



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 11/06/2018

ITEM NO: 8

DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2018
TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: LAUREL PREVETTI, TOWN MANAGER
SUBJECT: ELIMINATE TIME LIMITED PARKING ON SATURDAYS IN DOWNTOWN
MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS

RECOMMENDATION:

Eliminate time limited parking on Saturdays in downtown municipal parking lots.

BACKGROUND:

The Town Council has expressed interest in revisiting time limits for downtown parking with respect to Saturdays. The expressed interest was specific to days when events are occurring to allow participation in an event for an extended period without having to be concerned about the time limitation of a parking space.

Currently Town parking spaces have a variety of time limitations. On street parking has two-hour parking limits and the municipal lots have a combination of spaces with three-hour limits and spaces with no time limit. These time limits were set up to accommodate the various needs of differing customer profiles. The structure was designed to accommodate quick visits to businesses with curbside parking on the streets. The two-hour time limit is intended to encourage turn over in the occupancy of these spaces to increase availability for customers. Similarly, parking lots in the most congested part of the downtown are completely or partially allocated to three-hour parking. Three-hour parking helps balance the need for longer customer stays while continuing to encourage turnover and discourage all day parking. Generally, the spaces with no time limits are slightly more distant from the busiest parts of the downtown core and provide for longer term and all-day parking for customers and employees.

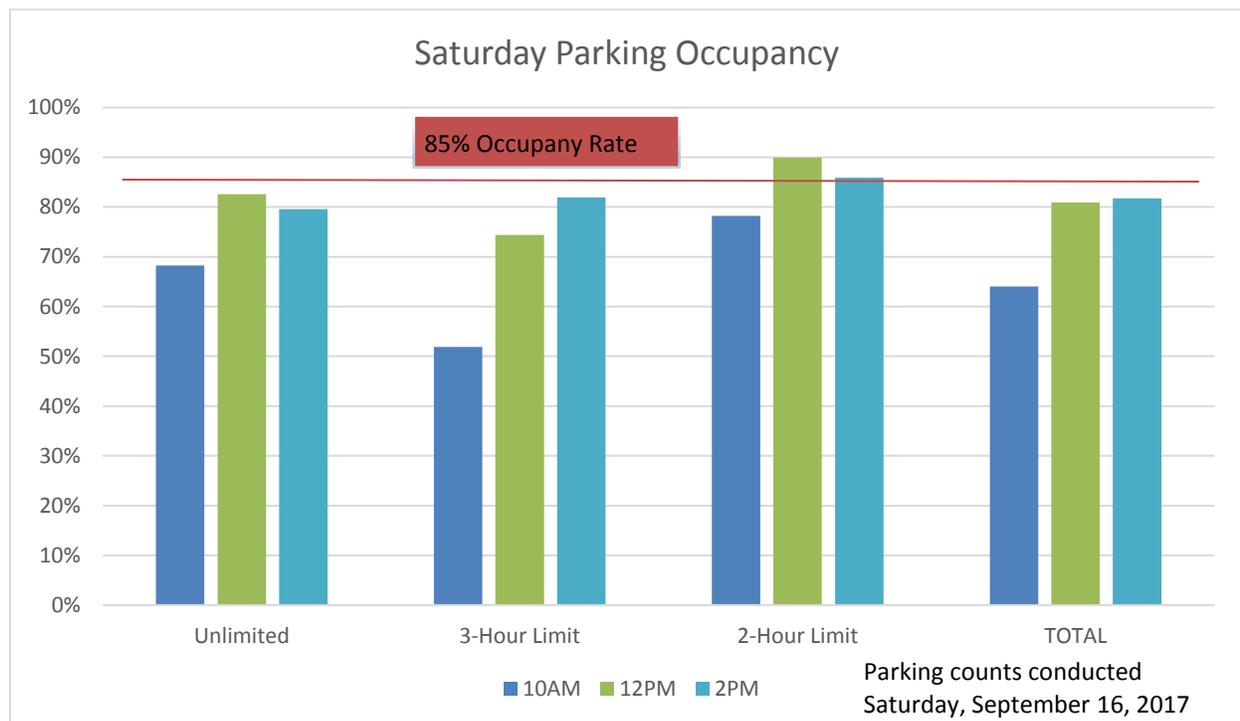
PREPARED BY: MATT MORLEY
PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Finance Director, and Town Attorney

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DISCUSSION:

Parking counts conducted by the Transportation and Parking Commission demonstrate the capacity in parking spaces. Generally, there is greater parking availability on weekends as a number of non-retail businesses are closed. The following chart demonstrates the results for Saturday parking counts. For parking, 85% occupancy is considered the threshold for having full parking.



Given the inquiry into the viability of modifications to parking time limits, staff presents five options for consideration.

1. *Saturday Event Days* – Allow for parking with no time limits on weekends when events occur downtown at the request of the event organizer.
2. *Saturday Event Days Muni Lots* – Allow for parking with no time limits on weekends with events only in municipal parking lots at the request of the event organizer. On street parking would still retain time limits.
3. *Eliminate Saturday Time Limits in Muni Lots only* – Allow for unlimited parking in muni lots on Saturdays. Continue to enforce on street parking time limits on Saturdays.
4. *Eliminate All Saturday Time Limits* – Allow for parking with no time limits on Saturdays year-round in lots and on street. This would treat Saturdays the same as Sundays.

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DISCUSSION (continued):

5. *Maintain the Status Quo* – This option would make no changes to the current structure.

The Transportation and Parking Commission reviewed and discussed this subject at its October 10, 2018 meeting. Subsequently, the Policy Committee reviewed and discussed the subject at its October 18, 2018 meeting. The Committee was especially appreciative of the work of the Commission. Input from the Commission and the Committee includes the following:

- Two-hour street spaces are important to serve customers for short visits.
- Signage and communication on available parking is important.
- Any changes that are implemented may provide an opportunity to educate businesses on parking etiquette and visitors on parking availability.
- Staff should have the ability to modify the program to ensure the best opportunity for success.
- Although this could be a pilot, it is difficult to unwind any changes, pilot or not.
- Unlimited parking may encourage trail and other recreation users that are attracted to Los Gatos on the weekends to park in the currently time limited lots.
- The upcoming Request for Proposals for a consultant study of comprehensive downtown parking is due to be released this calendar year. The results of the study will provide valuable insights.

During the discussion, the Transportation and Parking Commission provided input that added option three to the list and in building towards consensus, the Commission felt this was the most attractive option. The Policy Committee agreed with the opinions expressed by the Commission, also recommending option three.

Although staff believes the main goal achieved through time limited parking is enhanced access to businesses by their customers, non-compliance contributes to parking citation revenue. Citations for on street time limit violations on Saturdays result in revenue of \$50,000 a year and of that municipal parking lots amounts to \$30,000 per year.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the associated staff work and highlighting the input from the Transportation and Parking Commission and the Policy Committee, staff recommends modifying downtown parking restrictions to remove time limited parking from municipal parking lots on Saturdays.

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COORDINATION:

This report has been coordinated with the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department, the Town Manager's Office, and Community Development Department.

Attachment:

1. Downtown Parking Zones and Parking Stall Counts