



TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE AND HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

3:00 PM

Sullivan Chamber
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

I. Call to Order

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Dennis J. Carlone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marc C. McGovern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Quinton Zondervan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Patricia Nolan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Burhan Azeem	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Paul F. Toner	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

The Health and Environment Committee and the Transportation and Public Utilities Committee will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 from 3:00p.m.-5:00p.m. to discuss POR 2023 #137, which asks the Health and Environment and Transportation and Public Utilities Committees to hold a public hearing to discuss options for amending parking fees and regulations throughout the City in order to further support the City's goals of low carbon travel.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Nolan, Chair
Councillor Azeem
Councillor Carlone
Councillor McGovern
Councillor Zondervan

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Azeem, Chair
Councillor McGovern
Councillor Nolan
Councillor Toner
Councillor Zondervan

A joint public meeting of the Cambridge City Council's Health and Environment Committee and Transportation and Public Utilities Committee was held on Tuesday, November 5, 2023. The meeting was Called to Order at 3:00 p.m. by the Chair, Councillor Nolan. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation. This public meeting was hybrid, allowing

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Dec 6, 2023 3:00 PM (Committee Reports)

participation in person, in the Sullivan Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and by remote participation via Zoom.

At the request of the Chair, Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll of both Committees.

Health and Environment Committee

Councillor Azeem – Present/Remote

Councillor Carlone – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor McGovern – Absent

Councillor Nolan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Zondervan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Present – 4, Absent – 1. Quorum established.

Transportation and Public Utilities

Councillor Azeem – Present/Remote

Councillor McGovern – Absent

Councillor Nolan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Toner – Present/Remote

Councillor Zondervan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Present – 4, Absent – 1. Quorum established.

Co-Chair Nolan offered opening remarks and noted that the call of the meeting is to discuss POR 2023 #137, which asks the Health and Environment and Transportation and Public Utilities Committees to hold a public hearing to discuss option for amending parking fees and regulations throughout the City in order to further support the City's goals of low carbon travel. Present at the meeting was Traffic, Parking, and Transportation (TPT) Commissioner, Brooke McKenna, Stephanie McAuliffe, Assistant Director for Parking Management, Jeffrey Parenti, Assistant Commissioner for Street Management, Stephanie Groll, PTDM Officer from the Community Development Department (CDD), and Elliott Veloso, First Assistant City Solicitor.

Co-Chair Nolan recognized Brooke McKenna who reviewed the Resident and Visitor Permit Data report (Attachment A).

Co-Chair Nolan opened Public Comment.

Janie Katz-Christy, 166A Elm Street, Cambridge, MA, thanked Councillors for discussing this issue and offered comments on resident stickers and visitor permits.

Gary Mello, Franklin Street, Cambridge, MA, offered comments that were in strong support to end the annual resident parking sticker renewal program.

Robert Winters shared that they were opposed to changes to resident sticker fees.

Co-Chair Nolan recognized Councillor Toner who asked why some neighborhoods do not require permit parking and noted that some residents in those neighborhoods have expressed adding permit parking due to the increase of non-residents parking on their streets. Commissioner McKenna shared that non-resident parking neighborhoods go back to the development of residential parking in the 1970's. Commissioner McKenna noted that those neighborhoods have been surveyed and there has not been enough support to implement resident

parking. Councillor Toner asked when the last time the City raised fees. Brooke McKenna shared that there were two recent increases in 2011 and 2013. Councillor Toner asked for clarity on parking enforcement in residential areas versus metered areas. Commissioner McKenna responded.

Co-Chair Nolan recognized Co-Chair Azeem who asked if TPT had numbers that go back further than 2018 to see how parking permits have changed over the years. Co-Chair Azeem shared concerns about having an increase in residents, but not having enough parking to accommodate them. Commissioner McKenna shared that her department focused on the most recent years. Councillor Zondervan shared that he has been collecting data and shared a chart (Attachment B) which provides information from 2003 to present. Councillor Zondervan reviewed the chart with the Committee and City staff. Co-Chair Azeem asked Commissioner McKenna how they are approaching the issue of parking loss in the City. Commissioner McKenna shared that it is a challenge, demand does remain for parking, but the department is working to encourage people to move away from using their own motor vehicles and use other means of transportation. Co-Chair Azeem asked Commissioner McKenna about issues brought up in public comment regarding sticker placement and renewals. Brooke McKenna shared that the placement of the resident sticker was changed to help with parking enforcement, and that sticker renewal is an important tool to ensure that residents are the ones who are getting permits.

Co-Chair Nolan recognized Councillor Zondervan who shared that he appreciates the online application process and offered suggestions on how it can be improved. Councillor Zondervan offered comments on the renewal process and stressed that there must be other solutions for the renewal process to not make it an inconvenience. Councillor Zondervan offered suggestions on street cleaning and ways to notify residents. Councillor Zondervan asked what the limits are on what the City can charge and if the City could charge differently based on the type of vehicle. Elliot Veloso shared that it is something his department can investigate further but noted that the general principle is that there must be a difference between taxes and a fee, and provided additional information regarding fees and data that is collected. Brooke McKenna shared that based on previous conversations that took place before COVID, the City could potentially go up to a \$50 fee, noting that there needs to be more analysis done to produce the needed data. Councillor Carlone offered suggestions on raising fees and defining what the fees are for. Councillor Zondervan shared that he does believe raising fees will discourage people from owning a vehicle.

Co-Chair Nolan recognized Councillor Carlone who shared that the chart provided by TPT was very helpful and offered suggestions on ways to improve it. Councillor Carlone offered suggestions on ways to change and improve resident sticker fees and commented on residents owning multiple vehicles. Brooke McKenna responded and shared the reasoning behind having households with multiple vehicles being able to obtain multiple permits. Councillor Carlone shared that he appreciates all of the information that has been provided and noted the minor reductions relative to permits that were reflected in the chart and shared that it is encouraging.

Co-Chair Nolan recognized Mayor Siddiqui who shared that they agree with comments made by Councillor Zondervan and noted that there are various reasons why a household may have multiple vehicles. Mayor Siddiqui noted the importance of recognizing what the goals are with permit parking and that there may be additional goals that need to be explored in the Policy Order to help the City.

Co-Chair Nolan shared that raising the fee would only make sense if the City is able to protect low income residents and suggested revisiting the question of age based exemptions. Councillor

Nolan asked if there was a sense from the City if TPT would be able to charge differently for low income person as opposed to not and type of vehicle. Elliott Veloso responded noting that there needs to be more thorough research done on questions that are being brought forward, and shared examples of what challenges may come forward when categorizing fees. Councillor Nolan offered additional comments and suggestions regarding costs and administrative fees.

Co-Chair Nolan recognized Councillor Toner who asked for clarification on administrative costs and if there are situations where the City could be in violation. Elliot Veloso responded and shared examples of what a violation could look like. Councillor Toner asked what the reasoning was behind implementing a residential parking program. Councillor Carlone provided a response, noting that he was working for the City when it was implemented, and parking in residential areas started to increase in neighborhoods that bordered business districts.

Co-Chair Nolan recognized Councillor Zondervan who shared that he was in favor of making the program more convenient and easier to manage.

Co-Chair Nolan recognized Co-Chair Azeem who shared that this conversation is something that probably will have to be discussed further, noting that increasing the fee will not discourage car usage, and that the City should not increase it just to increase it, and the importance of addressing the costs of the program and adjusting for inflation. Councillor Azeem offered suggestions regarding parking for construction, having a cap on parking permits that are issued, being compensated if you do not apply for a parking permit, and alternative parking options and having more bike racks available. Stephanie Groll shared that CDD does have a bike rack request program that is available on the website. Commissioner McKenna and Elliott Veloso also provided comments.

Co-Chair Nolan offered closing remarks and suggestions on what the conversation may look like moving forward with the discussion of parking fees and the goal of reaching low carbon travel in the City.

Co-Chair Nolan recognized Councillor Carlone who asked if TPT knew how many residential parking spaces were in the City. Commissioner McKenna shared that is not a number they have. Councillor Zondervan noted that based on the number of parking permits that are issued, it's around 40,000.

**Co-Chair, Councillor Nolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll of both Committees.**

Health and Environment Committee

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Councillor Carlone – Yes

Councillor McGovern – Absent

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Zondervan – Yes

Yes – 4, No – 0, Absent – 1. Motion passed.

Transportation and Public Utilities

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Councillor McGovern – Absent

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Zondervan – Yes

Yes – 4, No – 0, Absent – 1. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:28p.m.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Resident and Visitor Permit Data chart.

Attachment B – Parking data from Councillor Zondervan.

Clerk's Note: The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. This is a permanent record. The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/632?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=64209823b40afed432ac9d64cf7b8b1b

Aligning Parking Fees With Climate and Transportation Goals

RESIDENT AND VISITOR PERMIT DATA

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE | TRAFFIC, PARKING + TRANSPORTATION

RPP Issuance/Total (paid and free)

Year	Total RRP
2018	37,077
2019	38,745
2020	37,412
2021	35,650
2022	40,279
2023	38,723

RPP Issuance/65+ and Disability Placard Holders (Free)

Year	Total
2018	7,754
2019	8,045
2020	8,335
2021	6,888
2022	7,992
2023	6,873

Visitor Permits Totals

Year	Total RRP
2018	31,778
2019	33,879
2020	32,592
2021	31,837
2022	34,757
2023	33,327

Visitor Permits Issued Without an RPP

Year	Total RRP
2018	3,516
2019	4,040
2020	3,609
2021	4,210
2022	5,102
2023	4,949

Visitor Permits Issued Along With an RPP Sticker

Year	Total RRP
2018	20,572
2019	21,619
2020	20,968
2021	20,753
2022	21,935
2023	21,383

Visitor Permits Issued to Seniors/Disability Placard Holders at No Cost

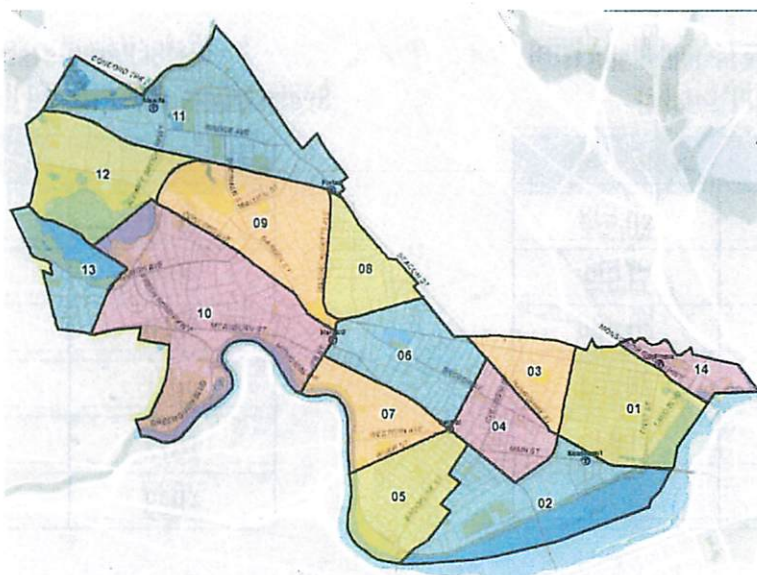
Year	Total RRP
2018	7,690
2019	8,220
2020	8,015
2021	6,874
2022	7,720
2023	6,995

Number of RPP Holder Households

Year	1	2	3	4	5+
2020	15,972	6,574	1,453	642	234
2021	16,594	5,759	1,518	430	164
2022	17,564	6,290	1,415	474	162
2023	17,954	5,707	1,296	304	135

Resident Permits Issued by District

District Name	2020	2021	2022	2023
DISTRICT 1	2,958	2,796	2,845	2,716
DISTRICT 2	135	125	141	154
DISTRICT 3	2,793	2,742	2,790	2,669
DISTRICT 4	2,119	2,215	2,270	2,188
DISTRICT 5	4,036	3,843	4,014	3,797
DISTRICT 6	4,299	4,069	4,266	3,966
DISTRICT 7	2,090	1,964	2,107	1,946
DISTRICT 8	1,497	1,430	1,565	1,439
DISTRICT 9	4,714	4,276	4,582	4,345
DISTRICT 10	3,644	3,233	3,573	3,183
DISTRICT 11	5,115	4,847	5,003	4,917
DISTRICT 12	557	539	577	568
DISTRICT 13	1,650	1,429	1,542	1,475
DISTRICT 14	420	413	401	385



Resident Visitor Parking Permit Map

Cambridge Residential Parking Permits per capita

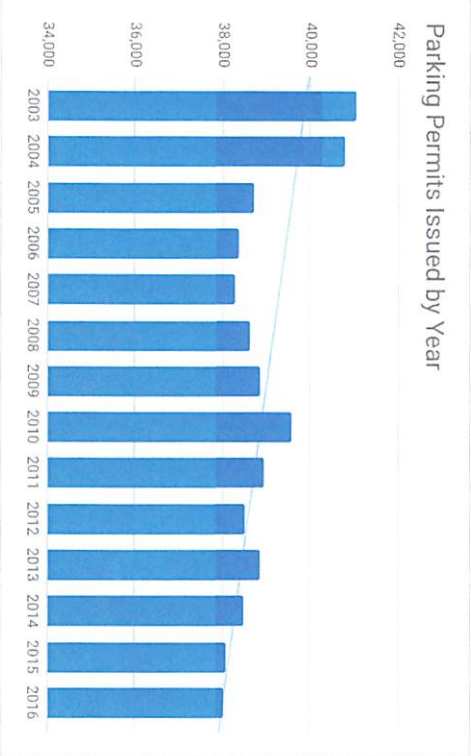
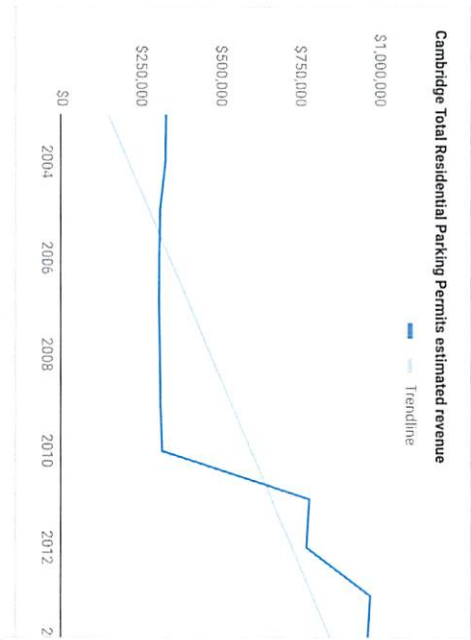
Permits per capita

Permits per household

Trendline

Permits per household

2005 2010 2015 2020



[1] Quinton Zondervan:
Estimated from 2003 to 2009 inclusive.