

No: 25-_____
Date: June 25, 2025

RESOLUTION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SANDPOINT

TITLE: ADOPTION OF PARKING MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS: In July 2024, the City of Sandpoint adopted an updated 20-year Comprehensive Plan that outlines a vision for a vibrant, connected, and sustainable downtown;

WHEREAS: While the Plan does not prescribe specific parking policies, it includes several guiding principles and implementation strategies that support the development of a parking management plan, including a commitment to sustainable transportation and mobility, with policies that promote walkability, bikeability, and the efficient use of land, a focus on fiscal responsibility and infrastructure stewardship, encouraging the City to manage existing resources strategically and equitably, and support for vibrant mixed-use neighborhoods downtown, which requires balancing growth with adequate access and parking solutions;

WHEREAS: The Comprehensive Plan also acknowledges the need to evaluate existing exemptions and develop parking strategies that align with broader community values, particularly in relation to affordability, downtown business vitality, and multimodal access;

WHEREAS: These priorities build upon the 2022 Downtown Parking Demand Study, which showed that, although overall parking supply is sufficient, utilization is uneven, with certain downtown areas experiencing consistent congestion while others remain underused, and recommended modernizing Sandpoint's parking approach through demand-based pricing, pass systems, and revised policies for new residential development;

WHEREAS: In response to these findings and in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan's broader goals, City staff initiated development of the Downtown Parking Management Plan in December 2024 and, over the following six months, led a robust outreach process and iterative policy refinement effort to produce a plan that supports access, equity, and fiscal sustainability for downtown Sandpoint;

WHEREAS: Components of the Parking Management Plan include: 1) a tiered parking pass program, with a range of annual pass options will be available to downtown employees, residents, marina slip occupants, Bonner County residents, and City residents and prices scaled to reflect level of usage, proximity to impacted zones, and equity considerations, 2) paid hourly parking in premium zones in core downtown off-street and curbside areas,

particularly in locations where turnover is critical, 3) updated off-street parking requirements, where residential development within the current downtown parking exempt boundary will be subject to revised requirements or may opt to pay an in-lieu fee, ensuring downtown growth does not outpace parking availability or shift infrastructure costs to the public, and 4) use of revenue and enforcement, where all administrative and enforcement costs will be paid from revenue generated by passes and hourly parking, with in-lieu fees deposited into the City's Parking Improvement Fund for expansion and improvement of public parking infrastructure;

WHEREAS: Implementation of the Plan is projected to generate between \$300,000 and \$500,000 annually, with this funding ensuring the parking system is self-supporting and enabling the City to cover all direct costs of administration and enforcement, invest in signage, striping, and lot maintenance, and explore future investments in transit access, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and downtown amenities; and

WHEREAS: By creating a flexible but clearly defined parking policy, the Plan reduces dependence on general fund subsidies for parking and introduces mechanisms for adapting to seasonal demand, future growth, and shifts in downtown mobility patterns, setting the foundation for data-informed adjustments and future policy evolution and helping Sandpoint proactively manage parking as a shared public asset—balancing access, equity, and fiscal sustainability while supporting the continued success of downtown as a commercial, recreational, and civic destination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The City of Sandpoint Parking Management Plan is hereby approved, and City staff is permitted, under the Mayor's direction, to proceed with implementation planning, ordinance updates, and budget preparation in alignment with the adopted framework.

Jeremy Grimm, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Ward, City Clerk