



# 2012 Parking Think Tanks

## Downtown East (28 August 2012)

The first session of the 2012 Parking Think Tank series convened in the eastern Downtown area of Washington, DC on 28 August 2012 from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the Old Council Chambers at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW. The minutes contained represent a summary of the session's discussion. The following individuals were in attendance:

**Public (78):**

**DDOT Staff (16):**

### Parking Think Tank Presentation

Starting promptly at 2:05 PM, Mr. Angelo Rao convened the eastern Downtown session of the 2012 Parking Think Tanks series. Mr. Rao provided an overview of the Think Tank purpose, population and mobility demographics, historical parking framework, and outlined the structure of the community conversations in four topic areas (metered parking, commercial parking, parking regulations, and general parking issues). After concluding his presentation, Mr. Rao responded to questions from the public regarding the content of his presentation and the process. At 2:30 PM, the public was asked to convene into a breakout session of their choice.

### Community Conversation: Metered Parking

Challenges / Issues:

- Parking not fair
  - Revenue generating
  - Tickets on meters that are paid for
- ADA Parking
  - Don't need 8 hour parking
  - Want DDOT to feel ADA person's pain
    - Low wages – ADA parking fees burdensome
  - Limit ADA placards and their misuse



- No painted meters for ADA parking
- Placement of meters near religious buildings
- No time to address recently expired parking meter
- Multi-space meter failure – no paper; jammed credit card reader
- Confusing / unclear meter signage and on meter
- What is District's value system – business, people?
- Business owner anxiety over parking meters (deterring business)
- RPP Only parking – makes it difficult for business owners to attract customers when there is limited off street parking options
  - Capitol Hill
  - Logan Circle

#### General Recommendations / Strategies:

- 4 hour ADA Parking
- No fees for low wage ADA person
- 2 year renewal for ADA placard with medical card
  - Include wallet size photo on placard
- Fines for misuse of ADA placards
- Grace period for expired meter
- Smart Trip parking passes
- Paint commercial parking spaces – 'Space for Commercial only'
- Pay by Cell works well

## Community Conversation: Commercial Parking

#### Challenges / Issues (Loading Zones / Buses / Deliveries):

- Poor stakeholder meeting notices
- No feedback from meetings
- Georgetown trucks ticketed (101 tickets)
  - 32% on windshields
  - Most tickets not physically available (Phantom tickets)
    - Tickets without persons there at all
- Selective enforcement of industries
  - Food truck task force
  - Enforcement 'appears' to move to commercial violations versus non-commercial ones



- Curbside parking in loading zones
  - Trucks then have to double park (impede traffic)
    - Can do if not severely impeding traffic (18 DCMR 2401.2)
    - Increase fines to deter parking in loading zones
- Fleet versus local use trucks
- Truck cab and trailer both get tickets
- Multiple agencies ticketing same vehicle for same violation

#### Challenges / Issues (Signage):

- Capitol Hill
  - WMATA not willing to give up space for loading zones
- M Street and Wisconsin Ave NW (Possibly 3218 M St NW Loading Zone)
  - Loading zone overlapping fire hydrant zone
- K Street and 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW
  - Conflicting signage

#### General Recommendations / Strategies

- Train parking enforcement officers
  - Consistent enforcement of parking regulations
- Lower fares for ADA persons on transit
- Comprehensively evaluate parking enforcement
- Alternative parking for loading zones on other streets
- Extending loading zone length from 35 feet to 70 feet

Note: Consider creating Adjudication / Enforcement category for future think tanks

## Community Conversation: Parking Regulations

#### Residential Parking Successes:

- Visitor Parking Passes
- Early notification of RPP sticker expiration
- Angled Parking at churches
- RPP curtailing commuter parking in District
- Eliminating parking restrictions on Sundays
- All day reserved church parking



#### Residential Parking Challenges / Issues:

- District residents with Maryland tags and RPP
  - ROSA enforcement
- RPP stickers for multi-vehicle households (multiple cars and permits for same resident)
- One zone permit – parking within multiple places within one zone
- Cross ward commuting
- Restrictions in multiuse areas
- Abandoned vehicles
- Conflicts between residential parking and car sharing vehicles in neighborhoods
- RPP grossly underpriced
- Poor communications with potential home buyers
- Church parking
  - Unregulated parking for out of state church goers
  - 9<sup>th</sup> and P Street NW
  - 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Harvard Street NW

#### Residential Parking General Recommendations / Strategies:

- Subdivided RPP zones by neighborhoods
- Unlimited, automated visitor parking pass system (vs. 1 year pass)

#### ADA Parking Successes:

- ADA throughout neighborhood
- Designating parking spaces

#### ADA Parking Challenges / Issues:

- Need more ADA and designated parking
- ADA parking issued too long
- People parking with parking permits – not their space
- Rhode Island Avenue & North Capitol Street NW (Bloomingdale) – raised / uneven sidewalks and curb

#### Signage Challenges / Issues:

- Simplify signage language
- Conflicting signage colors (red vs. green); dividing neighborhoods
- Reduce amount of signage
- Residential Parking should not be zoned
- Lack of public input in posting signage restrictions



- Parking restrictions conflicting with usage of zone

#### Signage General Recommendations / Strategies

- Universal RPP with paid fee
- Public involvement in signage restriction discussions
- Special Passes / Parking for Car2Go

## Community Conversation: General Parking

#### Challenges / Issues:

- Congestion caused by parking
- Parking Enforcement should use discretion - show compassion; give leeway when someone is a few minutes late
- Parking after 6:30 PM weekdays & All day on Saturdays should be free and consistent in all areas of the city (needs to be balanced)
- Parking and meter rates need to be reduced
- Misuse of ADA placards (need to monitor owners/users)
- ADA placards 4 hour ADA meters need to be more available
- Review the rates
- Valet Parking – Valet parkers block meters and park at meters
- Special pricing for individuals with disabilities
- Commercial meters – charge differently
- Think Tank meetings should have occurred prior to making parking changes
- Review ticket process
- Listen to citizens

#### General Recommendations / Strategies

- Circulator Bus (Restart service from SW to Howard University Hospital (Shaw area))
- Bus service (70 route) to be reinstated to Buzzard Point
- Parking in Palisades is good
  - Affordable meters
  - Keep meters as is (don't have to pay on Saturdays)
- Citywide Parking Pass (particularly around hospitals, nursing facilities)
- Passes for elderly or medical / functional needs (having parking around the city)
- Parking restrictions around churches except Sundays (no restrictions on Sunday)



- Residents should be allowed to park anywhere in the city (MD / VA residents may come in on Sundays)
- Gridlock mediation needed for parking at construction sites that take up parking spaces in residential areas
- Space for accommodating buses in overall parking plan (layovers, etc.), and sheltered
- Like Bike share / Bike rack program
- DC Tags should not pay for residential parking
- More bike parking / shelters in the city, especially in commercial and cultural areas

## Community Conversation: Session Reporting

At 3:20 PM, Mr. Rao reconvened the eastern Downtown session of the 2012 Parking Think Tanks series from the breakout sessions. Several volunteers from the public reported on the findings within their breakout session. Upon the conclusion of the reports, Mr. Rao advised residents to keep abreast on the Parking Think Tank series progress via the DDOT website or to contact him with additional comments, questions, or concerns. Additionally, Mr. Rao asked that those in attendance complete an online parking survey. The session was adjourned at 4:10 PM.