



# Parking Enforcement Program - Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. Why is the City developing a Parking Enforcement Program?

Shoreline is seeing new development in our mixed-use zones, including the Aurora Corridor and Ballinger Way NE, the North City neighborhood, and near the light rail stations. Recent light rail station openings in other cities have required more parking education and enforcement activities. This is due to new neighbors in townhomes and apartment buildings located within walking distance from light rail stations, as well as light rail passengers parking their vehicles near stations, also known as “hide and ride parking”. To stay ahead of this situation, the City is in the process of developing a new parking enforcement program.

## 2. When will the City launch the Parking Enforcement Program?

The City plans to kick-off the Parking Enforcement Program in the fall of 2024.

## 3. What is the Shoreline Parking Enforcement Program?

The Parking Enforcement Program will address light rail parking impacts and citywide parking education and enforcement needs. This includes educating residents on parking regulations, enforcing parking regulations, assessing the need for restricted parking zones (RPZ), and putting them in place, if necessary. The City will hire two Parking Enforcement Officers to support the work of the Shoreline Police Department in enforcing parking regulations.

## 4. What will be the enforcement schedule of the Parking Enforcement Program?

Parking regulations will be enforced 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## 5. Can I still park in my driveway?

Yes, the Parking Enforcement Program will only impact on-street parking and will not affect driveways. However, according to the Shoreline Municipal Code (SMC) all vehicles, even those on private property, must be legally registered and operational.

## 6. What are the most common parking infractions?

Common infractions the Parking Enforcement Officers will cite include parking where prohibited by sign; parking too close to mailboxes, driveways, and intersections; parking more than 12 inches from a curb; and parking within a bike lane. Parking Enforcement

Officers will also have the authority to ticket and tow abandoned and inoperable vehicles in the right-of-way after no other alternative for removal has been successful.

**7. What is a restricted parking zone (RPZ)?**

An RPZ is a residential area around parking demand generators – like a hospital, college, business district, or light rail station – where the City restricts on-street parking to permit holders during certain hours and/or for certain time periods. Enforcement must be in place to ensure people without permits do not park in the RPZ for more than the allowed time limit.

**8. How will the City determine the need and size of potential RPZ?**

The City will determine if an RPZ is appropriate after hearing from nearby residents, community organizations, businesses, or other stakeholders. The initial step includes us surveying the street, which means determining if cars are parked close to 75% of the on-street parking capacity within a ¼ mile area where people have the concern. Once we decide an RPZ may be appropriate, a formal parking study will take place. This study determines the parking occupancy and type of vehicles (residential, commuter, or business-related) parked during challenging parking conditions. These parking studies typically include hourly car counts as well as license plate tracking to determine turnover on the street.

The City will create a new RPZ or expand an existing RPZ when 75% of the street parking in a ¼ mile is usually occupied and when over 35% of the parked vehicles are used by non-residents. This is not a hard rule, and we can use this along with other tools to improve on-street parking. For example, we can also remove parking restrictions or add parking capacity. On-street parking is a public resource that we support maintaining for the public's best interest.

**9. Does Shoreline have an RPZ?**

Yes, Shoreline has one RPZ [located](#) south of the Shoreline Community College which limits parking periods to two hours on one part of N 160th Street and prohibits parking between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on another part of N 160th Street, NW 159th Street, 1st Avenue NW, and Palatine Avenue N. This RPZ has successfully reduced parking congestion and other traffic impacts from the College.

**10. Will there be an RPZ around the new light rail stations?**

Sound Transit is required to complete a parking study before and after revenue service starts. The goal of the study is to determine the impacts of the light rail stations on the surrounding neighborhoods and propose a strategy for easing any identified impacts. If data from the study shows that on-street parking capacity is impacted due to light rail station opening, then one such method for easing impacts would be to start using an RPZ around one or both stations. The City would determine the size and scope of an RPZ based on data collected in the parking study. If this study found that an RPZ was recommended, it would likely not go into effect until summer 2025.

**11. Who will need parking permits?**

If the City determines that a new RPZ is needed, residents within the boundary of the RPZ would be eligible for a certain number of permits. Residents would have plenty of time to sign up for and receive their on-street parking permits before the RPZ becomes effective.

**12. Will potential RPZs affect private streets?**

No, any potential RPZs will only affect City right-of-way and does not affect private streets.

**13. How can I get additional information about the Parking Enforcement Program?**

Be on the lookout for more information in Currents, the City's newsletter that is delivered to all residents, about common parking violations and how to prevent them. Information will also be available on this website and the City's social media accounts. Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Additional questions can be addressed to the City Manager's Office Management Analyst, Christina Arcidy, at [carcidy@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:carcidy@shorelinewa.gov).