

Detail Reference Sheet for College Terrace Parking Permit Program

1) Parking Problems Defined

- Daytime commuters who use the Marguerite shuttle or bicycle onto the Stanford campus
- Students living in Escondido Village seeking to avoid parking permit fees (a 24/7 problem)
- Employees of local businesses avoiding parking fees and/or parking limitations in the surrounding areas
- Non-resident parking makes it hard, if not impossible, for residents' visitors/service people to find any parking
- Extreme competition for parking places encourages drivers to park too close to driveways and intersections – creating visibility and safety issues
- Street sweeping is often hampered by the presence of parked cars

2) Why Permits?

- Palo Alto is the only community near a major university in Northern Calif. which does not yet have such a program
- Other universities finding parking permit programs as the only effective and legally feasible solution:
 - Santa Clara University
 - UC Santa Cruz
 - UC Davis
 - Berkeley
 - SF State
 - San Jose State
- \$100,000+ is available now to implement such a program in College Terrace
- High density and small lots mean that many residents have insufficient off-street parking: solutions that do not allow residents to store cars on public streets would create an undue burden for these residents.

3) How Much Support Is There?

- Spring 2006 survey of selected neighborhood areas found that more than 90 % of residents on those streets supported enforcement of non-resident restrictions.
- Survey found few residents opposed to permits; concerns mostly involved convenience for residents and visitors and the cost of personal parking pass(es)
- Survey found strong support for the use of guest passes to accommodate short-term visitors and much less support for 2-hour free parking.

4) Other Benefits to Permit Parking Program

- A permit parking program supports the City's sustainability priority, specifically the "Green Parking Policies" recommended by the Green Ribbon Task Force: "use parking incentives to encourage less driving". As employers begin to implement parking cash-out programs, employees will simply park in adjoining neighborhoods if free parking is available. Eliminating near-by free parking ensures that participants will really leave their cars at home, eliminating trips.
- In particular, a parking program in College Terrace will help Stanford University meet the spirit of the "no new net trips" condition imposed by the 2000 General Use Permit. Today, with free parking close by and Stanford's aggressive parking cash-out program and shuttles, there are many trips to Stanford that are uncounted because they do not cross the traffic count cordons into campus. The University is supportive of our desire to move ahead with permit parking.
- A permit parking program will help distinguish resident cars from long-term "abandoned", "stored" or "lived-in" cars on neighborhood streets. The abandoned car program currently frustrates residents and wastes police time: cars are often left standing for many days until tagged, and then immediately moved by the owners. Additionally, current regulations do not provide any good way to control transients living in vans and motor homes in our neighborhood.
- A permit program will also ease the competition for parking when blocks must be cleared to allow periodic sweeping. As the City implements no-parking zones to facilitate sweeping, residents will be forced to park blocks away unless non-resident cars are removed.
- A permit program allows for increased neighborhood security by helping residents to watch for suspicious activities (Neighborhood Watch). With so many non-residents parking in the area at all times, it is currently hard for us to know who belongs in the area and who might be "casing" the neighborhood.
- Stanford's experience is that permit parking does not need regular enforcement after the initial period. New technologies may be available soon to make enforcement even easier. College Terrace would be an ideal place to test out new approaches.