



News Release

For Immediate Release: June 21, 2018

Durham Hosts Downtown Parking Study Open Houses June 27 *Research Findings & Potential Recommendations Shared & Input Sought*

DURHAM, N.C. – Parking in downtown Durham is in high demand, and in order for the City of Durham to plan for the Bull City’s needs over the next 10 years, a [downtown parking study](#) is underway and public input is needed.

The City’s Transportation Department is hosting four open houses on Wednesday, June 27 at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at Durham City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza. During these four drop-in style meetings residents, business owners, and other downtown stakeholders will learn about the findings and potential recommendations being proposed by the City’s consultant, Nelson\Nygaard, to improve downtown parking. Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss their own ideas for improving downtown parking. Light refreshments will also be served.

These open houses are part of the downtown parking study that kicked off in November 2017 to help the department understand the nature of parking in light of emerging trends, plan for Durham’s future needs, and build on the findings of the [2013 Comprehensive Parking Study](#).

As part of the study, public input was sought late last year to learn more about parking habits – how and where residents and visitors use downtown parking facilities – and more importantly, ways to improve parking through an online survey that was completed by 1,741 people, and 27 community engagement sessions were held to speak directly with downtown stakeholders about ways to improve parking.

The [study area](#) encompasses most of the extended downtown area from approximately Buchanan Avenue east to Elm Street and from Trinity Avenue south to Lakewood Avenue. According to Thomas Leathers, administrator of the Parking Management Division with the City’s Transportation Department, the results of this study will guide the downtown parking program over the next decade, and build upon the 2013 study findings. “As Durham continues to experience significant growth, we need feedback from downtown parking stakeholders on their thoughts about parking with a focus on ways to further improve our parking policies, operations, and management.”

In addition to collecting parking feedback from the public, the study also includes an assessment of the supply and demand for downtown public parking, and includes a determination on the need for additional parking in both short-term and future development scenarios. The study also includes strategies to improve the maintenance and management of City-owned surface parking lots, garages, and on-street parking spaces and will evaluate the days and hours of parking enforcement, current parking restrictions, and associated wayfinding signage effectiveness.

The study will also provide ways to provide safe, convenient parking for all downtown users including residents, employees, and visitors as well as accommodations for special events and determine the need

and feasibility for demand-based pricing or changes to current parking rates. Finally, the study will provide recommended design improvements to increase the efficiency of City-owned parking facilities, to include improvements to parking-related signs and other wayfinding, and/or new parking facilities.

The City's Transportation Department plans to present the final study results and recommendations to the Durham City Council later this summer. For more information about the [downtown parking study](#), contact Leathers at (919) 560-4366, ext. 36207 or by email at Thomas.Leathers@DurhamNC.gov.

About the Transportation Department

The [Transportation Department](#) is responsible for a broad range of transportation services, which include traffic signs and signals, transportation planning, [parking operations](#), street lighting, taxicab administration, and bicycle and pedestrian planning. The department also oversees [GoDurham](#) and [GoDurham ACCESS](#) as well as leads planning functions for the [Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) (DCHC MPO), which is the regional organization that is responsible for planning and programming state and federal transportation projects in the urbanized areas of Durham, Orange, and Chatham counties. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department helps to strengthen the foundation, enhance the value, and improve the quality and sustainability of neighborhoods that are necessary for a strong and diverse community.

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