



Memorandum

TO: Vail Town Council

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

DATE: April 20, 2021

SUBJECT: Parking and Transportation Task Force Recommended Summer 2021 Parking Program

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to:

- Provide Town Council the Parking & Transportation Task Force (PATTF) recommendation for Summer 2021 Parking Program
- Request Town Council approve the Summer 2021 Parking Program

II. BACKGROUND

The Vail Parking & Transportation Task Force met on April 2, 2021 to review statistics as well as make recommendations for the summer 2021 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 – Beth Howard 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. Summer 2018 and 2019 there were 17, and 16 days of overflow parking respectively, down from 22 days Summer 2017.

The significant change implemented for the summer of 2018 and 2019 vs. previous summers was an overnight charge for vehicles using the structure. In 2020 due to the Covid crisis the program was suspended. The garages saw a sharp increase in 2020 overnight use. Once the summer season was in stride nearly 25 % of the spaces were taken by overnight vehicles. The overnight program the two previous years was successful reducing 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 overnight 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 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.

III. TASK FORCE DISCUSSIONS | SUMMER 2021

In reviewing the previous summer programs and looking ahead, 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 a 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. The task force discussed having the overnight fee more in line with the Winter overnight fee of \$50. The task force settled on \$35 for the overnight fee.

Discussions also included recommendations related to 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's supply of West Vail parking both near Safeway and West of Fire Station 3.

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. The agreed for up to 72 hours of free parking at Red Sandstone School.

The Parking and Transportation Task Force reviewed an array of potential locations for replacement of the 11 oversize parking spaces going away this summer with the construction of the Community Garden of Learning this spring. In the short term, the recommendation was use of the spaces across from City Market as well as the current Charter Bus space. Directed staff to pursue further design and discussions with Colorado Department of Transportation on three areas of focus. West Val, West Middle Creek and near the Vail Resorts Shop. For the upcoming winter,

the area just west of the Fire Station 3 may need to be used as the more permanent solution is designed, submitted and approved by CDOT before any construction can begin.

IV. RECOMMENDED SUMMERER 2021 PARKING PROGRAM

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

- Increase the \$25 fee to \$35 and provide the overnight parking program in the Vail Village and Lionshead parking structures similar to the program in summer of 2019
- Promote the benefits and availability of the Red Sandstone Garage of 72-hour free parking
- Oversized parking at West Vail area will require display of a permit and will be allowed East of the West Vail Mall Bus shelter to the Charter Bus parking Area. This overnight parking will be free with the permit.

The summer 2019 parking program was a successful program suspended due to Covid pandemic in 2020. The program is funded in the 2021 budget. The revenue collected in 2019 covered the additional expense to carry out the program.

V. ACTION REQUESTED

Provide direction to the staff regarding the recommended summer 2021 Parking plan to include:

- Direct staff to continue the paid overnight fee program put in place during the summers of 2018 and 2019
- Set the overnight fee associated with the program.

VI. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Town Council approve the Parking and Transportation Task Force recommendations for the summer 2021 Parking Program.