

Parking Solutions Proposed by Maria Henly

In the continuing effort to address concerns identified in the Neighborhood Plan and the 2003 Parking Survey, several neighbors participated in a series of Joint Meetings with UWEC and EC City staff members over the summer of 2004 to identify changes that could improve ongoing problems related to traffic, parking and pedestrian safety. The committee identified the following 9 objectives they wished to address.

Third Ward Parking, Traffic and Pedestrian Safety (TPPS) Objectives:

1. Reduce or eliminate blocked/encroached driveways.
2. Reduce or eliminate encroachment on fire hydrants.
3. Eliminate or improve poor sight lines and visibility at corner intersections.
4. Reduce or eliminate excessive circulation of non-resident cars searching for parking.
5. Reduce or eliminate double parking by vehicles waiting for a space to become available.
6. Improve enforcement of ordinances to reduce the number of violations.
7. Contain the speed of vehicles on both neighborhood and thru streets.
8. Enhance availability of on-street parking for Third Ward residents and their guests.
9. Facilitate snow removal and street sweeping.

A total of 41 ideas were discussed and evaluated for implementation as possible solutions. City staff members were reluctant to support solutions that would require extensive time and staff to implement with the current budget cutbacks, and UWEC officials would not support any changes that would substantially decrease neighborhood street parking access for students or staff. However, six actions were identified as possible solutions that would be fairly easy to implement and that participants appeared to agree on .

In an effort to solve as many of the identified concerns as possible with minimum cost the Implementation Actions below are being proposed. This proposal will be discussed at the Annual Meeting on September 22. Please plan to attend the meeting and/or communicate with TPPS members Maria Henly (831-8672 or tycobb@charter.net), Ken Fulgione (577-4197 or kg-one@weyrkeep.com) or Mary Jurmain (830-2060 or mary.jurmain@realityworks.com) with your questions or comments. This proposal will then go forward to the City Council.

Recommended Implementation Actions resulting from Joint Meetings:

1. The traffic and parking congested area will be defined as being east of UWEC, west of Farwell, south of Summit and north of Putnam Park. In addition, an impact monitoring zone of an additional block north of Summit to Gilbert and west of Farwell to Rust will be monitored to ensure changes do not affect these areas.

2. Parking setback areas in the zone will be increased as follows:
 - corners from 15 to 30 feet
 - driveways from 4 to 8 feet
 - fire hydrants from 10 to 20 feet

Setback areas will be clearly marked with signs, curbs painted yellow and a white line painted on the street surface extending 2 feet from the curb. (These changes will address objective #'s 1, 2 and 3.)

3. Two hour parking limits in the zone will be removed. (This change will address objective #'s 4, 5 and 8 by eliminating the constant "turnover" in parked cars, reduce the number of cars searching for parking every hour, and reduce the number of cars double parked waiting for a parking space to become available. In addition, we believe that eliminating the 2 hour limits will allow Third Ward residents a chance to park their own vehicles and service and guest vehicles on the street.)

4. The city will continue the regular painting of the crosswalks in the high use pedestrian areas of State St. with a high definition paint system . (This will help address objective #7.)

5. Consider increasing the cost of all violations to the state minimum levels and add "2nd offense" violations. (This change will help address objective #6.)

6. City will encourage the local police to make a show of enforcement when each new school year begins to be coordinated with pedestrian & traffic safety education efforts by the UWEC & the neighborhood association & the city.