



Parking Pilot Study FAQ

1. Why did City Council request that staff bring forward a proposal for a Paid Parking Pilot Study?

We have received public comment over many years that the community has a desire to see the City implement the **2004 Parking Management Plan** recommendations. City Council has been requesting the development of a parking management program, especially during the Streateries discussion of 2020-2022. Limited staff resources have been a barrier. The current proposal to City Council as of February 10 is an 18-month, low-resource pilot as a trial to collect data, fund enforcement costs, and see if the outcomes cited as reasons for parking fees are achieved.

2. What are the proposed hours & days of paid parking, and when would this start?

9:00AM – 5:00PM is the proposed pay window, where all other times will be free, with Monday and/or Tuesday as free days to park. This window is to encourage evening activity to Downtown restaurants and encourage visitors and locals to visit shops and restaurants during otherwise slow periods of the week.

The pilot is proposed to begin in May 2025 or later, and last for 18 months.

3. Who will enforce parking limits within the proposed paid parking study area?

The Port Townsend Police Department will hire a term position for parking enforcement during the busier seasons downtown, and utilize existing personnel, the Community Services Officer, during other times of the 18-month pilot study period.

4. How much will it cost to park and what are the proposed violation fines?

Staff looked at other paid parking lots in the community for comparison and opted to go lower than those lots. The current proposed rate is \$2.00 per hour during dates where paid parking is enforced.

Parking fines are required for enforcement to work and fines need to be high enough to be a deterrent. Currently, parking fines are \$15.00, which does not pay the cost for the officer to write the ticket. Front desk staff also process parking tickets. The proposed fine for the pilot study is currently \$65. Parking fines in Seattle (public and private) range from \$69 to \$85.

5. Will I need a smartphone in order to pay for parking?

No. While a smartphone will allow for faster parking with an app, there will be a text or call-in option.



6. If I live or work Downtown, will I be able to obtain a permit to park?

The pilot program does not propose using a permit system. A permit system is possible outcome of a comprehensive parking study. There are approximately 50% of the stalls reserved in the Downtown area (Washington and Monroe Streets, as examples) that will not be pay-to-park during the proposed parking pilot study timeframe.

7. How will disabled parking be handled within the pilot study area?

Marked disabled parking stalls are not pay-to-park stalls. It has been proposed that people with disabled placards or license plates would be exempt from parking fees, but this detail is not yet determined as part of the pilot.

8. What will the City do with the revenue generated from the Pilot Study?

Revenue will be used to pay for the pilot startup costs, including signage and enforcement personnel, and to assist with a future study if that is the direction that we go. There will be ongoing costs in the way of fees, equipment, and staff. Part of the reason for the pilot is to understand revenue potential. It will be hard to project the revenue of the pilot because we do not know behavior changes and how that will impact parking utilization levels.

Visit this webpage for more information and updates:

<https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/downtown-parking-pilot-study>

