

A Review of the Residential Parking Management Program in Bellevue, WA

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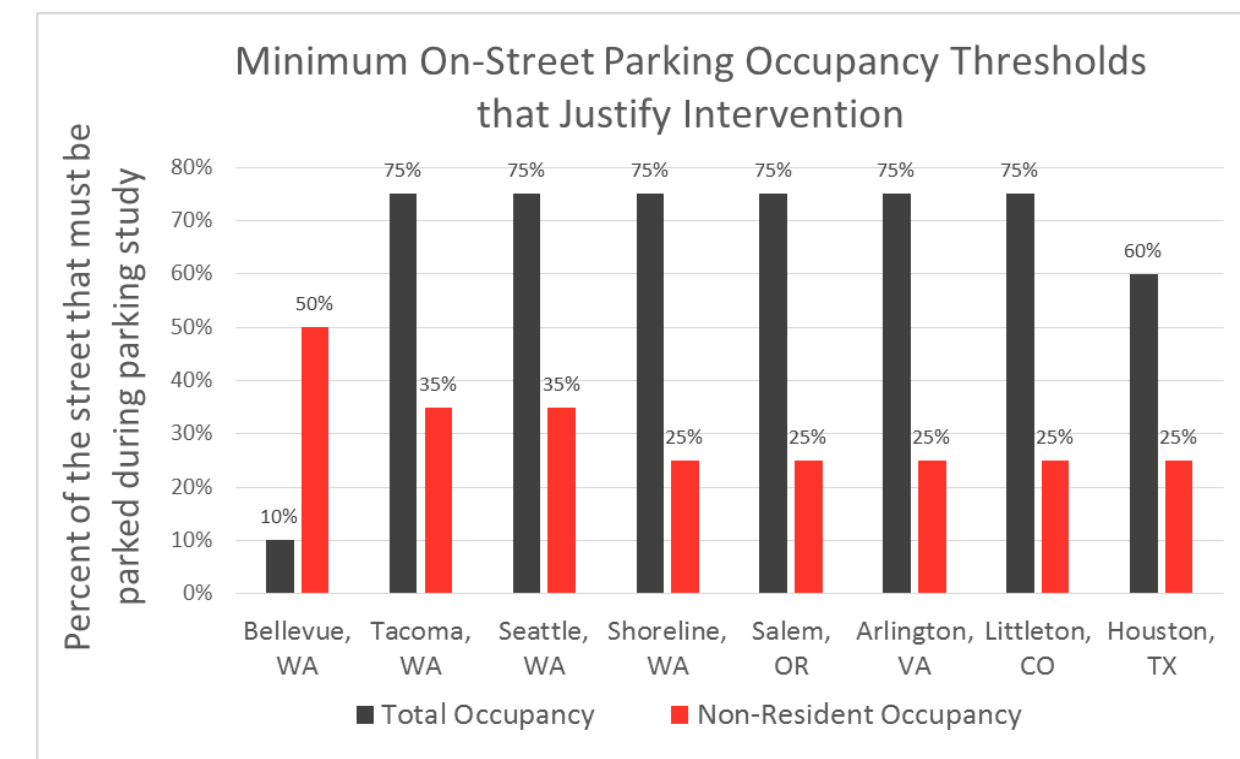
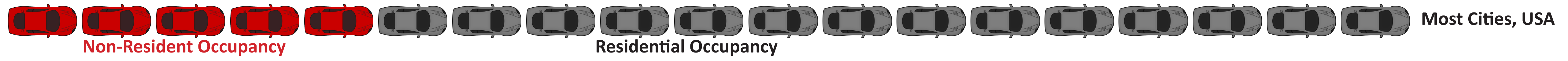
Purpose

The purpose of this report is to review, evaluate, and make recommendations for Bellevue's Residential Parking Management (RPM) program. To meet this objective, this report uses a literature review of Residential Permit Parking Zone (RPZ) programs, a review of the existing parking policy in Bellevue, a review of Bellevue's comprehensive plans and associated neighborhood plans, a residential survey, a parking study, and an investigation into select RPZ programs across the nation.

Context

Spillover parking is when there is a shortage of parking provided in a particular location and drivers end up finding parking somewhere else, like residential streets or other off-street parking lots. In Bellevue, most of the spillover parking is caused by downtown businesses and high schools. An RPZ program puts restrictions on street parking and then issues permits to residents that exempts residents from those restrictions. RPZ programs are used to mitigate the impacts of spillover parking on local residents.

So how much parking spillover justifies intervention with an RPZ program?



Bellevue's Easily Expandable Program:

- Most spillover problems justify RPZ
- No fees for permits
- No limit for permits per household
- Small minimum size requirement for each expansion of the program
- Easy for residents to initiate a parking study done by City staff
- Only goal is residential satisfaction

Comprehensive Plan Review



A review of the comprehensive plan and associated neighborhood plans was done to identify broad city goals as they relate to residential parking management. Three goals were identified: Promote walkability, Absorb growth in downtown and Bel-Red while preserving residential neighborhoods, and Protect residential neighborhoods with traffic calming measures and the RPZ program. *There is a strong overall desire to mitigate the impacts of urbanization for existing Bellevue residents.*

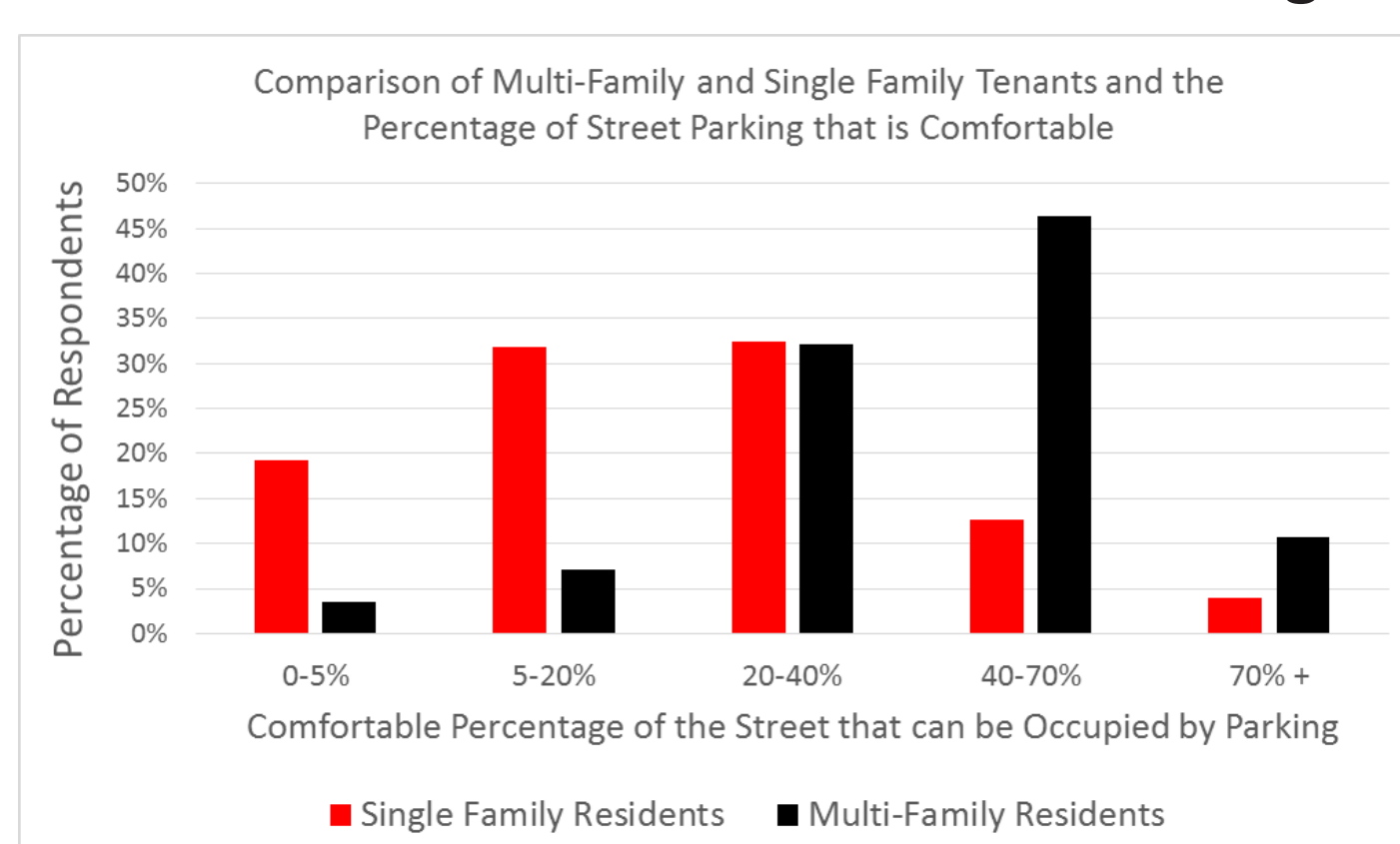
Residential Survey

A survey was sent to residents within the permit zones to solicit feedback on residential parking management. Two notable results include the level of residential satisfaction with the RPZ program and the amount of on-street parking residents are comfortable with based on their type of residence.

Residential Satisfaction

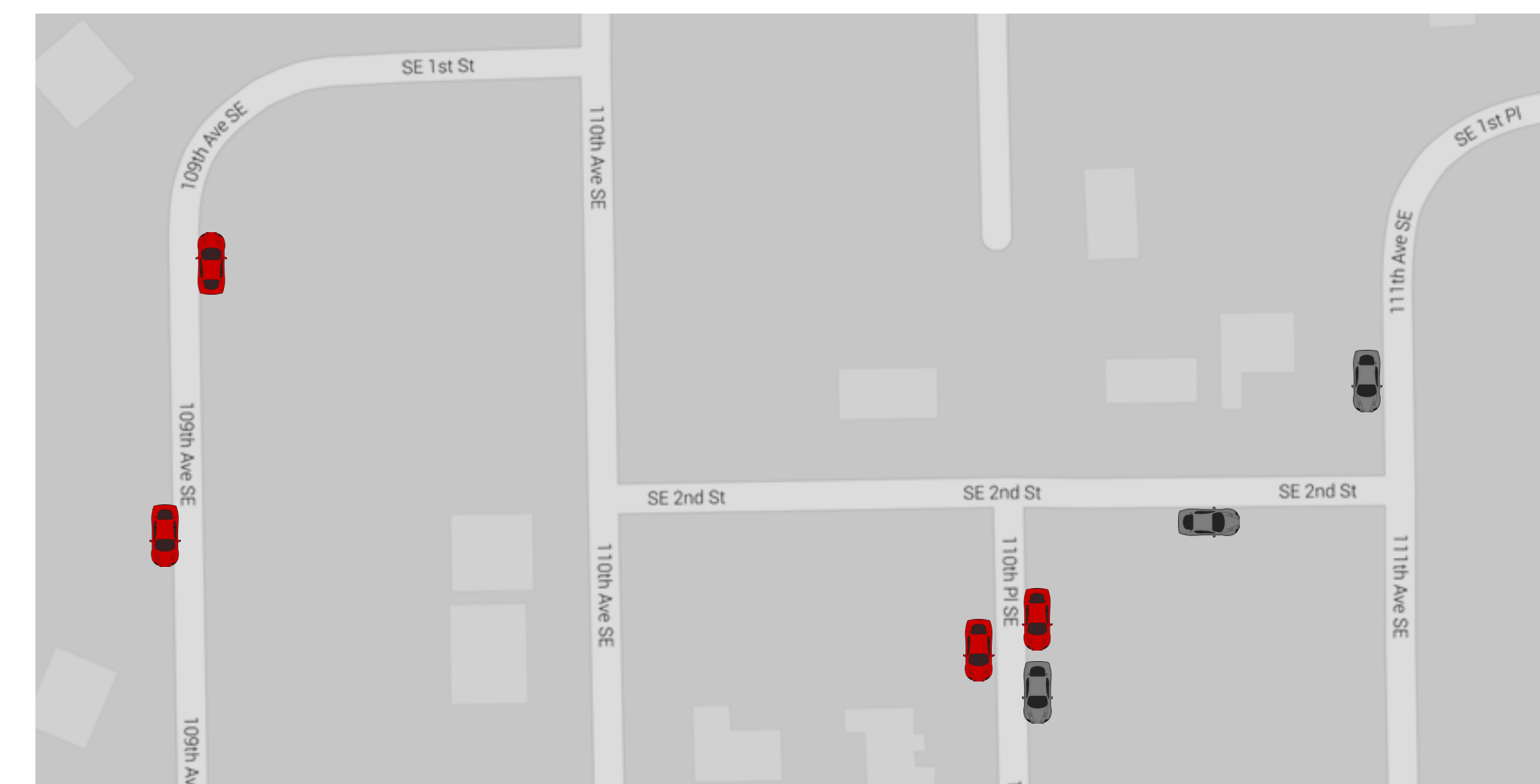
Level of Satisfaction	Percent Response
Dissatisfied	7%
2 of 5	4%
Neutral	34%
4 of 5	15%
Satisfied	41%

Comfortable amount of Street Parking



Parking Study

Understanding the parking conditions in existing permit zones by recording overall parking occupancy and permit compliance.



14% of the available street parking was used.
59% of those cars did not have valid permits (note: all cars are required to have permits).

Investigating Other Cities Programs



Bellevue's program was evaluated based on viable alternatives observed in other cities' residential parking management programs. Specific parking management strategies from other cities were used to shape the recommendations for improving Bellevue's program.

Findings

- The RPZ program is expected to continue to expand.
- The RPZ program is easily expandable.
- The RPZ program has already outgrown the resources that support it.
- During the implementation of a new RPZ, the surrounding context of the spillover issue is not accounted for (e.g. neighborhood location, differing residential preferences, or general appropriateness of on-street parking).
- The RPZ program minimizes the existence of on-street parking.
- Most residents want an RPZ on their street for reasons other than to procure on-street parking or address safety concerns.

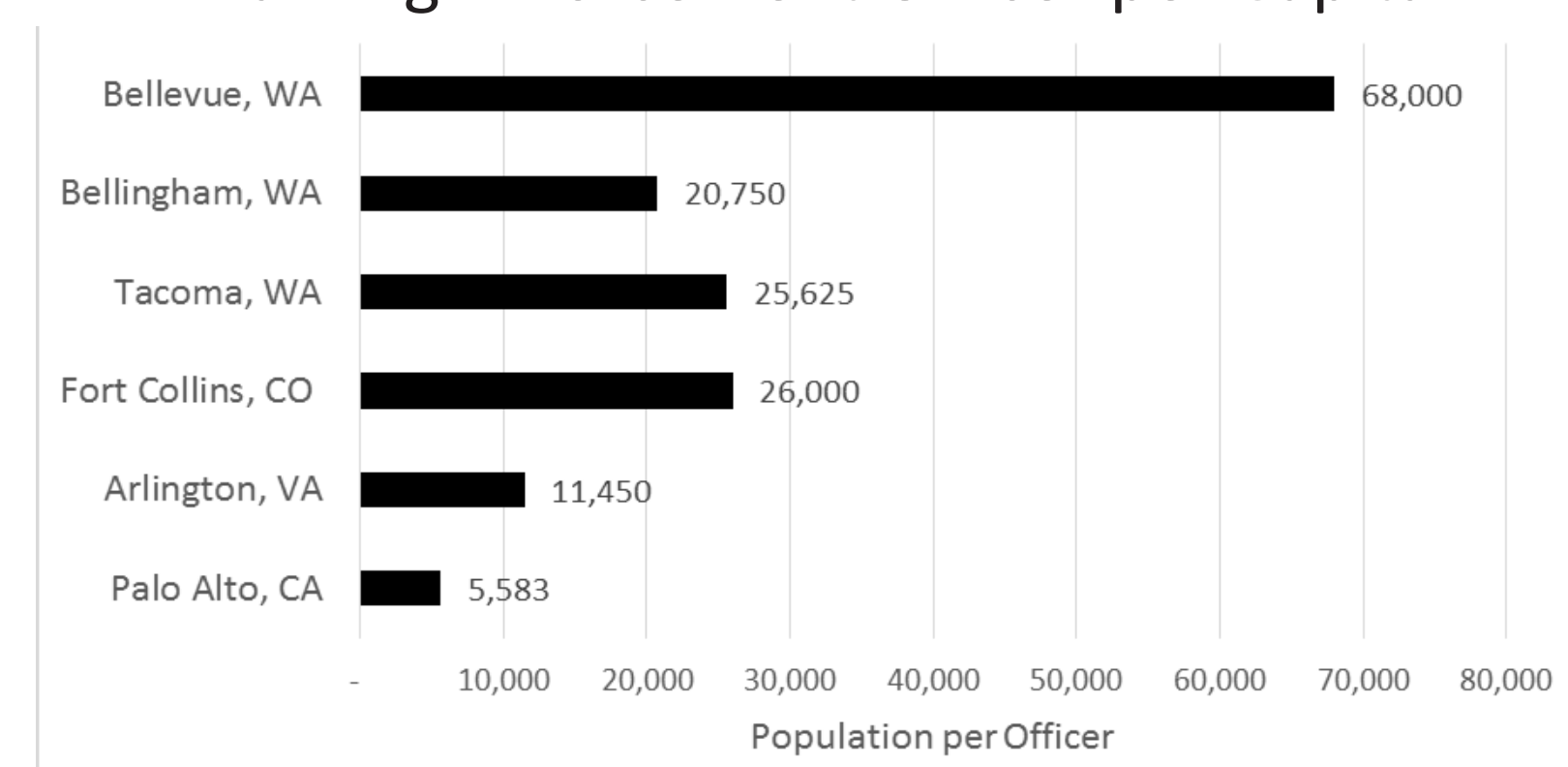
Recommendations

New goals are proposed for the program to address a wider range of stakeholders and issues associated with residential parking management:

- Use the RPZ program to satisfy residential concerns with spillover parking.
- Sustain a quality program for current and future users.
- Use the program in a way that is consistent with established city goals.

These goals maintain residential satisfaction as a primary goal but also acknowledge that a quality management program is needed to achieve that satisfaction and that other city goals should also be considered within residential parking management. These goals provide the framework for specific recommended changes to Bellevue's program.

Parking Enforcement Officer per Capita



Bellevue has one parking enforcement officer responsible for all residential neighborhoods. In 2015, the officer responded to 2,500 parking complaints and does not have time to patrol RPZs for permit compliance. *Expansions of the RPZ program do not come with increased resources to maintain it.*