



AB 6291 Town Center Parking Study Update

Mercer Island City Council | July 5, 2023

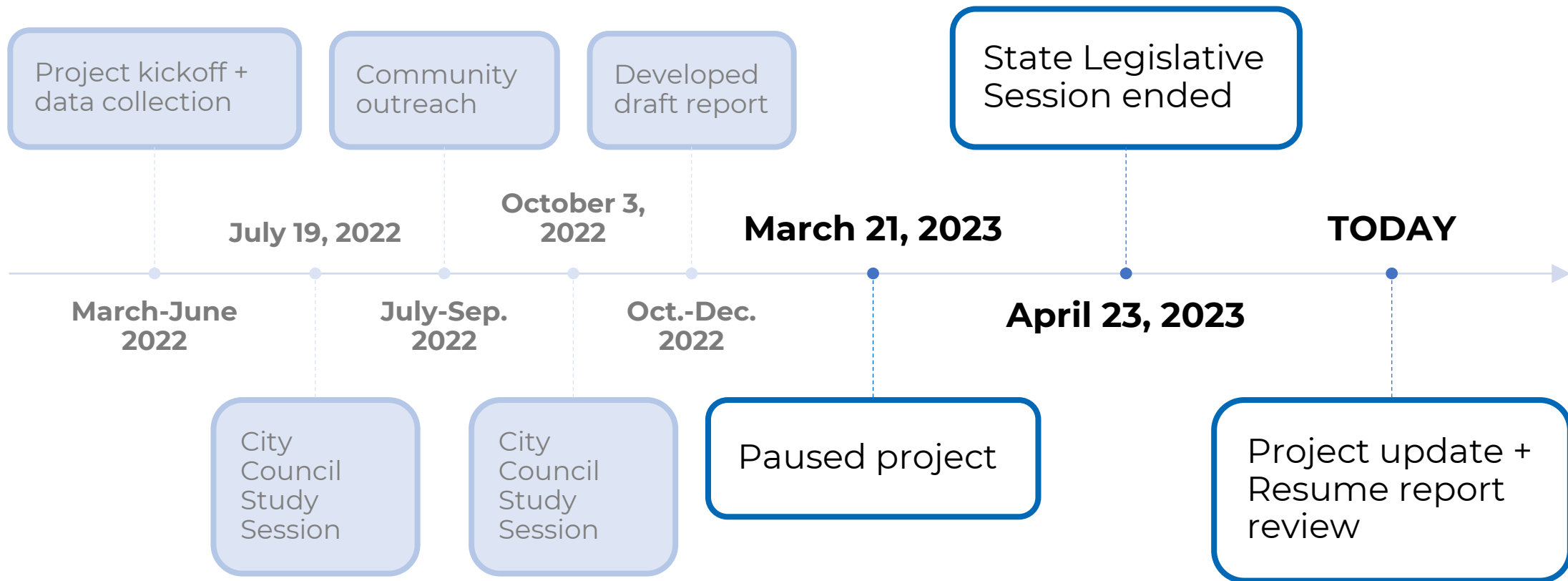




Agenda

- Washington State Legislative Session Impacts
- Early Actions Implementation
- Recommended Action + Next Steps

Project Timeline



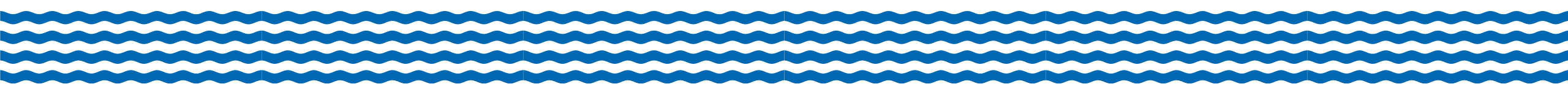
Washington State Legislative Impacts

Bills	Pass/Fail	Potential Impacts to Town Center Parking
HB 1110	Passed	Mandates new middle housing density in single-family neighborhoods and prohibits parking min. for new housing within ¼-mi walking distance of future Light Rail. Increased housing density in neighborhoods located north of I-90 that are ¼-mi from Light Rail could push more community members to park in TC zone, which could impact availability of parking in TC.
HB 1042	Passed	Limits ability to impose additional parking requirements for any new housing added to existing buildings, which may push residents of that new housing to use other TC parking options if their units do not supply dedicated parking spaces.
HB 1293	Passed	Requires a code update that limits design review of residential development; currently, parking stall quantities and design are reviewed by the Design Commission as part of the current design review process, which must be updated.
SB 5466	Failed	May return in future; staff will continue to monitor the impacts.

Early Actions Implementation

On March 21, the Council directed staff to return with a plan for implementing the following early actions from the Town Center Parking Study Report.

1. Update parking counts, including counting Mercer Island Park & Ride and Town Center/RPD permit zones.
2. Observe ADA parking usage.
3. Evaluate and modify parking citation fees.
4. Improve wayfinding to and promote availability of public parking in parking garages.
5. Observe bicycle usage and identify locations for/relocate additional bicycle parking.
6. Phase in conversion to two-hour parking limits depending on observed congestion/lack of turnover.



2023 Parking Counts

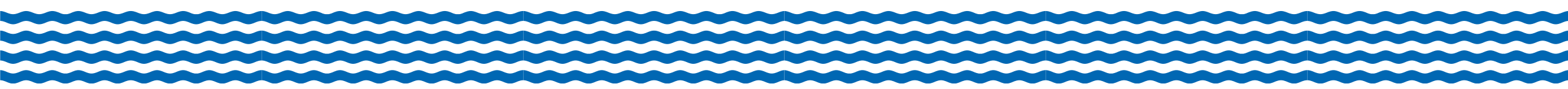
- Recommendations 1a, 1b, and 1d.
- Completed by IDAX in June.
- Update includes Mercer Island Park & Ride, North Mercer Restricted Parking District, and on-street ADA parking.
- Highest occupancy for the Park & Ride was observed at 12pm on Thursday, June 8. (67% full)
- **Next step:** Analyze data from IDAX and identify follow-up actions.



Survey of Regional Parking Citation Fees

City	Citation Fee(s)
Mercer Island	*\$20.00
Seattle	\$52.00
Bellevue	\$44.00
Kirkland	\$45.00
Redmond	\$29.00
Newcastle	\$71.00
Average (not including MI)	\$48.20

- Recommendation 1e.
- *Fee reverted to statewide standard in 2022 following an audit by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).
- **Next step:** Connect with Municipal Court staff to develop/evaluate proposals for adjusting fees.



New Wayfinding Tools

- Recommendation 2a.
- GIS created two parking maps:
 - Public Parking Town Center Garages (right)
 - Free Public Parking in Town Center
- Reviewing and finalizing these resources to distribute later this summer.
- **Next step:** Explore options for adding consistent signage on-site at parking garages to improve navigation and increase use.





Bicycle Usage + 2-Hour Time Limits

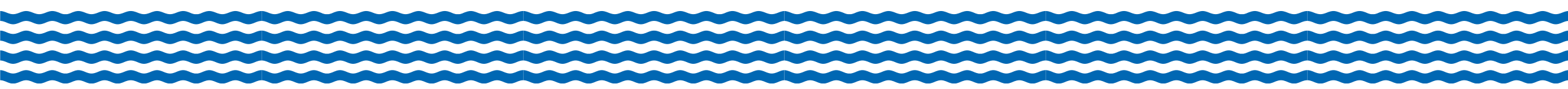
- Recommendations 3a and 1a.
- ROW and Engineering staff reviewing locations for unused bike racks and aim to place late summer/early fall 2023.
- Other work related to bicycle usage on hold until new Sustainability Analyst is hired.
- Changing parking time limits requires additional analysis of new parking data.
- Staff will return in 2024 with a proposal for phasing in 2-hour parking limits.

Recommended Action + Next Steps

- Staff recommend resuming work to finalize and adopt the Town Center Parking Study Report by the end of 2023.
- If this recommendation is accepted, staff will finalize the draft report and publish it on Let's Talk by July 31, 2023.

<https://letstalk.mercergov.org/tc-parking-study>

- The community will have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft through mid-September.
- A public hearing will be scheduled for September 19, 2023.





Questions?

