

Key findings for West Seattle Junction commercial study area on-street parking

July 23, 2009

A draft report from the West Seattle Junction parking study (conducted in May 2009) indicates that existing parking regulations (two-hour time limit signs) in the commercial area along California Ave SW are working well. Given these preliminary findings, SDOT will not consider paid parking as a tool to use in the West Seattle Junction.

The parking study examined utilization (parking demand) and compliance rates with posted time limits. SDOT considers an average utilization rate of 75% to mark a threshold for considering a change to existing parking regulations. Utilization at or above 75% often makes it difficult for someone to find a parking space.

For the purposes of this study, West Seattle Junction’s commercial core consists of 17 blocks (34 blockfaces) along California Ave SW and streets near California Ave SW where drivers might park in order to visit Junction businesses. Please see the attached map for streets included in the commercial study. In this study area (on and around California Ave SW), average utilization ranged from 56% - 71%. Compliance of two-hour time limit signs ranged from 83% - 90%, meaning that the signs are working well to create customer turnover.

Unrestricted parking spaces were also studied along California Ave SW and the nearby streets to discover how long cars were remaining parked in the area. Of the 51 unrestricted parking spaces along California Ave SW, 40% of cars parked were parked for 1 hour or less. The next highest percentage of cars parked was 20% of cars which were parked for eight hours or more. Of the 190 unrestricted parking spaces on streets near California 35% of cars parked were parked for 1 hour or less. The next highest percentage of cars parked was 14% of cars which were parked for 2 hours. Please see below for charts that show the distribution of cars parked by the length of time parked.

Table 1. Summary of findings for West Seattle Junction commercial study area

| Space Type | # of spaces | % of studied spaces | Utilization | | | Compliance Rate |
|---|-------------|---------------------|-------------|------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | | Average | Peak | Time of Peak | |
| <i>California Ave SW, SW Dawson St to SW Dakota St</i> | | | | | | |
| 2-hr time limit | 189 | 72% | 62% | 71% | 4 PM | 90% |
| Unrestricted | 51 | 20% | 63% | 67% | 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM | N/A |
| <i>Streets near California Ave SW</i> | | | | | | |
| 2-hr time limit | 165 | 45% | 56% | 65% | 4 PM | 83% |
| Unrestricted | 190 | 52% | 71% | 79% | 2 PM | N/A |

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Figure 1. Parking Duration for Unrestricted Spaces – California Avenue SW

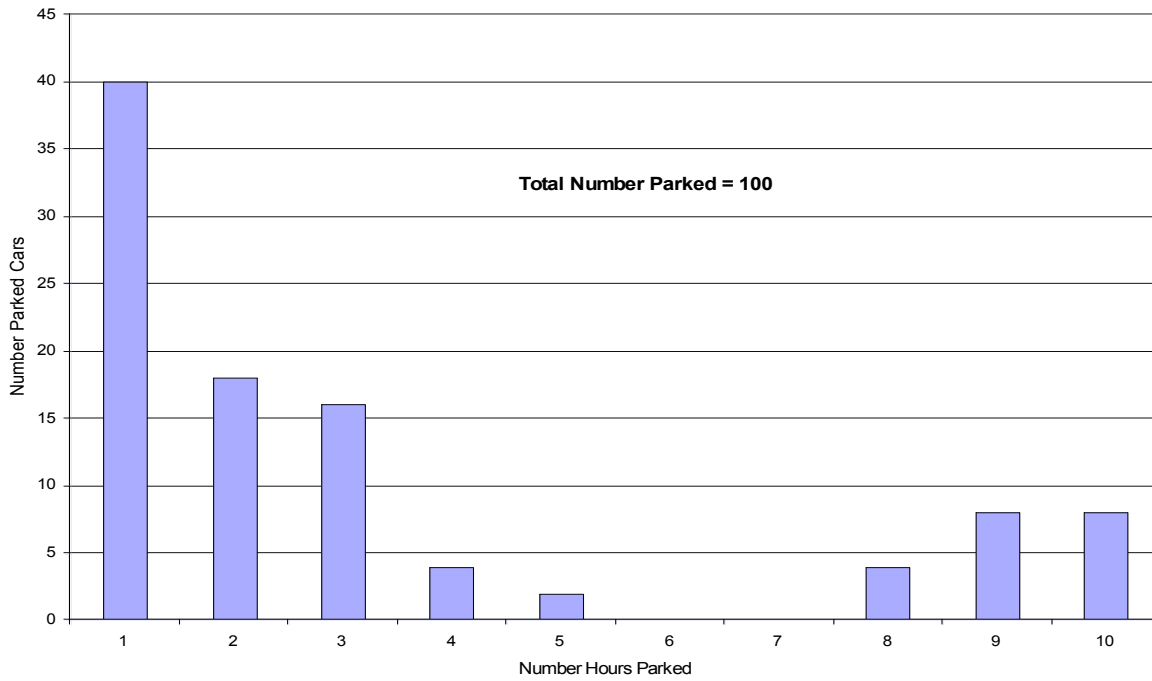
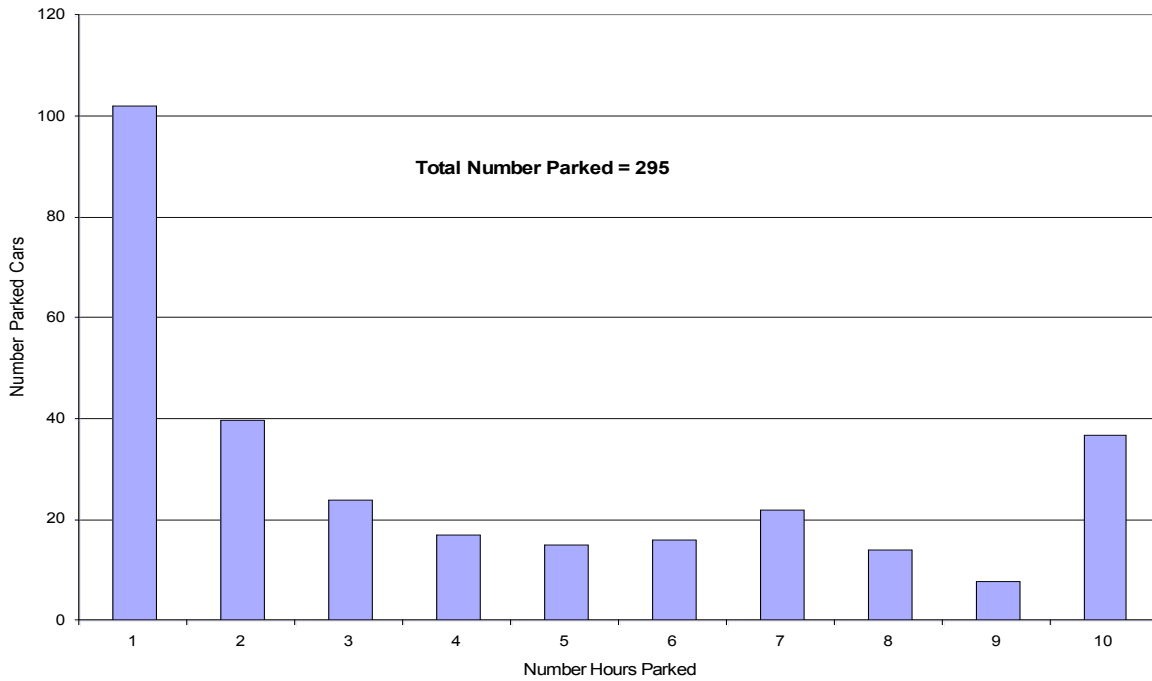


Figure 2. Parking Duration for Unrestricted Spaces – near California Avenue SW



The West Seattle study also examined parking use near planned Metro Rapid Ride stops along SW Alaska St, as well as off-street parking use around the Junction. A full report should be available in the next month to share these findings.