

# CAPITOL HILL LATE NIGHT PARKING DRAFT FAQs



**Seattle**  
Department of  
Transportation

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q: What is the proposed project?

**A:** SDOT's data shows on-street parking on Pike-Pine and Broadway is completely full by 8 PM. To provide improved access to people visiting Capitol Hill for restaurants, concerts, and nightlife, SDOT is extending paid parking limits to 10 PM. The city's goal is to help keep one to two spaces open per block throughout the day and evening.

### Q: Why extend paid parking hours?

**A:** Based on the Seattle Municipal Code law adopted in 2010, SDOT's goal is to have one to two available parking spaces on a block throughout the paid parking day to ensure customers and visitors can reliably find an available space. There is a greater demand than available supply for on-street parking along Broadway and the Pike/Pine corridor in the evening. Extending paid parking hours to 10 PM improves customer access and makes it easier to find a parking space. It also may encourage some people to visit the area using some other mode of transportation.

### Q: Why Broadway and Pike/Pine? What about other areas in the City?

**A:** SDOT has conducted parking studies along Broadway and in Pike-Pine on a yearly basis since 2010. These two areas are some of the busiest in the City in terms of parking, transit, and multimodal use. The parking data results in 2016 indicated that streets with paid parking were full after 6 PM.

### Q: How will SDOT extend parking limits? What will be different from today?

**A:** Paid time will be from 8 AM to 10 PM, with no time limit after 5 PM. Rates are as follows:

New parking rates – starting at the end of October so check each block for details

<b>Paid parking area</b>	<b>Morning 8 AM-11 AM</b>	<b>Midday 11 AM-5 PM</b>	<b>Evening * 5 PM – 10 PM</b>
Capitol Hill North	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.50	\$4.00
Capitol Hill South	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.50	\$3.00
Pike-Pine	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00	\$3.00

\* New evening rates are \$.50 less than current evening rates.

### Q: When will the change take place?

**A:** Installation is expected to start in the last few days of October and take about four weeks.

### Q: Do other cities charge for parking after 8 PM?

**A:** Yes, Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Washington D.C., Sacramento, San Francisco, Memphis, and Cincinnati charge parking after 8 PM in entertainment, sports, and business zones.

**Q: Is this project just an opportunity for the City to seek profits from people who drive personal vehicles?**

**A:** No. The changes are due to high demand of on-street parking spaces in the Broadway and Pike-Pine corridors. In 2010, the City Council directed SDOT to set paid parking rates by neighborhood to achieve the policy objective of providing an average of one to two open spaces per block throughout the paid parking day.

SDOT established these new parking options based on data collected in both the 2016 and 2017 Annual Paid Parking Studies, which indicated that on-street parking exceeds 100% utilization by 6 PM in the project area. Extending the paid parking hours to 10 PM will increase on-street parking and access in the evening.

**Q: Instead of extending on-street paid parking hours, how about building a new public garage in the area?**

**A:** SDOT manages access to business districts with a focus on transit, bicycling and walking. We do not have the necessary funds nor the policy support to build a parking garage. In part, it is because there are privately run garages and lots as area options, which typically have parking available during the day and at dinner time. Additionally, many people who visit Capitol Hill use other modes of transportation to travel to/from Capitol Hill and do not need motor vehicle parking.

**Q: What is the policy reason behind this project?**

**A:** Seattle has a fixed amount of space on our public street system to provide for mobility and access. In dense areas such as Broadway and Pike-Pine, SDOT manages parking to facilitate access for loading, goods/package delivery and for short-term trips to the store, restaurant, or other places. The area density and intensity of travel is such that we cannot readily accommodate all area demand for employees looking for low-cost parking. As more properties develop into mixed use buildings with commercial businesses on the ground floor, it becomes increasingly more difficult to accommodate parking for up to 72 hours as the RPZ permit allows.

**Q: Paying for parking might dissuade people come to Capitol Hill for entertainment events, and thus it will negatively impact the businesses and artistic communities.**

**A:** Since the implementation of paid parking hours to 8 PM in Seattle metropolitan areas in 2011, studies show that the extended parking hours have not affected people's willingness to visit entertainment and business areas, and the frequency of visits in the entertainment and business areas remained stable. As more public and private transportation services become available, visitors and customers have more travel options and are encouraged to use different modes of transportations to visit the entertainment and nightlife areas.

**Q: Does transit run late at night or early morning for me?**

**A:** Yes, with the Seattle Transportation Benefit District funding, SDOT and Metro are expanding transit service to 24 hours for a number of routes that go through Capitol Hill, including the #3, #11, and #48. These make connections to routes in the U-District, Downtown and South Seattle that run 24 hours as well. More info is at [seattle.gov/stbd/service-investments](http://seattle.gov/stbd/service-investments)