

Parking in Downtown Camas

DCA

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“There isn’t enough parking!”

We’ve all experienced it. It’s Friday evening, you drive around in circles looking for a parking space and your patience is wearing thin because your dinner reservation is in 5 minutes – and it’s raining – and you have your mother-in-law sitting in the back seat telling you how to drive.

Or, it’s 3 in the afternoon and your 8 yr. old’s birthday party with 25 other kids begins in 30 minutes and you need to pick up 2 dozen decorated cupcakes. You pull up to the storefront and all the spaces are taken – so you have to drive around looking for a spot – but you only need 2 minutes to run in and pick up the cupcakes that will probably end up on the floor anyway. (You’re not having fun.)

What are the issues?

THE GLASS IS HALF-FULL:

Camas is growing – more citizens.

Camas is less of a secret – more visitors.

The downtown is filling up – more retail, more bars, more restaurants.

The local press is picking up on it.

Overall community wealth is trending up.

Downtown more appealing to a larger cross section of the population.

There are over 520 parking spaces within a 26 block area. 79% are 2 hour until 6PM.

All the parking is free!

THE GLASS IS HALF-EMPTY:

No central parking structure/lot.

Employees tend to use the nearest spaces.

There's an age-old negative perception of the parking situation.

Potential retail tenants see the “lack of parking” as a primary obstacle to moving in.

Customers tend to draw comparisons to Mall parking – close to many stores.

Tenants want longer parking spaces available near their stores.

City Hall vs CDA – Cooperative or Competing Roles?

CITY HALL

- Tends to make decisions based on the long term.
- Moves at a glacial speed – by design.
- Far broader scope.
- Has ultimate authority over changes to parking arrangements.
- Is accountable to the citizens of Camas.
- Would bear the financial burden of a parking structure. It would be a net cost.
- Is intensely aware of the parking challenges.
- Working closely behind the scenes with prospective developers.
- Likely that there will be positive re-zoning actions in near term.

DCA

- Mission is to create and promote a vibrant social, cultural and economic center of the community.....
- Far more nimble.
- Scope is narrow - ~10 sq. block downtown area.
- Can play advisory (non-authoritative) role to city on parking matters.
- Is generally accountable to prospective tenants and the citizens and visitors to the downtown.
- Strength of the DCA is in it's platform to promote the downtown.

Propose a 3 Point Strategy

Tenants and their employees:

- ❑ Lay out a communication piece helping them to better understand parking in the downtown area.
 - ✓ Include maps, facts, employee spaces, etc. Provide their employees with solutions for much easier parking while avoiding “store front” parking.
 - ✓ Specific spaces where they are authorized to park, for example.

Citizens and Visitors

- ❑ Talk it up! Continue promoting what the downtown has to offer.
- ❑ “If you build it, they will come!” If the food and drink is good, parking will get easier!
- ❑ Work with city hall to constantly improve the signage.

City Hall

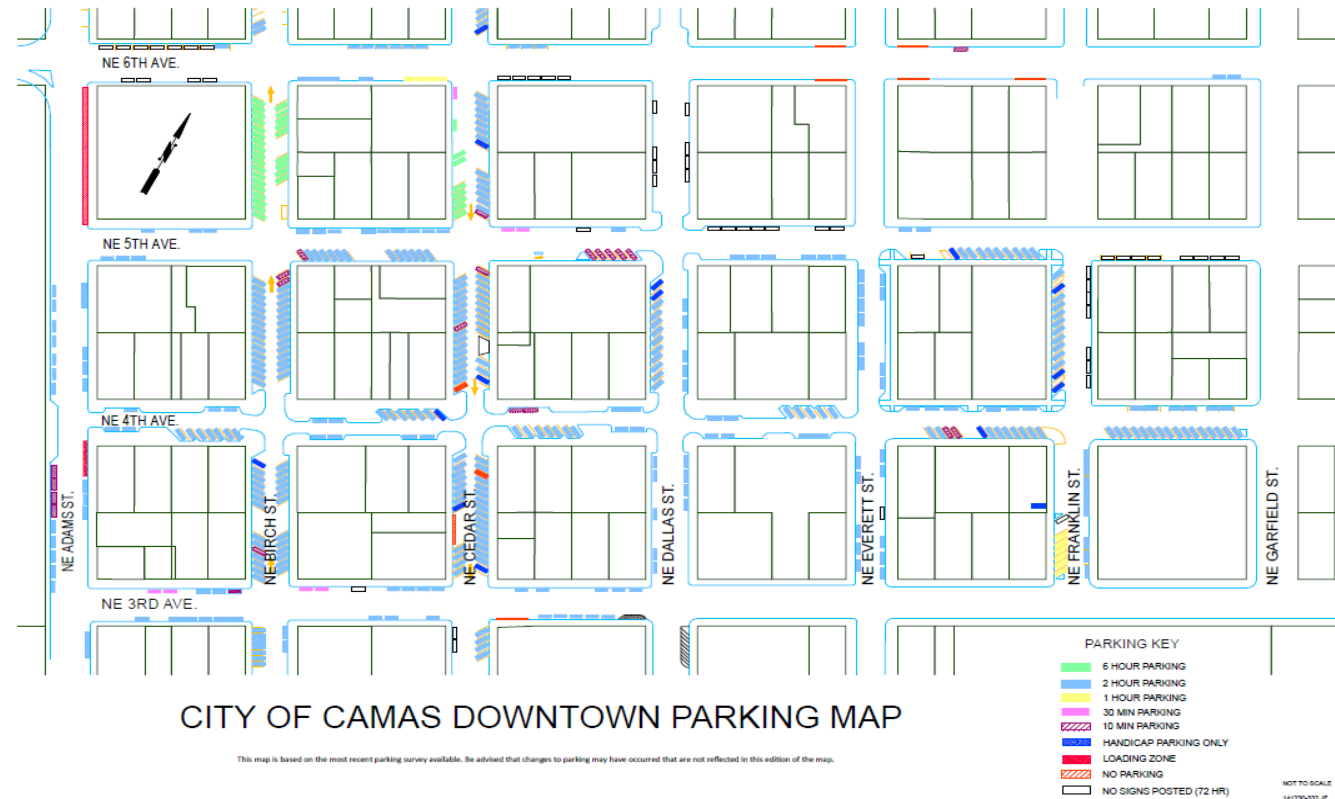
- ❑ Ask to be kept in the loop on any new parking solutions. In return, communicate the trending parking issues. Fix the easy ones; put the tougher ones on the list.
- ❑ Create an overflow area(s) complete with appropriate signage.
- ❑ Parking Committee to create an action plan for signage updates.

Parking Slots:

There are over 520 parking slots in downtown area (excluding 2nd street area)

- 2 hour = 79%
- 6 hour = 7%
- No Limit = 6%
- Handicap = 3%
- 30 Min = 2%
- 10 Min = 2%
- 1 Hr, Loading, = 1%

Where to park and how long you can stay:



CITY OF CAMAS DOWNTOWN PARKING MAP

This map is based on the most recent parking survey available. Be advised that changes to parking may have occurred that are not reflected in this edition of the map.

END
