



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6161  
October 3, 2022  
Study Session**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6161: Town Center Parking Study Update	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Receive presentation on community engagement findings and review the draft Town Center Parking Study Strategies.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Public Works
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Jeff Thomas, Interim CPD Director Mike Seifert, Operations Commander, MIPD Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Draft Town Center Parking Study Strategies 2. Summary of Public Participation Activities and Feedback
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	1. Prepare for the impacts of growth and change with a continued consideration on environmental sustainability.

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ 80,000
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ 80,000
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ 0

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda bill is to provide the second update on the Town Center Parking Study. The presentation will include a review of the draft Town Center parking strategies for City Council discussion (Exhibit 1).

- The City Council approved \$80,000 in the 2021-2022 biennial budget to conduct a new Town Center Parking Study (50% funded by General Fund via the Street Fund and 50% funded by Sound Transit Mitigation dollars for study elements related to mitigation impacts).
- On July 19, the City Council received preliminary data findings and led a study session to identify a preferred list of recommendations to explore further in the parking study.
- Additional community feedback has been collected via Let’s Talk engagement tools and six focus groups conducted in August (Exhibit 2).
- This second study session will include a presentation on the findings from the public engagement activities and review a list of draft Town Center parking strategies for discussion and feedback.
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## BACKGROUND

On July 19, the City Council received a presentation on the findings from the Town Center parking inventory and observations collected in June 2022 (see [AB 6118](#) | [Meeting Recording](#)). During that discussion, the City Council expressed support for and provided the following direction on alternatives for further study:

- Improve wayfinding and signage to available public parking;
- Update parking time limits and clarify/reduce complexity in the various regulated parking zones;
- Increase parking enforcement of regulations, leading with education;
- Explore options for additional commercial loading and delivery as well as short-term drop-off/pickup zones (rideshare, food pickup, etc.);
- Develop shared parking agreements with private garages for public parking to improve efficiency and utilization of existing parking assets;
- Permit parking code reforms to allow certain new developments on underutilized lots (such as reducing/eliminating the parking requirement for restaurants or implementing private parking agreements);
- Explore opportunities to “park once” and then partake in numerous Town Center businesses and destinations;
- Explore street reconfigurations as a tactic to increase on-street parking supply, calm traffic, add bikeways, provide greater access to transit, and improve Town Center’s character; and
- Monitor Park & Ride use and anticipate further parking management steps once the Mercer Island Light Rail Station opens. Provide greater access to transit for residents by improving bus or shuttle connections; avoid premature anticipation of increased demand.

### SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

The following summarizes the public participation opportunities since June 2022 (see Exhibit 2 for additional public participation details):

- Maintained an active [Let’s Talk project page](#) that has been viewed by more than 700 unique visitors since August 2021
- Managed three (3) Let’s Talk engagement tools to gauge community need and interest in key issues such as on-street public parking supply and wayfinding/navigating to available public parking; and
- Hosted two (2) general focus group meetings and five (5) community presentations virtually using Zoom and the engagement platform Mentimeter.

Additionally, many comments related to Town Center parking were received during the 2022 Economic Development Vision Survey conducted as part of the [periodic update to the Comprehensive Plan](#). Staff shared relevant survey findings with the consultant to further inform recommendations that will be included in the Town Center Parking Study final report. (The Economic Development Vision Survey Report is not available for public distribution at this time; it will be delivered to the Economic Development Work Group at a future work group meeting.)

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

At the City Council meeting on Tuesday, Council will receive a presentation on the draft Town Center Parking Study Strategies (Exhibit 1). The list describes potential near-term, long-term, and ongoing policies, management, and design alternatives that could be considered for implementation in the Town Center.

Staff are seeking feedback from the City Council on the list of alternatives. These strategies will also be presented to the community for additional comment and feedback in October 2022. Results will be compiled

and use to inform the draft Town Center Parking Report, tentatively scheduled for presentation to the City Council in December.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The staff intend to compile feedback from the October 3 Study Session and the ongoing community engagement process to prepare the draft Town Center Parking Study Report. The draft report is tentatively scheduled to come to the City Council in December. This schedule may need to be adjusted based on other Council work items and agendas. Final adoption of the Town Center Parking Study is anticipated no later than Q1 2023.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Receive presentation and provide feedback on the draft strategies for the Town Center Parking Study.