



2012 Parking Think Tanks

Downtown West (3 October 2012)

The fourth session of the 2012 Parking Think Tank series convened in the western Downtown area of Washington, DC on 3 October 2012 from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM at the West End Public Library Large Meeting Room at 1101 24th Street, N.W. The minutes contained represent a summary of the session's discussion. The following individuals were in attendance:

Public (4):

DDOT Staff (6):

Parking Think Tank Presentation

Starting promptly at 6:45 PM, Mr. Angelo Rao convened the western 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 five topic areas (metered parking, commercial parking, parking regulations (resident and activity center focuses), 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 7:05 PM, the session proceeded to a singular group discussion on parking issues and successes in the District, facilitated by Mr. Angelo Rao.

Community Conversation: Metered Parking

Improvement Areas:

- Better signage on parking meters
 - Lack of information hierarchy
 - Patching existing signs leads to confusion
 - New approach to signage
 - Type of restriction
 - Restriction time limit
 - Payment required (time of day)
 - Consistent font / size / graphics
 - Ensure consistent hierarchy (general to particular)



- Avoid patching signs

Community Conversation: Parking Regulations (Resident Focus)

What is Working:

- VPP card helps improve process to allow residents to have visitors (especially in ballpark zone).

Improvement Areas:

- Resident only parking
 - No 2-hour parking exemption on residential streets (similar to Boston)
 - Neighborhood specific
 - Focus on neighborhoods lacking off-street options
 - Balance with other activity's parking needs (theaters, places of worship)
- 20 minute loading zones in front of high-rise residential buildings
 - Allow drop-offs / grocery unloading
- Overnight RPP enforcement
 - Daytime open for all users
- VPP via application process (those who need it will apply for it)
- VPP awareness to public
 - Wasn't aware of VPP until showed up in the mail
- Weekend RPP enforcement
- RPP resident eligibility in mixed use / commercial zones
 - Penn Quarter residents (living on blocks that are meter only, yet can't use RPP sticker in rest of zone)

Community Conversation: Parking Regulations (Activity Center Focus)

Improvement Areas:

- Ad-hoc visitors should park at meters or parking garages versus resident only streets.

Community Conversation: General Parking

What is Working:

- Rapid response in fixing faulty walk signs
- Improved parking enforcement
- Rush hour parking restrictions

Improvement Areas:



- Intersection approach zone (20' from intersection)
 - Should reduce it to bare minimum to allow more parking
- 2 hour parking exemption
 - Complicates enforcement
- Parking psychology
 - If parking is inviting, people will come
 - If parking uninviting, people will not come
- Public involvement
 - Need to be part of project discussions from beginning and through all process
- Sign clarity
 - Test signage with focus group before implementation
- Balance one / two-way streets
- Bike network
 - Lane engineering and design
 - Network continuity
 - Remove bike parking from bike lane
 - Investigate design recommendations from Jan Gehl

Community Conversation: Session Reporting

At 7:40 PM, Mr. Rao reconvened the western Downtown session of the 2012 Parking Think Tanks series from the singular group discussion. 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 7:50 PM.