Parking Choices and Their Impacts

Neighbourhood streets serve many needs.
Decisions about parking affect residents, visitors, caregivers, service providers and people accessing nearby destinations.

This guide explores five considerations: affordability, availability, convenience, access and the user experience. Each section describes possible approaches and the benefits and trade-offs they could bring.

> *These examples support the City's engagement on residential parking and curbside management, including the Residential Parking Program (RPP). They are not proposed changes. Their effects would depend on local conditions and how the program is designed.*

As you review, consider what matters to you, how different choices could affect others and what needs the City should account for.

Priorities

Affordability **Availability** **Convenience** **Access** **User Experience**



Learn more about this project at:
engaged.edmonton.ca/**ResidentialParking**

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

Affordability

When we say "affordability," what do we mean?
Considers what people pay for parking permits and how program costs are shared.

Who pays for the program?

Options	What that could mean
Costs primarily funded through general City revenues →	Permit costs can remain low or free with the program being funded through property taxes, including by people who do not use the Residential Parking Program. This might mean a limited number of parking program areas can exist, while offering a low level of rule enforcement.
Program is funded by people who use it through permit fees →	Residents pay to participate in the parking program, reducing reliance on property taxes. This increases costs for participating households, including those with limited alternatives to street parking. This might allow for more parking program areas to be established, modern permitting such as digital options and a high level of rule enforcement.

Should everyone pay the same?

Options	What that could mean
All resident permits cost the same →	Simple and predictable. Each permit costs the same, households with multiple vehicles pay more in total than a household with one vehicle.
Additional vehicles cost more →	Households pay a higher fee for their second or subsequent permits, increasing the total cost for households with multiple vehicles.
Reduced fees or exemptions for qualifying residents →	Makes the program more affordable for people with greater financial need. Requires eligibility criteria and additional administration.



Learn more about this project at:
engaged.edmonton.ca/**ResidentialParking**

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

Affordability

Jordan's Story: Affordability in Action

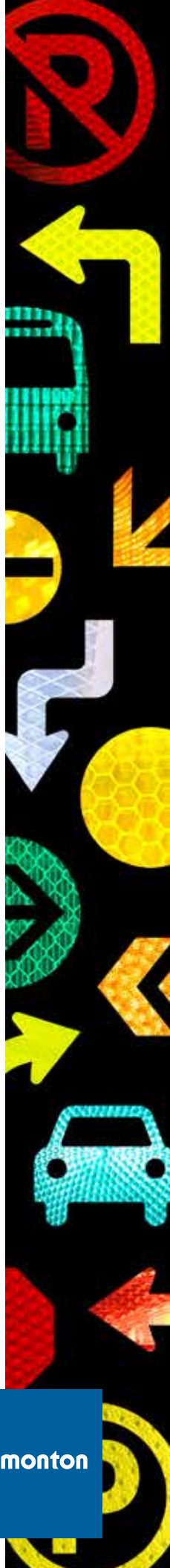
Jordan's household has three vehicles and relies on street parking. He wants residential permits to remain affordable and would prefer not to pay significantly more for a second or third vehicle.

The trade-off
Charging the same price for multi-vehicle households is more affordable than a tiered pricing system.

Charging more for additional permits might encourage households to use garages, driveways or other off-street options where available and usable. This could help manage demand but it would increase costs for households like Jordan's.

As a City, we need to consider ...

How program costs are shared, how permit fees affect households with different incomes and parking needs and whether fee reductions should be available for people in financial need.



Learn more about this project at:
engaged.edmonton.ca/**ResidentialParking**

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

Availability

When we say "availability," what do we mean?

Managing demand so parking spaces are more likely to be available when needed for residents, visitors, caregivers, service providers and others.

How much should the program manage demand?

Options	What that could mean
Allow households relatively broad access to permits →	Households have flexibility to obtain permits for multiple vehicles but more vehicles with permits could mean more competition for the same spaces.
Limit the number of permits available to each household →	May reduce competition for limited spaces, making parking more likely to be available. Households with multiple vehicles may need to find other parking options.

Who should get priority when demand is high?

Options	What that could mean
Prioritize residents →	Residents may be more likely to find parking, but visitors, employees of nearby businesses and other users may face more restrictions.
Allow broader access to the neighbourhood →	More people can use available curbside space, but residents may have less certainty that a space will be available when they need one.

How should visitor parking be managed?

Options	What that could mean
Provide generous visitor access →	Easier for residents to accommodate visitors, caregivers and service providers, but visiting vehicles may reduce availability for other residents.
Limit visitor permits or duration →	Helps preserve availability, but residents have less flexibility for guests, gatherings, longer visits or care and services at home.



Learn more about this project at:
engaged.edmonton.ca/**ResidentialParking**

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

Availability

Maya's Story: Availability in Action

Maya lives in a neighbourhood where most homes do not have driveways or garages. Her household owns two vehicles and when she gets home in the evening it can be difficult to find parking nearby. Maya prefers to park within eyesight of her home, especially if she has items to bring in from her vehicle to her home.

The trade-off

Limiting the number of permits available to each household or restricting parking for people who do not live in the area could make it more likely that Maya finds an available space close to her home. This would mean less flexibility for households with multiple vehicles, visitors and others who need to park in the neighbourhood.

As a City, we need to consider ...

Prioritizing residents does not create more curbside space. It changes who has access to limited space and under what conditions.



Convenience

When we say "convenience," what do we mean?
How close people can park to their destinations, recognizing that a nearby space cannot be guaranteed.

How close should residents expect to park to their homes?

Options	What that could mean
Prioritize parking close to a resident's home →	Residents may have a better chance of parking on or near their block, but access may need to be restricted for other users. A nearby space still cannot be guaranteed.
Allow parking to be shared across a larger neighbourhood area →	More people can share available parking, but residents may sometimes need to travel a block or more between their vehicle and home.

Should the closest spaces serve particular needs?

Options	What that could mean
Allow most eligible users to use the same spaces →	Simple and more flexible, but people who need close access compete for the same spaces as everyone else.
Prioritize some nearby spaces or access for particular needs →	Can improve proximity for people with mobility, caregiving, loading or other needs, but leaves fewer spaces for general parking.



Learn more about this project at:
engaged.edmonton.ca/**ResidentialParking**

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

Convenience

Alex's Story: Convenience in Action

Alex lives in a busy neighbourhood. There is usually parking available within one or two blocks of his home, but he would prefer to park on his own block.

The trade-off
Giving residents greater priority access to parking near their homes could improve Alex's chances of finding a nearby space. It could also mean restricting where other residents, visitors or people accessing nearby destinations are allowed to park, even when spaces are available.

As a City, we need to consider ...

What parking close to a destination means for different people, when proximity is essential for access and how prioritizing nearby spaces affects other users.



Access

When we say "access," what do we mean?
Determining who can use limited curbside space, when and for how long.

Who is eligible for the Residential Parking Program (RPP)?

Options	What that could mean
All residents within an RPP area are eligible, regardless of whether they rent, own or the type of home they live in →	Residents have the same opportunity to obtain permits. Broader eligibility may increase competition for limited curbside space.
Eligibility considers access to private parking options or other circumstances →	Permits can be directed towards households with fewer parking options (such as no garage, driveway or private parking lot). Requires clear eligibility criteria and may mean some residents cannot obtain permits.

Should every household receive the same access to parking?

Options	What that could mean
Apply the same permit limits and rules to everyone →	Easier to understand and administer, but may not accommodate different household needs.
Allow additional or different access based on demonstrated need →	Can accommodate various circumstances, but requires clear eligibility criteria set by the City and means that some households will have different access than others.

Who should be able to access residential parking?

Options	What that could mean
Primarily residents and their visitors →	More curbside space is prioritized for residents and their visitors, but other people accessing the neighbourhood may have fewer options.
Provide permits or exemptions for specific, non-resident users, such as service providers or contractors →	Supports care, services and other activities in the neighbourhood, but increases the number of vehicles eligible to use limited curbside spaces.

Learn more about this project at:
engaged.edmonton.ca/**ResidentialParking**

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

Access

Elena's Story: Access in Action

Elena rents an apartment in a Residential Parking Program area and does not have access to a parking stall in her building. Some nearby detached homes have driveways or garages, but those residents are eligible for on-street parking permits. Elena wants the same opportunity to obtain a residential parking permit.

The trade-off

Making permits available to all residents, regardless of whether they rent or own, or what type of home they live in, provides the same opportunity for everyone. Broader eligibility may increase competition for limited curbside space. Restricting access to permits for residents with private parking could ensure preferential access to those who can only park on the street, but requires clear criteria and may be more complicated to administer.

As a City, we need to consider ...

How eligibility and permit rules affect people in different housing types, households with limited private parking and those providing care or services.



User Experience

When we say "user experience," what do we mean?
Creating a parking program that is easy to understand and use, while responding to the unique needs of different users and neighbourhoods.

How consistent should the program be?

Options		What that could mean
Use similar rules and processes across all parking program areas	→	Easier for residents and visitors to understand. Provides fewer opportunities to tailor the program to unique neighbourhood needs.
Allow more neighbourhood-specific rules	→	Can respond to local conditions. Residents and visitors may encounter different rules depending on where they park.

How many different needs should the RPP accommodate?

Options		What that could mean
Limit permit types and exceptions	→	Simpler to understand and administer, although some household, visitor or service needs may not be accommodated.
Provide more permit types, exemptions and options	→	More people can find an option that fits their circumstances. The program becomes more complicated to understand and administer.

How should residents interact with the program?

Options		What that could mean
Use digital permits and online self-service	→	Residents can make changes, manage visitor and access permits more quickly, although digital service may create barriers for some users.
Provide non-digital or assisted options as well as digital permits	→	Allows more people to obtain and manage permits in a way that works for them. Requires additional administrative support that may slow permitting and increase costs.

Learn more about this project at:
engaged.edmonton.ca/**ResidentialParking**

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

User Experience

David's Story: User Experience in Action

Friends and family visit David regularly. Some visits are planned and others are last-minute. A digital visitor permit system could allow David to quickly register visiting vehicles instead of requiring him to pass along a physical permit.

The trade-off

Digital tools can make it easier for some residents to manage their permits and register visitors when needed. However, not everyone is comfortable with or has access to online services. Providing digital and non-digital options helps more people use the program, but can make it more complex and costly to administer.

As a City, we need to consider ...

How to make rules and processes clear, accommodate different needs and provide ways to obtain and manage permits that people can access and use.



Learn more about this project at:
engaged.edmonton.ca/**ResidentialParking**

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton