

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission: Codes and Ordinances Subcommittee FROM: Annick Beaudet, Neighborhood Connectivity Division (NCD), PWD

DATE: February 19, 2013

SUBJECT: City Code Amendments related to Bicycle Parking

CC: Michael Curtis, NCD

Eric Dusza, NCD Keri Juarez, NCD Howard Lazarus, NCD

In September 2011 the Planning Commission directed staff to initiate a code amendment related to bicycle parking requirements. After significant review consistent with the bicycle parking recommendations made by the 2007 Street Smarts Task Force, the Bicycle Master Plan, and the Bicycle Advisory Council, the Bicycle Program staff identified ten potential amendments to the City Code. The table below summarizes the current code number and description of the proposed amendment.

Current Code	Proposed Amendment	
§25-1-21 Definitions	Defines "Principal Building Entrance" and "Secure." Used in the amendment to § 25-6-477 Bicycle Parking.	
§25-6-477 Bicycle Parking	 Clarify and/or require bicycle parking for a change in land use if new land use requires more parking than former land use. Clarifies the requirements for the location of bicycle parking from "as convenient as that of motor vehicle parking," to 50 ft. or less from principal building entrance. Allows for bicycle parking within a building and in a covered garage. 	
§25-6-472 Parking Facility Standards	Clarifies that showers, related changing areas, and bicycle storage rooms do not count in the floor area calculation used for off-site parking requirements.	
§ 25-2-474 Required Findings	For Board of Adjustment variance, clarifies that a variance to a motor vehicle parking requirement(s) does not apply to bicycle parking requirement and that bicycle parking shall be calculated using the pre-variance motor vehicle parking number. Bicycle parking reductions are still then done administratively through an existing established waiver process.	
§25-6-478 Reduced Parking in Certain Geographic Areas	Clarifies that any reduction of auto parking spaces does not affect number of bicycle parking spaces required – i.e. number of bicycle parking spaces should be calculated before reductions taken. Allows for motor vehicle parking reductions over 40% of standard requirement when bicycle related reductions per this section are used and with approval by the Public Works Department. All parking reduction options in Subchapter E are proposed to be moved to this new section and apply within the urban core (and will be removed with the Subchapter E amendment process currently underway). By this amendment all motor vehicle parking reduction options and incentives will be located in one place within the City Code.	

§ 25-6-474 Parking Facilities for Persons w/Disabilities	Includes bicycle parking requirements as a consideration when modifying parking requirements for an existing site to meet Uniform Building Code and/or the ADA.
§ 25-6-476 Parking for Mixed Use Developments	Includes bicycle parking requirements as a consideration when modifying parking requirements under this section.
§ 25-6-591 Parking Provisions for Development in the Central Business District (CBD) and a Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) Zoning District	Since the initiation of this Code Amendment, there has been further policy direction to eliminate parking requirements for CBD/DMU zoned properties (but still require bicycle parking at the pre-elimination number); should that ordinance not pass, the following modification related to bicycle parking is proposed: Require at least one bicycle rack (2 spaces) for uses in the CBD/DMU that is less than 6,000 square feet and/or for Historic Landmark properties. Although motor vehicle parking spaces may be reduced for uses in CBD/DMU, bicycle parking space requirements shall be calculated prior to any reductions for motor vehicle parking. If motor vehicle parking spaces are increased, so too shall bicycle parking spaces.
Amend other sections as applicable (i.e. Subchapter E, Article 4, 4.3.3, E.3, TOD, etc.)	These proposed amendments will be coordinated with the current Subchapter E proposed amendments and CBD/DMU parking reduction/elimination directive. Currently staff proposes to place all parking reduction options in one place in the Code, 25-6-478.
§ 25-6-656 (New Code Section)	Create a Bicycle Parking Fund option to the provision of bicycle parking with new development, where appropriate, to provide revenue to sustain the City's Bicycle Parking Program (which provides bicycle parking in the public right-of-way).

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ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PORTIONS OF CITY CODE TITLE 25 RELATING TO BICYCLE AND MOTOR VEHICLE PARKING REQUIREMENTS, AND ESTABLISHING A BICYCLE PARKING FUND.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. City Code Section 25-1-21 (*Definitions*) is amended to read:

§ 25-1-21 DEFINITIONS.

- (80) PRINCIPAL BUILDING ENTRANCE means the primary building entrance where the majority of the public enters the building and which is open during all business hours. For mixed use development in a multi-tenant building, the entrance to each use at the tenant's outside entrance is considered a principal building entrance.
- (81) [(80)] PRINCIPAL USE means the primary function of a site, building, or facility.
- (82) [(81)] PRIVATE COMMON OPEN SPACE means a privately-owned outdoor or unenclosed area, located on the ground or on a roof, balcony, deck, porch, or terrace, designed and accessible for outdoor living, recreation, pedestrian access, or landscaping, and intended for use by the residents, employees, and/or visitors to a development.
- (83) [(82)] PRIVATE PERSONAL OPEN SPACE means a privately-owned outdoor or unenclosed area, located on the ground or on a roof, balcony, deck, porch, or terrace, designed and accessible for outdoor living, recreation, pedestrian access, or landscaping, and intended for use solely by the individual residents of a condominium or multifamily dwelling unit.
- (84) [(83)] PROPERTY means real property.
- (85) [(84)] QUEUE LINE means an area for temporary parking of motor vehicles while awaiting service or other activity.
- (86) [(85)] QUEUE SPACE means a space for a motor vehicle in a queue line.
- (87) [(86]] REAR LOT LINE means the lot line that does not intersect the front lot line, or that is determined in accordance with Section 25-1-22 (Measurements).

- (88) [(87)] REAR YARD means a yard extending the full width of a lot between the rear lot line and the rear setback line, excluding any area located within the street side yard of a corner lot.
- (89) [(88)] RECORD OWNER means the owner of real property as shown by the deed records of the county in which the property is located.
- (90) [(89)] RECREATIONAL VEHICLE means a vehicle or trailer designed for temporary dwelling or recreational purposes, and includes travel trailers, pick-up campers, camping trailers, motor coach homes, converted trucks and buses, boats, and boat trailers.

(91) [(90)] RELEASE means:

- (a) the written certification of the director that a site plan has been approved, that the site plan complies with this title, and that the conditions of approval for the site plan have been satisfied; or
- (b) the written certification of the director and the presiding officer of the Land Use Commission, that a plat has been approved, that the plat complies with this title, and that the conditions of approval for the plat have been satisfied.
- (92) [(91)] RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR means (do we need to add Public Works Director since the Bicycle Program has some authority in the new language and said program is in PWD?):
 - (a) the director of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department or the director's designee; or
 - (b) the director of the Planning and Development Review Department or the director's designee for responsibilities arising under:
 - (i) Chapter 25-2, Subchapter A, B, or D; or
 - (ii) Chapter 25-3, except Article 3.
- (93) [(92)] REVISION means a change in an approved or released plan that is initiated by an applicant.
- (94) [(93)] RIGHT-OF-WAY means land dedicated or reserved for streets, utilities, or other public facilities.
- (95) [(94)] ROADWAY means the portion of a street right-of-way used for vehicular travel.

- (96) [(95)] SCREENED means hidden from the view of a person standing at ground level on an abutting site by an architectural or landscape feature that is, or will grow to, at least six feet in height.
- (97) [96)] SECURE means either in a dedicated locked room, an area enclosed by a fence with a locked gate; an area within view of an attendant or security guard, and/or within 100 feet of an attendant or security guard.. For residential use enclosed private garage space is considered to be secure.
- (98) [(96)] SETBACK LINE means a line within a lot parallel to and measured from a corresponding lot line, forming the boundary of a yard and governing the placement of structures and uses on the lot.
- (99) [(97)] SIDE LOT LINE means a lot line intersecting the front lot line and extending a minimum distance of 75 feet.
- (100) [(98)] SIDEWALK means the paved portion of a pedestrian way.
- (101) [(99)] SIDE YARD means a yard extending the depth of a lot from the front yard to the rear lot line between the side lot line and the side setback line. For a corner lot, a street side yard is a yard that extends from the front yard to the rear lot line.
- (102) [(100)] SITE means a contiguous area intended for development, or the area on which a building has been proposed to be built or has been built. A site may not cross a public street or right-of-way.
- (103) [(101)] SITE PLAN means a plan for a development, other than a subdivision construction plan, submitted by an applicant to demonstrate that the development complies with the requirements of this title.
- (104) [(102)] SMALL LOT means a lot with an area of less than 5,750 square feet.
- (105) [(103)] SPECIAL EXCEPTION means the waiver of a requirement because of vested rights established in accordance with the procedures prescribed by Article 7, Division 3 (Special Exceptions).
- (106) [(104)] STAFF means a City employee.
- (107) [(105)] STANDARD LOT means a lot of at least 5,750 square feet and less than 10,000 square feet.
- (108) [(106)] STREET LINE means a lot line abutting a street.
- (109) [(107)] STREET YARD means a yard adjacent to a street and determined on the basis of a street lot line.

is not generally characteristic of the area in which the property is located; and

Date: 2/11/2013 1:27 PM Page 5 of 15 COA Law Department

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- (3) development under the variance does not:
 - (a) alter the character of the area adjacent to the property;
- (b) impair the use of adjacent property that is developed in compliance with the City requirements; or
- (c) impair the purposes of the regulations of the zoning district in which the property is located.
- (B) The Board may grant a variance from a loading facility or off-street parking if, in addition to the findings required by Subsection (A), the Board determines that:
- (1) current or anticipated traffic volume generated by the use of the property or a nearby property does not reasonably require strict compliance with and enforcement of the requirement from which a variance is requested;
- (2) development under the variance does not result in parking or loading on public streets that interferes with the free flow of traffic on the streets; and
- (3) development under the variance does not create a safety hazard or any other condition that is inconsistent with the objectives of the Code.
- (C) A variance granted under Subsection (B) applies only to the use for which the variance was granted and does not run with the land on which the use is located.
- (D) A variance granted under Subsection (B) shall not apply to bicycle parking. An applicant may also seek a waiver pursuant to Code Section § 25-6-477(F) to waive bicycle parking.
- **PART 3.** City Code Section 25-6-472 (*Parking Facility Standards*) is amended to read:

§ 25-6-472 PARKING FACILITY STANDARDS.

- (C) A parking facility requirement is based on gross floor area of a building or use served by the facility. For the purpose of calculating parking requirements, gross floor area does not include enclosed or covered areas used for off-street parking or loading, or shower facilities.
- **PART 4.** City Code Section 25-6-474 (*Parking Facilities for Persons with Disabilities*) is amended to read:

§ 25-6-474 PARKING FACILITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

- (A) A site must have:
 - (1) a parking facility that is accessible to a person with disabilities;

- (2) routes of travel that connect the accessible elements of the site; and
- (3) the number of accessible parking spaces required by the Uniform Building Code.
- (B) A person may appeal the requirements of this section to the Board of Adjustment.
- (C) A variance granted under subsection (B) applies only to the use for which the variance was granted and does not run with the land on which the use is located.
- (D) A variance granted under Subsection (B) must specify whether it includes bicycle parking and the amount of bicycle parking required. An applicant may also seek a waiver pursuant to Code Section § 25-6-477(F) to waive bicycle parking.

PART 5. Section 25-6-476 (*Parking for Mixed Use Developments*) is amended to read:

§ 25-6-476 PARKING FOR MIXED USE DEVELOPMENTS.

- (A) This section applies to parking for motor vehicles and bicycles.
- (B) A person may request an adjustment to the parking requirement for separate uses located on one site or for separate uses located on adjoining or nearby sites and served by a common parking facility.
- (C) To apply for an adjustment under this section, an applicant must submit to the director a site plan and transportation engineering report addressing the following:
 - (1) the characteristics of each use and the differences in projected peak parking demand, including days or hours of operation;
 - potential reduction in vehicle movements resulting from the multipurpose use of the parking facility by employees, customers, or residents of the uses served;
 - (3) potential improvements in parking facility design, circulation, and access resulting from a joint parking facility; [and]
 - (4) compliance with shared parking guidelines in the Transportation Criteria Manual; and[-]
 - (5) detail the amount of bicycle parking to be provided.

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- (D) In determining whether to approve an adjustment under Subsection (B), the director shall consider the factors included in Subsection (C).
- (E) A decision of the director under this section may be appealed to the Land Use Commission. The decision of the Land Use Commission may be appealed to the city council.
- (F) A parking space subject to adjustment under this section must be located in a parking facility that provides similar use availability for all uses that the parking facility is intended to serve.
- (G) The director shall determine the type <u>and number</u> of bicycle spaces required for a mixed use development at the time the director determines the bicycle parking requirements under this section, or at the time a request for an adjustment is made under this section.

PART 6. City Code Section 25-6-477 (*Bicycle Parking*) is amended to read:

§ 25-6-477 BICYCLE PARKING.

- [(A) In this section, "bicycle" includes a motorized bicycle.]
- (A) [(B)] [An] Off-street [off-street] parking facilities [facility] for bicycles as prescribed in Appendix A (Tables Of Off-Street Parking And Loading Requirements) must be provided for each use on a site, and shall be calculated prior to any reductions taken in this article for motor vehicle parking.
- (B) Any addition or enlargement of an existing building or use or any change of occupancy or operation that increases the number of required motor vehicle parking spaces above the existing spaces on an existing site requires adherence to Appendix A, Part 2 (*Bicycles*) for the new use or expanded use or change in occupancy.
- (C) A required bicycle space must comply with the requirements of the Transportation Criteria Manual.
- (D) The location of an off-street bicycle parking facility shall [must]:
 - (1) Include a minimum of 50% of all required bicycle parking be secure and-located within 50 feet of the principal building entrance. [be as convenient to building entrances as the motor vehicle parking facility; and]
 - (2) The remainder of required bicycle parking may be located [not interfere with pedestrian traffic.]

1 2	a. in a secure location within 50 feet of other building entryways other than the principal building entrance; and/or
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4	b. at employee only entrances; and/or
5	c. within a building; and/or
6 7	d. in a covered motor vehicle parking facility within 50 feet of a street entrance.
8 9	 The closest bicycle parking facility must be no farther than the closest motor vehicle parking space, excluding accessible parking spaces.
10	4. The first 50% of bicycle parking may not be obscured from view.
11 12 13	(E) A provision of this article that is applicable to off-street motor vehicle parking also applies to bicycle parking, unless the provision conflicts with this section.
14 15 16 17 18	(F) The city manager may waive a requirement relating to the number or type of bicycle spaces or approve an alternate method of compliance after considering the characteristics of the use, the site, and the surrounding area. A waiver may not reduce the number of required bicycle spaces to less than two.
19	PART 7. City Code Section 25-6-478 is amended to read:
20	§ 25-6-478 MOTOR VEHICLE PARKING REDUCTIONS GENERAL.
21 22	(A) Except as provided in Subsection (B), this section applies in the area bounded by:
23	(1) Highway 183 from Burnet Road to Highway 71;
24	(2) Highway 71 from Highway 183 to Loop 1;
25	(3) Loop 1 from Highway 71 to Lake Austin Boulevard;
26	(4) Lake Austin Boulevard from Loop 1 to Exposition Boulevard;
27	(5) Exposition Boulevard from Lake Austin Boulevard to 38th Street;
28	(6) 38th Street from Exposition Boulevard to Loop 1;
29	(7) Loop 1 from 38th Street to RM Road 2222;
30	(8) RM Road 2222 from Loop 1 to Mesa Drive; Date: 2/11/2013 1:27 PM Page 9 of 15 COA Law Department G:\NCD\Bicycle\Planning Projects\Bicycle Parking Code Amendment\Final Folder 2011 Process - Bike Parking\Final Documents 2012\Draft Ordinances\2_11_2013.doc Responsible Att'y: Cindy Crosby

less. Associated fees will apply. This provision requires approval by the Public Works Director of his designee.

- (E) If a shower facility in addition to the shower facility provided per Section XX (this section would be the proposed requirement for at least one unisex shower for all new development) is provided on-site per the criteria below. the required amount of motor vehicle parking may be reduced by 10%.
 - For buildings with 5,000 to 19,999 square feet of gross floor area, a (1) minimum of one unisex shower and changing facility shall be provided.
 - For buildings with 20,000 to 99,999 square feet of gross floor area, a minimum of one shower and changing facility per gender shall be provided.
 - For buildings with 100,000 or more square feet of gross floor area, a minimum of two showers and changing facilities per gender shall be provided.
- (F) The minimum off-street parking requirement shall be reduced as follows (do we need this heading, should each item below become a letter, so 1 would become G, 2 would become H, etc.?:
- (1) One space for each on-street parking space located adjacent to the site on a public street, including spaces on Internal Circulation Routes that meet public street standards.
- (2) Up to 10 percent to preserve significant stands of trees or protected trees in addition to those required to be preserved by the Code, pursuant to protection measures specified in the Environmental Criteria Manual. If the applicant provides more parking spaces than the minimum required, the additional parking spaces may not result in the removal of significant stands of trees or protected trees.
- (3) Twenty (20) spaces for every car-sharing vehicle provided in a program that complies with the requirements prescribed by the Director by administrative rule.
- Reductions other than bicycle transportation related reductions in this (**G**) section may be combined with other parking reductions in this chapter as applicable provided the total reduction for the site does not exceed 40%. Bicycle transportation related reductions may result in excess of 40% with approval by the Public Works Director or her designee.

PART 8. City Code Section 25-6-591 is amended to read:

§ 25-6-591 PARKING PROVISIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD) AND THE DOWNTOWN MIXED USE (DMU) AND PUBLIC (P) ZONING DISTRICTS.

- (A) The requirements of this section apply to the:
 - (1) central business district (CBD);
 - (2) downtown mixed use (DMU) zoning district; and
 - (3) public (P) zoning district within the area bounded by Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard; IH-35; Lady Bird Lake; and Lamar Boulevard.
- (B) The requirements of this subsection apply within the zoning districts subject to this section.
- (1) Except for a minimum of two (2) bicycle parking spaces, vehicle offstreet parking is not required:
 - (a) for a use occupying a designated historic landmark or located in an existing building in a designated historic district.[;] Bicycle parking shall be determined by the Director of Public Works or his designee in accordance with section 25-6-477; or
 - (b) off-street motor vehicle parking is not required for a use occupying less than 6,000 square feet of floor space in a structure that existed on April 7, 1997.

 An applicant may also seek a waiver pursuant to Code Section § 25-6-477(F) to waive bicycle parking.
 - (2) Except as provided in Subsections (B)(3) and (C) of this section, the minimum parking facility requirement is 20 percent of the number of motor vehicle parking spaces required by Appendix A (Tables Of Off-Street Parking And Loading Requirements) and the maximum parking facility requirement is 60 percent of the number of motor vehicle parking spaces required by Appendix A (Tables Of Off-Street Parking And Loading Requirements). Bicycle parking requirements shall be calculated prior to any reductions made by this article.
 - (3) A parking facility for a residential use must provide at least 60 percent of the number of motor vehicle parking spaces required by Appendix A (Tables Of Off-Street Parking And Loading Requirements). <u>Bicycle</u>

- parking requirements shall be calculated prior to any reductions made by this article.
- (4) Except as provided in Subsections (C) and (D), a parking garage must be separated from an adjacent street by a pedestrian-oriented use described in Section 25-2-691 (Waterfront Overlay (WO) District Uses) that fronts on the street at the ground level.
- (5) A curb cut for a garage access must have a width of 30 feet or less.
- (6) At the intersection of sidewalk and parking access lane, ten degree cones of vision are required.
- (C) The number of parking spaces allowed under Subsection (B)(2) of this section may be increased:
 - (1) by the director if all parking spaces are contained in a parking structure; or
 - (2) by the Land Use Commission if the criteria in Section 25-6-501(D) (Off-Site Parking Allowed) are satisfied; and[-]
 - (3) only if bicycle parking is also increased proportionately.
- (D) The Land Use Commission may waive the requirement of Subsection (B)(4) of this section during the site plan review process after determining that:
 - (1) present and anticipated development in the area is not amenable to access by pedestrians;
 - (2) the requirement does not allow a reasonable use of the property; or
 - (3) other circumstances attributable to the property make compliance impractical.
- (E) If a waiver is granted under Subsection (D), an area for which the requirement is waived must be screened.
- **PART 9.** A new section 25-6-656 (*Bicycle Parking Fund*) is added to read:
 - Bicycle Parking Fund.
 - (A) An applicant may request to pay a fee instead of installing bicycle parking by filing a written request at the time the person submits a permit application in the manner prescribed by the director. An applicant who has not filed a request at the time of application, may later amend the application to request to pay fee instead of installing a bicycle parking.

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	Lee Leffingwell			
	Mayor			
APPROVED:	ATTEST:			
Karen M. Kennard	Shirley A. Gentry			
City Attorney	City Clerk			

