2016 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

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Budget Action Title: SDOT report on parking benefit districts

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Burgess; O'Brien; Rasmussen

Staff Analyst: Lish Whitson

Date		Total	SB	BH	JO	TR	NL	TB	JG	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

Council requests that the Department of Transportation (SDOT) work with Capitol Hill Housing (CHH) to:

a. review existing on-street parking regulations, policies and procedures;

b. identify disincentives and policy considerations to piloting a parking benefit district;

c. identify strategies that could address the identified practical and policy considerations and be replicable in different parts of the city; and

d. make recommendations on policy and procedural changes needed to pilot a parking benefit district in the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict.

As used in other cities, a parking benefit district would build on partnerships between the City and local community groups. If the City were to decide to create any parking benefit districts, it would designate areas that include some blocks with metered streets in which the City would allocate a portion of the parking meter revenue collected within the district to transportation improvements within the district. Currently the City allocates parking meter revenue to the General Fund. Parking benefit districts are generally instituted to support investment in local commercial districts and to build support within the community for paid parking.

Council requests that by June 30, 2016, SDOT work with CHH to deliver a written report to the Council's Transportation Committee that:

1) reviews incentives, regulations, and policy considerations that support or hinder the implementation of parking benefit districts in Seattle;

2) recommends a pathway for piloting a parking benefit district in the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict, including potential dedication of some percentage of on-street parking revenues for street, sidewalk, vehicle and pedestrian improvements physically located within the district.

Background:

In July 2015, the Mayor-appointed Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda Committee (HALA) delivered a set of recommendations to address Seattle's affordable housing crisis. Several recommendations of HALA Committee address current parking policies and management as a hidden cost and/or barrier to affordability.

The HALA report includes the following two recommendations to improve Seattle's on-street parking system:

HALA OP.1. Create a parking benefit district and "cap and trade" demonstration pilot

HALA OP.2. Explore revising the Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) program.

SDOT and CHH have already discussed working together on revising the RPZ program in Capitol Hill. This Statement of Legislative Intent provides a necessary preliminary step towards creating a parking benefit district in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. Capitol Hill's commercial corridors, where parking occupancy in metered zones after metered hours is high, provide an opportunity to pilot a parking benefit district in a place and manner that is consistent with the City's parking management, affordability, and general sustainability goals. Capitol Hill Housing and the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict are logical partners for this work as the lead community development entity in the Capitol Hill neighborhood and the City's identified partner (Council Resolution 31562) in advancing local sustainability goals.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Transportation

Date Due to Council: June 30, 2016