



# BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6369  
November 21, 2023  
Consent Agenda

## AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6369: Town Center Parking Plan Adoption	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Adopt the Town Center Parking Plan.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Public Works
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Final Town Center Parking Plan 2. Summary of Final Changes to the Plan
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to present the final Town Center Parking Plan (Exhibit 1) for approval by the City Council.

- At its October 17 meeting, the City Council reviewed 22 public comments received on the draft Town Center Parking Plan (“Parking Plan”) and discussed nine items related to the parking plan’s Strategies and Recommendations ([AB 6359](#) – Exhibit 4 and Exhibit 6).
- Following a robust discussion, the Council requested no substantial changes to the Parking Plan and directed staff to finalize the document for adoption.
- The Parking Plan is ready for adoption in the form presented tonight. Staff will perform a final review for typos and formatting corrections, then the final version will be published on the City’s website.
- Upon adoption, various City departments will add items to their 2024 work plans based on the Parking Plan recommendations.

## BACKGROUND

The City Council approved a 2021-2022 budget proposal to conduct a Town Center parking study and identified the following goals for the Town Center parking system:

1. Create a parking program that activates Town Center, supports small businesses, and enhances the Town Center visitor experience.
2. Ensure Mercer Island residents have priority access to public transportation.
3. Determine if on-site commercial and multi-family residential parking is adequately supplied and utilized. Identify options for increasing and/or regulating its use.

The Town Center Parking Plan (“Parking Plan”) includes three strategies and associated recommendations that work together to achieve the Council’s stated goals and to ultimately make parking more functionally available, usable for different users, and supportive of other options for non-driving travel to and around Town Center.

## OVERVIEW OF PARKING PLAN PROCESS

In 2022, the City contracted with Walker Consultants, a global parking and mobility consulting firm with offices in Seattle and around the U.S., to study parking supply, usage, regulations, management, and wayfinding. Background research, parking data collection, and community engagement were conducted from March to September 2022 and informed the development of the draft Parking Plan. The Council paused work on the Parking Plan in March 2023 until the State legislative session concluded, as several bills pending in the legislature could impact parking ([AB 6242](#)).

The process resumed on July 5, 2023, and a public comment period was held from July 31 to September 19 to receive feedback on the draft Parking Plan ([AB 6336](#)). On October 17, the Council reviewed 22 public comments received on the draft Parking Plan, discussed nine items related to the Parking Plan recommendations, and directed staff to finalize the document for adoption ([AB 6359](#)).

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The final Parking Plan includes five main sections and six supporting appendices:

### Sections

- A: Project Overview** – Introduces the project goals and summarizes the recommendations.
- B: Parking Inventory and Utilization** – Presents parking inventory, parking utilization, length of stay analysis, and other data collected in June 2022.
- C: Community Outreach Activities** – Summarizes the community outreach methods, number of participants, and key findings.
- D: Strategies and Recommendations** – Outlines three strategies for managing the Town Center parking system and the associated recommendations, actions, and support.
- E: Implementation** – Includes an implementation matrix with timing and anticipated resource impacts as well as guidance for ongoing monitoring.

### Appendices

- A: Community Engagement Plan** – Public participation plan scoped for this project.
- B: Detailed Community Engagement Findings** – Documents all comments, mapping activity inputs, and survey responses as well as aggregates responses from focus group participants.

- C: Background Studies and Current Programs Review** – Summarizes review of background plans, studies, and documents related to Town Center parking, mobility, and planning.
- D: Mercer Island Park-and-Ride User Surveys** – Includes Park-and-Ride data collected by Sound Transit in 2014 and 2015.
- E: Town Center Parking Observations** – Includes evidential photographs of current Town Center parking and mobility conditions, captured during the planning process in 2022.
- F: 2023 Town Center Parking Inventory and Utilization** – Includes parking data collected by the City in 2023. The data builds on the 2022 inventory and counts as well as includes data collection of the Park-and-Ride and North Mercer Restricted Parking District (RPD).

At the October 17 City Council Meeting, the Council discussed nine items related to the Parking Plan’s recommendations. No substantive changes to the Parking Plan were requested; a summary of the discussion and progress made on items since the meeting is provided as Exhibit 2.

## NEXT STEPS

Upon adoption of the Parking Plan, staff will complete a final copyedit of the document and publish the public version on Let’s Talk and the City website. Staff continue to implement early/ongoing actions from the Parking Plan and plan to complete the following by the end of 2023:

- Publish new parking map resources on the City website (Recommendation 2a)
- Schedule City Council review and adoption of updated Town Center parking citation amounts for 2024 (Recommendation 1e)
- Schedule 2024 parking counts (ongoing/multiple recommendations)

Additionally, staff will prepare 2024 work plan items related to parking enforcement, wayfinding, and regulatory requirements. Staff will also include recommendations for the 2025-2026 work plan as part of the next biennial budget update.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt the City of Mercer Island Town Center Parking Plan as presented in Exhibit 1 to AB 6369.