



**REVISED**

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

**AB 6359  
October 17, 2023  
Regular Business**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6359: Town Center Parking Study – Review Draft Document	<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>	Receive report on Town Center Parking Study public comment, provide final direction on revisions to the draft, and set adoption for November 21, 2023.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Public Works
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations/Public Works Director Jeff Thomas, CPD Director Ed Holmes, Police Chief Mike Seifert, Operations Commander Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Draft Town Center Parking Study <b>(REVISED)</b> 2. New Appendix E: Town Center Parking Observations 3. New Appendix F: 2023 Parking Data 4. Public Comment Matrix 5. City Council Q&A Matrix 6. Items Recommended for City Council Discussion <b>(REVISED)</b>
<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 review the public comment and discuss potential revisions to the Town Center Parking Study (Exhibit 1).

- The draft Study was published for community review on Let’s Talk on July 31, 2023.
- After the draft was published, staff added two new appendices, which are provided for reference only as Exhibits 2 (Town Center Parking Observations) and Exhibit 3 (2023 Parking Data). These appendices will be added to the final document for adoption.
- Community members had the opportunity to provide public comment on the draft Study from July 31 to September 19. The City received 22 unique public comments via e-mail, Let’s Talk, and the public hearing held at the City Council meeting on September 19 (Exhibit 4).
- The City Council was also invited to provide comments and questions through October 4 (Exhibit 5).

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- On October 17, staff will review comments received, discuss any final changes to the Study requested by the City Council, provide an update on early action items, and seek direction to finalize the Study for adoption.
- The Study is scheduled to be adopted by the City Council on November 21. Upon adoption, staff will incorporate actions based on the Study recommendations into the 2024 work plan.

### BACKGROUND

On July 5, 2023, the City Council directed staff to resume the process to adopt the Town Center Parking Study (Exhibit 1). The Study is informed by parking inventory and usage data as well as community input collected from March to September 2022. The Study includes strategies to achieve the following goals identified by the Council:

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 three strategies and their associated recommendations begin on page 15 of the Study (Exhibit 1). Once adopted, the Study will be used to develop and implement work plan items related to improving and enhancing Town Center parking, beginning in 2024.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS + SUMMARY

The draft Town Center Parking Study was published on Let's Talk (<https://letstalk.mercergov.org/tc-parking-study>) on July 31, 2023, and open for public comment through September 19, 2023. Staff promoted the public comment period widely through a variety of City and local channels, including:

- *MI Weekly* e-newsletter (4,000+ subscribers)
- Mercer Island business e-mail contact list (850+ contacts)
- Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce
- *Mercer Island Reporter*

During the public comment period, the Let's Talk page received 726 visits, and the draft Study was downloaded 409 times. The City received 22 unique comments from the public: 13 comments via direct e-mail to staff and the City Council; eight comments via the comment forum on Let's Talk; and one comment from the public hearing held September 19. The comments received relate to all but one of the Study recommendations, with Strategy #3 receiving the most comments.

Themes that were mentioned by three or more respondents include:

- Emphasis on bike safety and infrastructure improvements (11 respondents)
- Need to support local retail environment through parking improvements (9 respondents)
- Continued desire for "park once" strategies (5 respondents)
- Parking enforcement still necessary (3 respondents)

All comments are included in the Public Comment Matrix provided as Exhibit 4.

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## CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS + QUESTIONS

Following the public hearing on September 19, staff invited the City Council to provide final questions, edits, and other feedback on the Study to staff by October 4. Thirty-three questions and comments from City Council members were received on the draft (including questions/comments sent previously). A City Council Q&A Matrix with responses is provided as Exhibit 5.

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

After reviewing feedback from the community, the City Council, and other City staff, two items were identified for City Council discussion before the Study is adopted (Exhibit 6). [Please note, Exhibit 6 was revised on October 16, 2023 after the City Council packet was published to reflect additional suggestions provided by the City Council. The list now includes nine suggestions for City Council consideration.](#)

Staff will review these items and field any other questions/edits from the City Council to prepare the final document for adoption.

Following that discussion, staff will provide an update on the six early actions identified for implementation in 2023 ([AB 6291](#)) and seek input on the following proposed 2024 work items related to the Study recommendations.

1. Conduct 2024 parking counts.
2. Complete process to modify the Town Center parking citation fees.
3. Convert Town Center streets that are currently unrestricted to a two-hour parking time limit and monitor their use.

## NEXT STEPS

Upon receipt of final direction from the City Council, staff will finalize the Town Center Parking Study for adoption. The final draft will be published on Let's Talk two weeks prior to adoption, which is currently scheduled for November 21, 2023. Community members can continue to follow the process at <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/tc-parking-study>.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive the report on public comment for the Town Center Parking Study draft; provide final direction on revisions to the draft Study; and set adoption of the Study for November 21, 2023.