



## Memorandum

TO: Vail Town Council

FROM: Parking and Transportation Task Force  
Greg Hall, Director of Public Works and Transportation

DATE: February 19, 2019

SUBJECT: Parking and Transportation Task Force Recommended Summer 2019 Parking Program

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to:

- Provide Town Council the Parking & Transportation Task Force (PATTF) recommendation for Summer 2019 Parking Program
- Request Town Council approve the Summer 2019 Parking Program

### II. BACKGROUND

The Vail Parking & Transportation Task Force met on February 8, 2019 to review statistics from the summer 2018 season as well as make recommendations for the summer 2019 parking program.

The Parking & Transportation Task Force was formed in 1999 in an advisory capacity and has been enacted through the years at the direction of the Vail Town Council. The role of the 12-member group is to provide advisory input and recommendations on parking, transit and traffic operations. Representatives are as follows:

- Representing the retail community - Meg Hanlon and Hugh Paine
- Representing the restaurant community - Bill Suarez
- Representing the lodging community - Brian Butts
- Representing the community-at-large - Kent Johnson, Andrew Lanes and Don Marks
- Representing Vail Valley Medical Center - Darryl Flores (Cheryl Cannataro Alt.)
- Representing Vail Resorts - Doug Lovell and Jeff Babb
- Representing the Vail Town Council - Mayor Dave Chapin and Jen Mason

The Task Force is chaired by Mayor Chapin and supported by various departments and agencies to assist with technical expertise.

The adopted goal of the Town of Vail for parking during the summer is to provide a parking program in which all but 15 days of overflow parking occur. This past summer there were 17 days of overflow parking, down from 21 days the previous summer. However, the Lionshead parking structure filled 46 times last summer.

The significant change implemented for the summer of 2018 vs. previous summers was an overnight charge for vehicles using the structure. The specific topic was the overnight use of the garages during the summer. Based on use from August 5- September 30, 2017, the two structures averaged 346 vehicles a night in the early 4-5 AM time period. The weekday average was 294 cars while the weekend average was 456 cars.

- The summer 2018 program goal was to reduce the number of vehicles parked overnight in the structures by half to increase daytime capacity by freeing up 100 to 200 parking spaces per night.

The summer 2018 program included the following components:

- An overnight fee of \$25 which was charged for vehicles in the structure during the period of 4 AM to 5 AM.
- Exceptions were granted for nearby hotels/condos with little to no on-site parking. Vouchers were distributed to the properties and provided for guests to exit.
- Exceptions were made for employees of village businesses, including Vail Health, whose overnight shifts required them to occupy the structures during these times. Parking passes were used for those employees.
- The policy of free exit for users who choose safe travel arrangements to get home and then return by 11 AM to retrieve their vehicle administered through the Welcome Centers was maintained.
- Parking vouchers were made available to hotels hosting large group business that caused overflow on-site parking circumstances.
- Those who purchased parking passes for the 2017-18 winter season were encouraged to use their pass during the summer for ease of entry/exit.
- The program was implemented from Memorial Day weekend through the end of September.

Summer 2018 results (for the same time period from August 5 - September 30, 2018 as compared to 2017):

2017 average cars per night	346	2018 average cars per night	174
50 % reduction			

2017 average cars per weekend night	456	2018 average cars per weekend night	247
46 % reduction			

Total overnight stays for all of summer 2018 season

25,766 overnight stays or an average of 204 cars per night

11,006 comp nights	87 average cars per night	43 % of total overnight stays
8,690 paid nights	69 average cars per night	34 % of total overnight stays
6,070 passes used overnight	48 average cars per night	24 % of total overnight stays

### III. TASK FORCE DISCUSSIONS | SUMMER 2019

In reviewing the results from summer 2018, Task Force members reacted favorably to the overall reductions in overnight vehicle storage in the parking structures. The \$25 per night fee was considered to be the appropriate deterrent to discourage a significant amount of vehicle storage, thereby creating additional capacity for free parking offered during the day and limiting overflow parking on the frontage road.

Discussions also included recommendations related to the newly-completed Red Sandstone Parking Garage. The garage will provide 120 additional spaces every day and up to 160 spaces from June 14 to August 11 (summer break) and other non-school days outside of the summer break. This is in addition to the town receiving CDOT permission to use the 100 free parking spaces on the North Frontage Road west of the West Vail roundabout daily as was available last summer.

In reviewing various options, the Task Force recommends promoting the availability of the Red Sandstone Parking Garage for use during the summer, especially on weekends and during special events such as the Fourth of July. Most members suggested the Red Sandstone Garage will be a viable option for those accessing Lionshead and will become increasingly popular as users experience its convenience. There was also acknowledgement that until the Vail Health Hospital renovations are complete in the fall of 2020 including a total of 604 spaces of on-site parking, additional analysis will be needed to determine if additional policy changes will be suggested for the future.

#### **RECOMMENDED WINTER 2017-2018 PARKING PROGRAM**

The Vail Parking & Transportation Task Force makes the following recommendations:

Continue the same \$25 overnight parking program in the Vail Village and Lionshead parking structures as last summer with the addition of promoting the benefits and availability of the Red Sandstone Garage. Free overnight use at Red Sandstone would be available, but would be monitored for vehicle storage issues. The Task Force also recommends maintaining the exemptions described above which were offered in 2018.

#### **IV. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS COSTS AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The summer 2018 parking program was an experimental program which was funded through a supplemental appropriation. The 2019 budget does not include funds to continue the program. The staff and task force had not yet reviewed and evaluated the program last fall. Therefore funds to continue the program in 2019 will be supplemented. The revenue collected in 2018 covered the additional expense to carry out the program.

#### **VI. ACTION REQUESTED**

Provide direction to the staff regarding the recommended summer 2019 Parking plan to include:

- Direct staff to continue the paid overnight fee structure put in place last summer for the summer 2018 as outlined above.

#### **VII. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Town Council approve the Parking and Transportation Task Force recommendations for the summer 2019 Parking Program.