

ORDINANCE NO. O2026-016

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington, amending Chapter 18.50, Off-Street Parking, of the Tumwater Municipal Code to address site lighting design requirements as more particularly described herein.

WHEREAS, TMC Chapter 18.50 *Off-street parking areas – Design requirements*, is to be amended to address the height of parking lot lighting for large developments adjacent to Interstate 5; and

WHEREAS, the City is required to plan under Chapter 36.70A RCW, the Growth Management Act; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance meets the goals and requirements of the Growth Management Act; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is consistent with the City’s Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was sent to the Washington State Department of Commerce on June 4, 2026, at least sixty days before the proposed code amendments were adopted, in accordance with RCW 36.70A.106; and

WHEREAS, an Environmental Checklist for a non-project action was prepared under the State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 43.21C RCW), pursuant to Chapter 197-11 WAC on June 4, 2026, and a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was issued on June 12, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General *Advisory Memorandum and Recommended Process for Evaluating Proposed Regulatory or Administrative Actions to Avoid Unconstitutional Takings of Private Property* (October 2024) was reviewed and utilized by the City in objectively evaluating the proposed amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission received a briefing on the proposed code amendments on June 23, 2026, and held a public hearing on July 14, 2026; and

WHEREAS, following the public hearing and deliberations, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed code amendments by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the General Government Committee discussed the Planning Commission's recommendation on the proposed code amendments at a briefing on July 15, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City Council considered the proposed code amendments on August 18, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the provisions of this Ordinance are in the best interest of and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUMWATER, STATE OF WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. TMC 18.50.060, Off-street parking areas – Design requirements, of the Tumwater Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

18.50.060 Off-street parking areas – Design requirements.

The following requirements shall apply to off-street parking areas accommodating four or more vehicles excluding single-family residential and middle housing:

- A. Each parking area shall be designed to enable ingress and egress without requiring the vehicle to back over sidewalks, onto any roadway with a speed limit over twenty-five miles per hour, or onto a roadway that may pose inherent risks to traffic and safety to be determined by the public works director.
- B. Parking areas shall be designed to:
 - 1. Utilize ninety-degree parking if most efficient;
 - 2. Orient parking rows perpendicular to the building to enhance pedestrian safety when possible;
 - 3. Define stalls with white, or otherwise visible and uniform, striping a minimum of four inches wide to facilitate movement and maintain an orderly parking arrangement;
 - 4. Minimize unnecessary impervious surfaces; and
 - 5. Ensure access to public transportation through the design of internal roadways, parking areas, and pedestrian paths.
- C. Parking facilities should provide for pedestrian accessibility between uses for transportation efficiency.
- D. Sidewalks or walkways shall be designed to ensure pedestrian safety by separating any driveway or parking area from a building or roadway. Parking spaces must utilize approved wheel stops to prevent vehicle overhang of a sidewalk or walkway. (See interlock reduction in Figure 18.50.060(A).)

E. The surface of all parking and vehicle maneuvering areas shall have an approved hard surface such as asphalt, concrete or turfstone unless a hard surface would interfere with proper operations (such as agricultural uses) or some industrial uses such as a heavy equipment rental facility, general contractor equipment yard, and product lay-down yards associated with uses such as manufacturing, building material sales, and plant nurseries. Parking or maneuvering areas that do not use an approved hard surface shall use an approved prepared surface, such as gravel. Prepared surfaces shall be designed to not track material into the public right-of-way to the satisfaction of the community development director and shall have a hard surface apron a minimum of twenty feet wide adjacent to hard-surfaced public roads.

F. Landscaped islands or dividers shall be required at the end of parking bays to clearly define traffic and turning patterns.

G. Parking facilities shall comply with the landscaping provisions set forth in TMC Chapter 18.47.

H. Parking facilities shall be designed and maintained in accordance with the parking standards in Figures 18.50.060(A) and 18.50.060(B).

Figure 18.50.060(A)

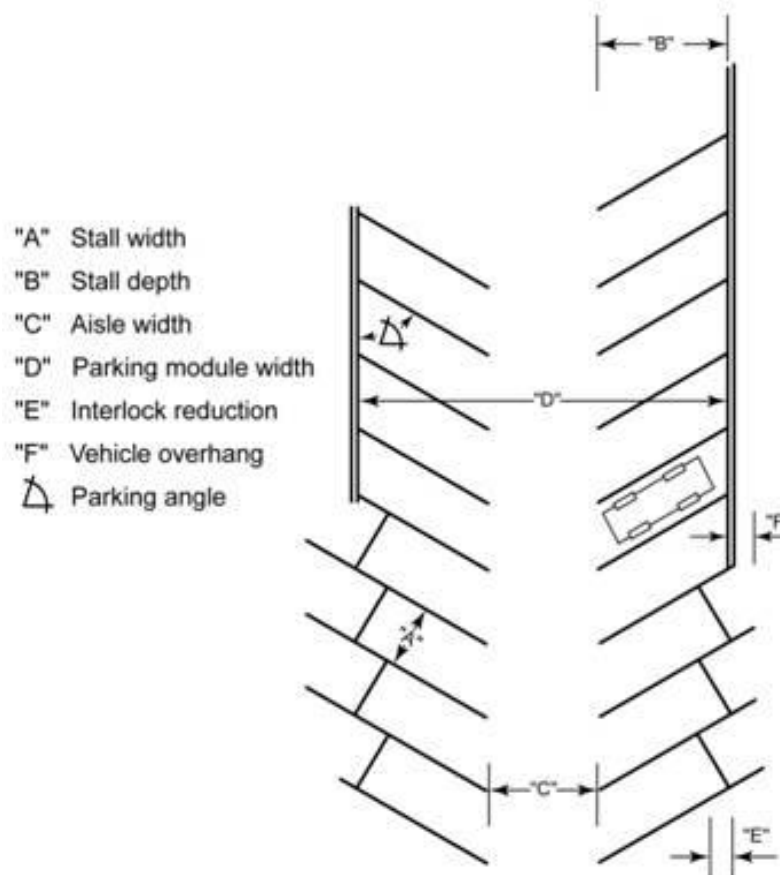
REQUIRED PARKING DESIGN STANDARDS¹					
Angle	Stall Width (A)	Stall Depth (B)²	Aisle Width (C)³	Parking Module Width (D)	Interlock Reduction (E)
45°	9' – 0"	17' – 4"	12' – 3"	46' – 11"	2' – 0"
50°	9' – 0"	18' – 4"	12' – 9"	49' – 5"	1' – 10"
55°	9' – 0"	18' – 6"	13' – 3"	50' – 3"	1' – 7"
60°	9' – 0"	18' – 10"	14' – 3"	51' – 11"	1' – 4"
65°	9' – 0"	19' – 0"	15' – 2"	53' – 2"	1' – 2"
70°	9' – 0"	19' – 2"	16' – 1"	54' – 5"	0' – 11"
75°	9' – 0"	19' – 0"	17' – 6"	55' – 6"	0' – 8"
90°	9' – 0"	18' – 0"	22' – 6"	58' – 6"	N/A

NOTES

() Definitions for letters in parentheses appear in Figure 18.50.060(B).

1. Parking spaces for residential uses may not be required to exceed eight feet by twenty feet, except for parking required for people with disabilities.
2. For accessible parking standards, refer to TMC Chapter 15.04.
3. If parking aisle also serves as a required fire lane, the minimum unobstructed width shall be twenty feet.

Figure 18.50.060(B)



I. Accessible parking shall be provided in accordance with the building code, TMC Chapter 15.04.

J. Required High Occupancy Vehicles. All employers required to operate high occupancy vehicles (HOV) shall mark the closest parking spaces to the building "Reserved for HOV." These spaces shall not displace required accessible parking.

K. Parking lot lighting. Parking lot lighting ~~not exceeding twenty-four feet in height~~ is required to provide safe access for pedestrians unless otherwise specified. All outdoor artificial light sources shall comply with TMC 18.40.035, Exterior illumination.

1. Except as provided in subsection 18.50.060(K)(2), parking lot lighting may not exceed twenty-four feet in height.

2. For multiple building complexes or multiple tenant buildings having more than one-hundred fifty thousand square feet in floor area with frontage on Interstate 5, parking lot lighting may not exceed thirty-seven feet in height.

L. Employers with one hundred or more employees which use an administrative modification specified by TMC 18.50.075(B) to increase parking must meet the following design elements:

1. Double the amount of interior landscaping required under TMC Chapter 18.47 within the parking lot. Fifty percent of this requirement, if proven to be maintained, may be Grasscrete, Turfblock or other drivable pervious surface within areas receiving sporadic use: usually the furthest from the building entrance.
2. Purchase and install a transit shelter to meet Intercity Transit operation needs unless already available within one-quarter mile and on the same side of the right-of-way as a primary entrance to the building. Intercity Transit may waive this requirement if it finds it impractical or may change the distance depending on density or demand.
3. Construct a transit pullout if subsection (L)(2) of this section is used, and if Intercity Transit finds it practical.
4. If transit requirements in subsections (L)(2) and (L)(3) of this section are deemed impractical or infeasible, credit may be given for other Intercity Transit or Thurston Regional Planning Council demand management strategies to the satisfaction of the community development director.
5. Construct a covered bicycle rack with secure bicycle lockers in accordance with TMC 18.50.120.
6. In those instances where site constraints impede these design elements, written findings of fact shall be made identifying site and project constraints, and shall be identified in the final project approval letter.

(Ord. O2025-011, Amended, 12/16/2025; Ord. O2017-022, Amended, 12/05/2017; Ord. O2014-008, Amended, 10/07/2014; Ord. O2010-017, Amended, 12/21/2010; Ord. O97-015, Added, 03/03/1998)

Section 2. Corrections. The City Clerk and codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

Section 3. Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this ordinance is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 4. Severability. The provisions of this ordinance are declared separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, Ordinance No. O2026-016 - Page 5 of 6

subdivision, section, or portion of this ordinance or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the ordinance, or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty days after passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF TUMWATER

Leatta Dahlhoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melody Valiant, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Karen Kirkpatrick, City Attorney

Published:_____

Effective Date:_____