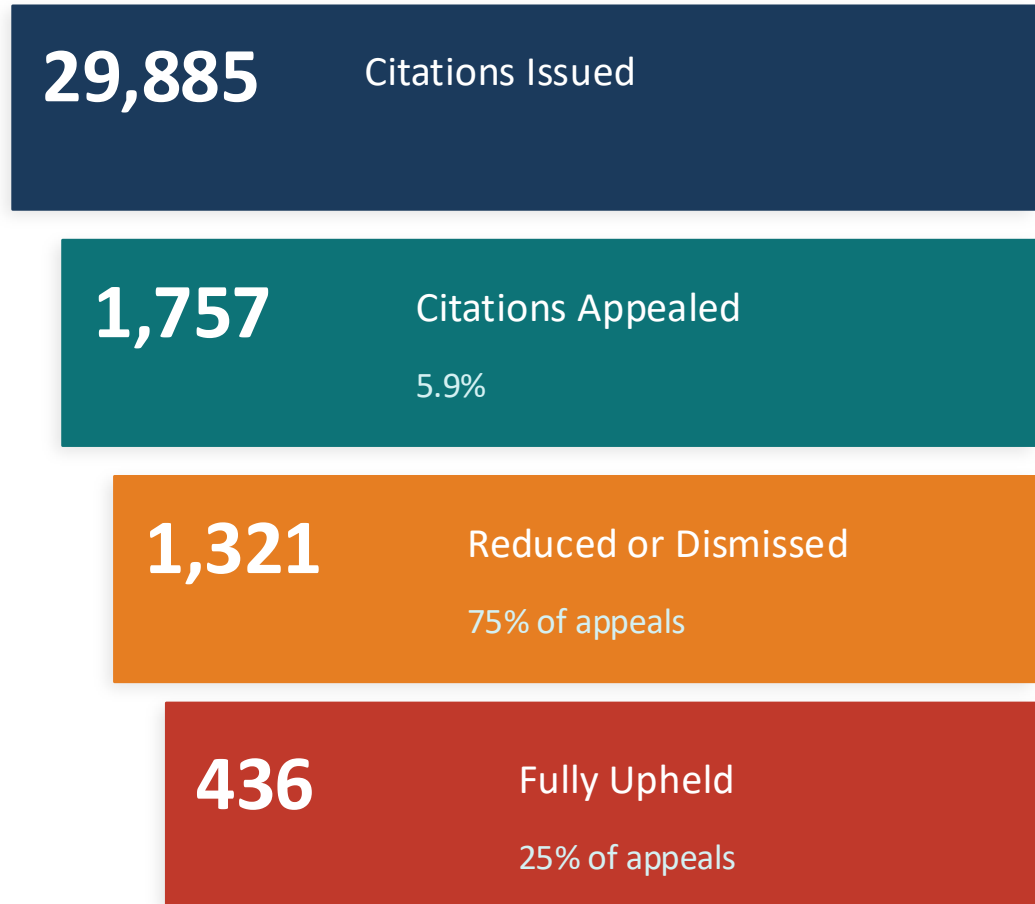
Parking Citation Fine Structure and Adjudication Process

Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee

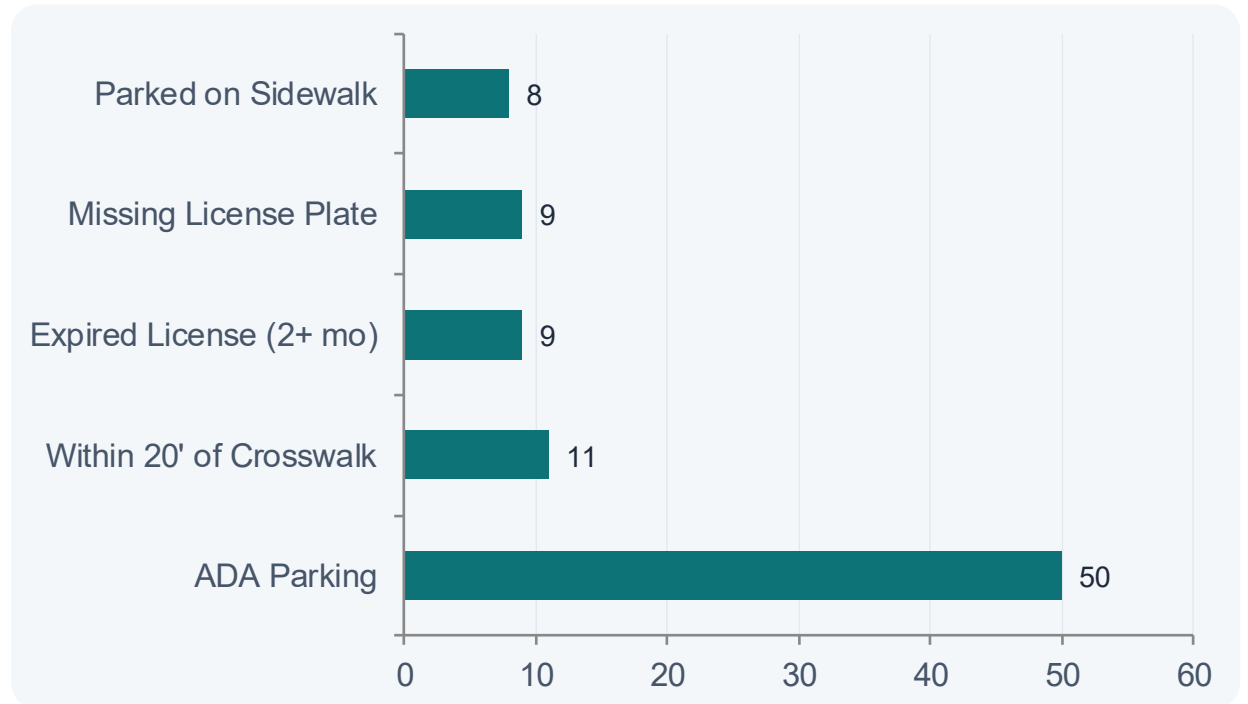
June 10, 2026

Supporting Data Supplement

75% of Appeals Result in Reduced or Dismissed Citations



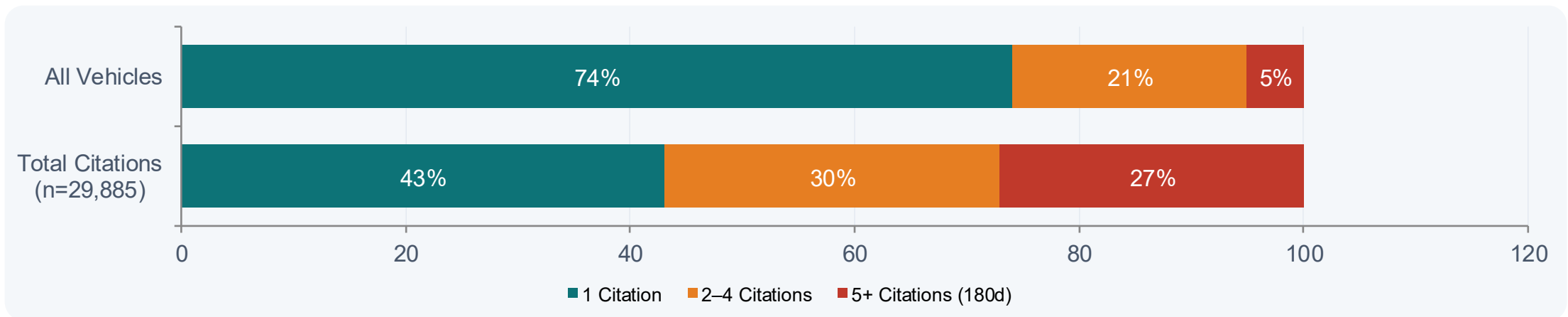
Most Appealed Citation Types



A Small Group Drives Disproportionate Enforcement Burden



Citation Share by Vehicle Group & Total Citations (2024)



Court Costs Consume More Than Half of Collected Revenue

\$1,470,188

Fines Issued (2024)

\$513,163

Revenue Collected · 35% of fines issued

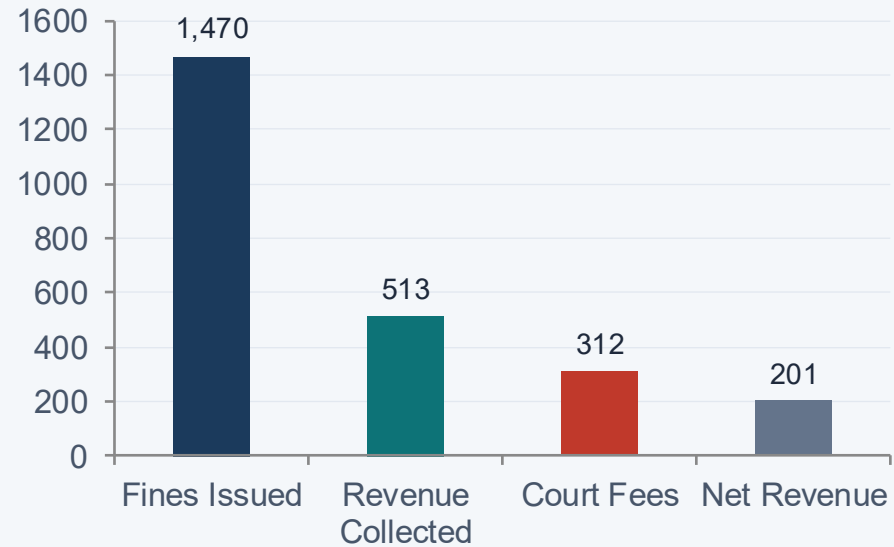
\$311,744

Municipal Court Fees · 61% of collected revenue

\$201,419

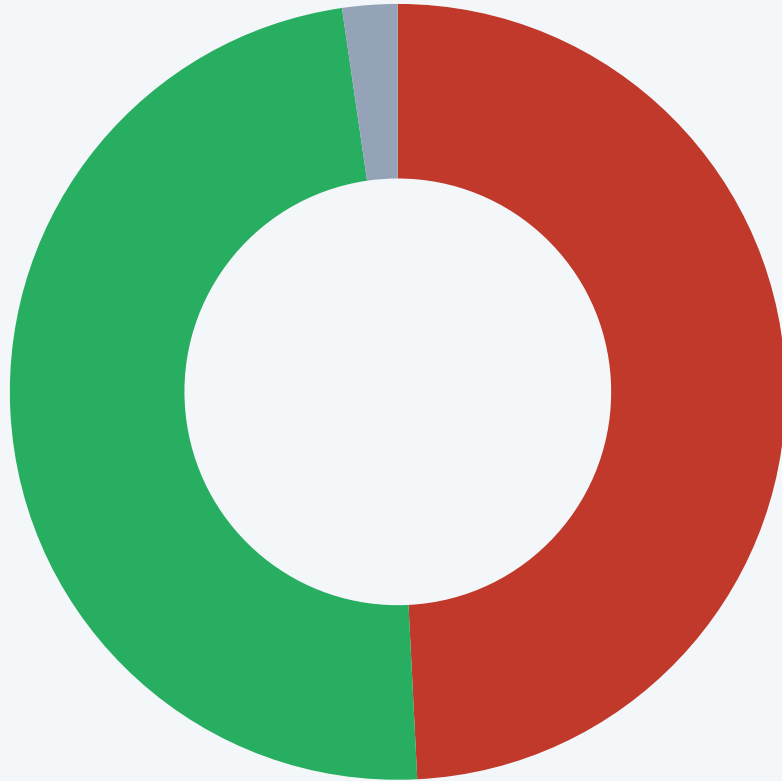
Net After Court Fees · 14% of fines issued

Revenue Breakdown (2024)



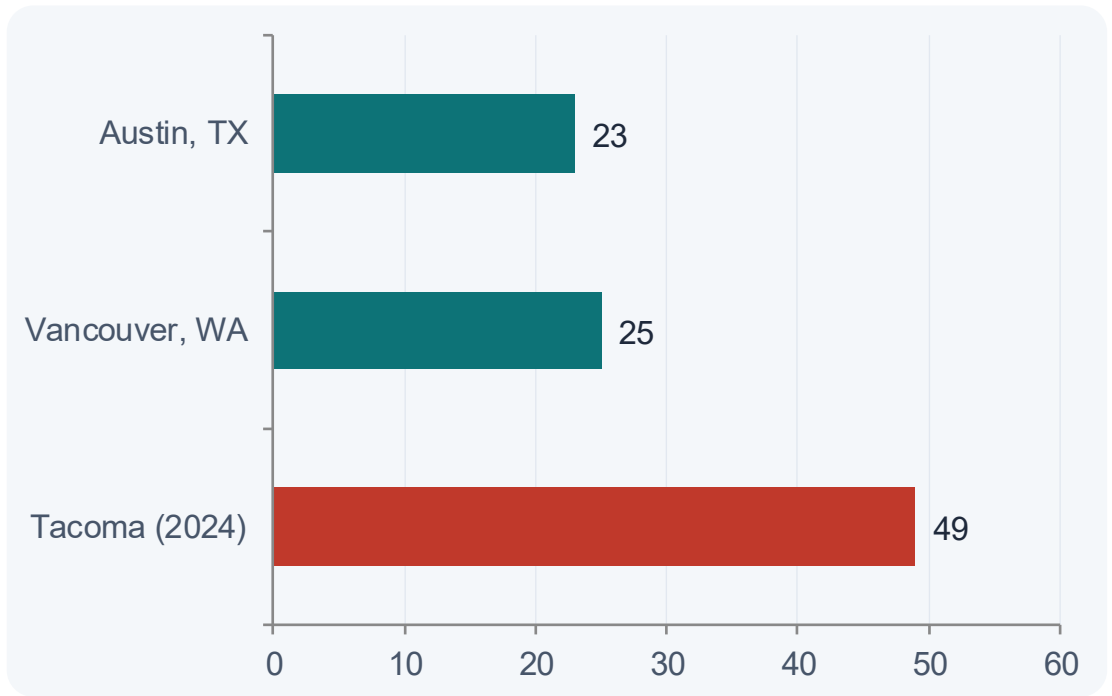
A 10% improvement in payment rates (~3,000 additional paid citations) would yield ~\$100K additional annual revenue.

Nearly Half of All Citations Go Unpaid



■ Unpaid (49.2%) ■ Paid (48.5%) ■ Dismissed (2.3%)

Peer City Comparison (Unpaid %)



Higher Fines for Repeat Violators

The Strategy

- Introduce a higher-fine 'Abuse' category (\$50) for drivers who receive 5 or more payment or overstay violations within a 180-day window.
- New fine categories: Access (\$30) · Safety/Blocking (\$40) · Abuse (\$50)
- Targets the ~831 vehicles (5% of cited vehicles) responsible for disproportionate enforcement demand.
- Fines indexed to downtown hourly parking rates so they keep pace with inflation.

Proposed Fine Tiers

\$30

ACCESS

Overtime, Payment Violations

\$40

SAFETY/BLOCKING

Safety & Blocking Violations

\$50

ABUSE

5th+ Violation within 180 Days

Revised Fine Schedule — Standardized by Severity

Category	Fine	Change	Examples
Access (Overtime/Payment)	\$30	+\$5	Time limit, Pay & Display
Safety / Blocking	\$40	+\$5-\$10	Fire hydrant, crosswalk, sidewalk
Abuse (5th+ violation)	\$50	NEW	Repeat overstay or non-payment
ADA Violations	\$450	No Change	Unauthorized ADA placard use
Commercial Vehicle	\$75-\$150	No Change	Detached trailers, O/T parking
Vehicle Registration	\$86-\$171	No Change	Missing/expired plates

Specialty fines (EV, improper display, commercial vehicles, registration) remain unchanged.

Introduce an Administrative Review Process



Faster Payments

Enables immediate payment collection upon citation receipt

Better Appeal Context

Staff add relevant notes before cases reach a judge

Feedback Loop

Identify signage/stripping issues earlier and fix faster

Cost Efficiency

Fewer cases reach Municipal Court, reducing \$311K annual fee burden