



Town Center Parking Regulations Code Amendments (AB 6543: First Reading Ord. No. 24C-14)

09/17/2024



Agenda

- Background
- Parking Citation Fee Increase
- Town Center Commuter Parking Permit Program
- Next Steps
- Questions



Background

- Staff presented potential implementation actions for Town Center Parking Regulations at the July 16, 2024, City Council meeting.
- City Council directed staff to:
 - Increase the parking citation fee,
 - Sunset the Town Center Commuter Parking Permit Program, and
 - Implement an on-street parking system where a motorist would register their vehicle for two hours of free parking and have the option to extend this parking up to four hours for a paid fee.

Parking Citation Fee

- The current fee for parking citations is \$20.00.
- Staff recommends the citation fee for parking infractions be increased to \$54.00.
- This rate was chosen to create parity between the City of Mercer Island and its neighboring jurisdictions.



Next Steps

- Changes to the parking citation fee will become effective January 1, 2025.
- The Police Department will issue non-fee warnings for parking offenses before instituting citations.
- The new citation fee will be added to the 2025 Master Fee Schedule.

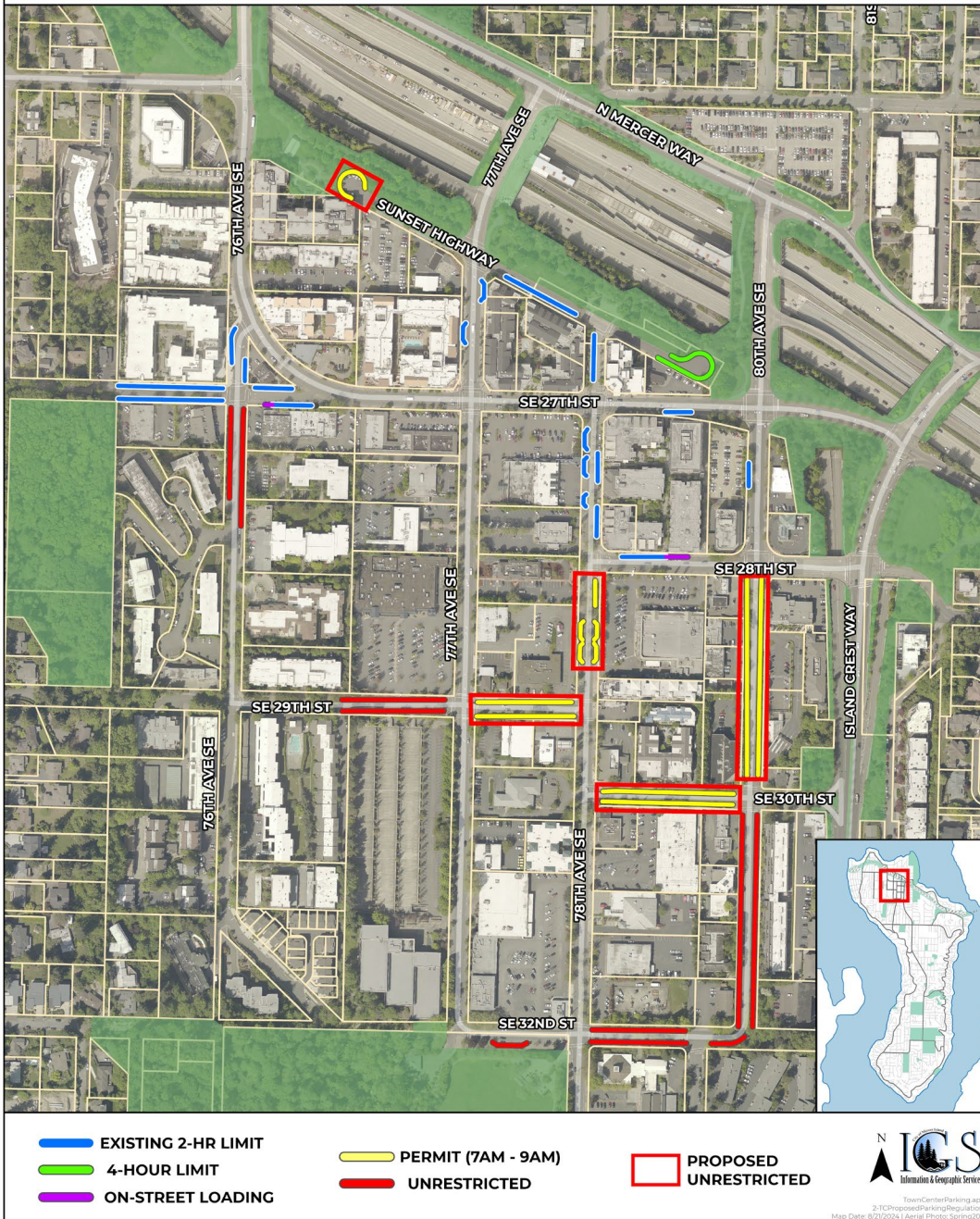
Town Center Commuter Parking Permit

- Currently, permit holders may park in designated spaces from 7:00am-9:00am on weekdays.
- Sunsetting the program will preserve valuable on-street parking for Town Center customers and visitors, and better facilitate future changes to parking regulations.

PROPOSED PARKING REGULATIONS

Town Center Commuter Parking Permit

- The former permit parking spaces would become solely restricted by the 72-hour time limit until the City Council adopts different regulations.
- City Council directed staff to implement a registration / payment system for all on-street parking. This work is ongoing.



Next Steps

- All existing permits will expire on December 31, 2024.
- Current permit holders will be encouraged to use the Park & Ride and the future commuter parking project at the former Tully's site.
- The Public Works Right of Way team will remove the placards for the former permit parking spaces.

Next Steps

Both code amendments will have a comprehensive communications campaign, that includes:

- Updates on Let's Talk,
- Outreach to the business community and the Chamber of Commerce,
- Social media posts,
- Communications in the MI Weekly, and
- Promotion in the MI Reporter.



Questions?





Appendix



Town Center Commuter Parking Permit

Permit Numbers	
2022	337 permits
2023	233 permits
2024 (as of Sept.)	136 permits

Sound Transit Park & Ride Occupancy

Park and Ride Occupancy Counts				
MAY (Q2-2024)	9am	%	Noon	%
Tuesday 5/7	281	63%	349	78%
Wednesday 5/8	249	56%	315	70%
AUGUST (Q3-2024)	9am	%	Noon	%
Tuesday 8/6	279	62%	330	74%
Wednesday 8/7	262	59%	320	72%