

Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title and purpose of this initiative: Ordinance Amending the Carrboro Town Code to Create Paid Parking in Certain Public Parking Locations

Department: Economic Development

What are the racial and equity impacts? Impacts of this ordinance may include a burden on low-income residents that need to come downtown and businesses that have a low-income customer base. Alternatively, this program could help generate additional revenue to not only manage and maintain the existing parking but could potentially also be used to enhance other modes of transportation to and from the Downtown area, which could be of benefit to low-income households who may not be able to afford the hourly parking fee.

Who is or will experience community burden? Low-income residents due to paid parking being a financial burden and who may need public parking for errands or visits; BIPOC residents as studies have shown that BIPOC residents often have lower incomes compared to white residents and may cause additional stress if there is a violation and involvement of law enforcement; businesses that are located in downtown that serve low-income customers since their customers may be financial burdened by the cost of having to pay for parking; and residents with a disability or that do not live close enough to downtown to utilize alternative transportation modes to access downtown.

Who is or will experience community benefit? Higher-income residents as they are more able to afford the cost of paid parking in downtown; residents living close to downtown who may utilize alternative transportation modes (such as walking, biking, or utilizing the bus) to access the businesses and culture of downtown; and residents with a car who will find it less congested and easier to find a public parking location.

What are the root causes of inequity? The whole premise of public parking is based around the affordability of car ownership in that those who can afford a car need a place to park it. Access to public transportation or limited access to public transportation (historically) in low-income areas or neighborhoods mostly comprised of BIPOC residents limit the access they have to certain areas of the community or forces them to purchase a car.

What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy? Seeking out of alternative parking locations that are free (such as adjacent residential streets) may become a challenge as paid public parking is enforced; potentially shifting the customer base of downtown



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businesses to a higher income that can afford paid parking may change the types of businesses that are or choose to locate in downtown.

How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? Discounts for residents on public support programs are incorporated into this ordinance to help those who may not be able to afford the full hourly rate of public parking in downtown; and continue to monitor parking turnover/capacity and impacts on public transit to ensure that paid public parking is still an appropriate tool to use in all parking locations within downtown.