



DATE: April 29, 2015
TO: File Memo
FROM: Brian Hansen
Amy Marohn
RE: Engineering Memo – Site Conditions, Parking Policy and Parking Sign Practice

Below please find additional information that is pertinent to the parking item.

Site Conditions

In many locations throughout the City parking is allowed on residential roadways and there are very few issues that arise. In this instance on 18th Avenue, south of Park Road and north of E 89th Street, there is a concern from a resident about on-street parking in front of her house.

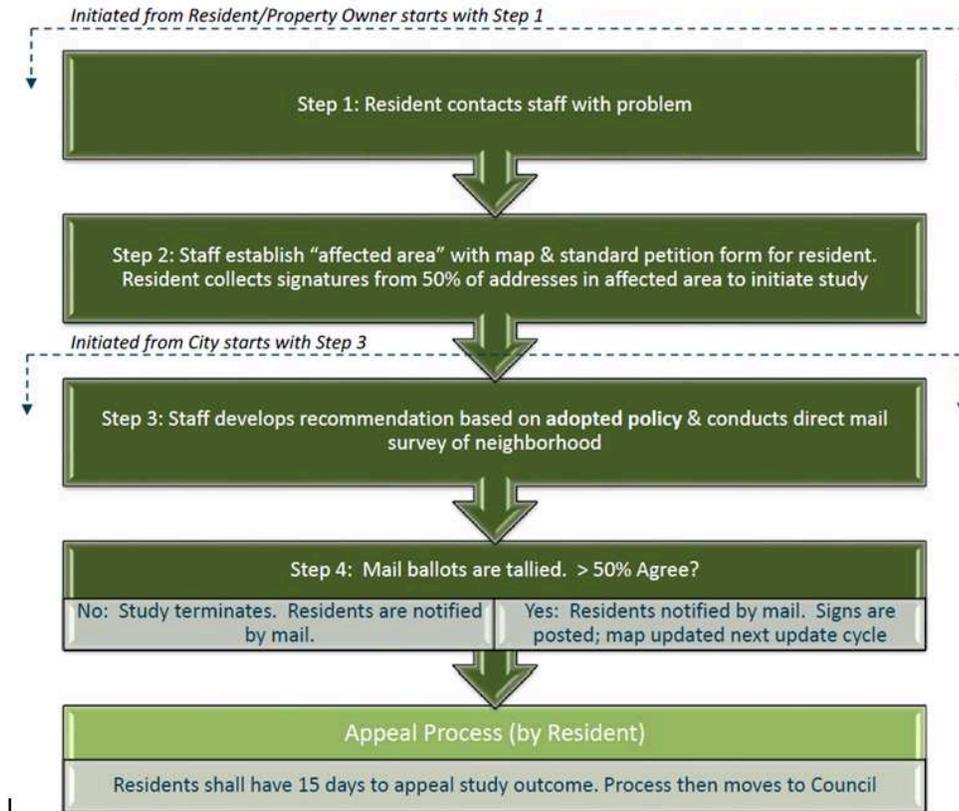
18th Avenue is a 36 foot wide roadway with single family housing along the west side of the street and higher density housing along the east side. Records indicate that parking restrictions were added along the east side of the street (No Parking 24 hours) in the early 1970's. There is not a clear record of why the restrictions were added but it appears that the common application in that time period was to restrict the on-street parking near higher density housing, presumably to ensure that vehicles were not being stored on the roadways.

Both in the initial resident request and in the survey responses, the comment continued to come up that the property across the street from the resident requesting the change had a boat and collector car parked in the on-site parking lot and that was the cause of the problem. Through this process, Environmental Health and the Police worked with this property owner to have the boat and collector car removed from the lot, as well as having the owner provide a list of the registered tenant vehicles.

There are 5 vehicle spaces provided in the parking lot at this property (8807 18th Avenue S). At the time the property was developed, Planning required one parking lot space per rental unit so it was code complying for parking at that time. There are 7 registered vehicles associated and reported for these rental units. This explains the fact that on-street parking has continued (where it is allowed) even after the boat and collector vehicle were removed from the lot.

Public On-Street Parking Policy

The Public On-Street Parking Policy states that on-street parking occurs within the right-of-way that has been dedicated to the public, and is managed for the benefit of the community as a whole. The Policy has a clearly defined process for residents or city to initiate changes to the posted parking regulations. The Policy is enclosed, but the process is illustrated in the graphic below.



The Engineering Memo titled “18th Avenue Parking Modification Request Process” explains in detail how this request was initiated and the steps and results of going through the Policy defined Process.

As identified in the last step of the Process, residents have an opportunity to appeal the decision outcome from the Process and the issue will then be brought to the City Council for a public hearing.

Appeals Process

Upon notice of the outcome of the balloting process, residents shall have 15 calendar days to appeal the outcome of a study. Upon receiving a written appeal on the form included in this document, staff will request that the issue be heard by the City Council. Should the Council wish to have a hearing on the issue; it will be scheduled for the next available Council Meeting, with notification to the neighborhood of the date.

Staff will compile a report to the Council that shall detail the following:

- a) the nature of the original complaint or reason for the study
- b) a map of the affected area under study, including how the area was developed
- c) the recommended parking modifications including the supporting policies from this document;
- d) a summary of the responses received

All addresses within the affected area will be notified of the outcome of the public hearing.

On-Street Parking Restriction Sign Options

The City has made a concerted effort over the past 10 years to work on consolidating the many different posted parking restriction signs to five uniform messages.

No Parking	No Parking
School	No Parking 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Monday-Friday, September-June
Overnight	No Parking 10:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M.
Daytime	No Parking 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Monday-Friday
Rush Hour	No Parking 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M., 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M., Monday-Saturday

When this process was first initiated, there were more than 28 different No Parking sign messages posted throughout the City. We made significant progress in 2009 with the School Area Parking Regulation modification, eliminating 9 different versions of school area parking restrictions, and have continued to make progress through with cleaning up parking signs as changes are requested. It is beneficial to reduce the variation of posted parking restrictions to make it easier for the public to understand, the Police to enforce, and the Street Maintenance Staff to maintain the signs in a cost efficient manner.

Avoidance of Spot or Property Specific Application of Parking Restrictions

When an on-street parking concern arises, it is easy to think that posting restrictions around a specific property will address the concerns, but that has not proven to be true in the past. When that happens, several different negative results have arisen:

- Can push the parking “problem” to the edge of the restriction;
- Can be difficult for residents/drivers to understand the intent;
- Sets-up a level of expectation for enforcement that is inconsistent with the rest of the area.