

Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title and purpose of this initiative: Town Code Amendment Restricting On-Street Parking on Elm Street

Department: Planning, Fire-Rescue, Public Works

What are the racial and equity impacts?

The proposed Town Code Amendment retains on-street parking alongside of the Marathan Gas Station, which is frequented by many residents, particularly blue-collar workers. The percentage of BIPOC residents along Elm Street is not known at this time.

Who is or will experience community burden?

As noted below under unintended consequences, it is possible that some residents and employees for the two businesses may lose access to parking near their homes/places of employment. Older residents and those with mobility challenges will be most affected.

Who is or will experience community benefit?

Any action that provides faster emergency response time benefits the community at large. In this case, the action will provide improved access for emergency services to residents living along the corridor as well as those living in proximity, who may enjoy the benefits of Fire/EMS using Elm Street as a more direct route to their location.

What are the root causes of inequity?

Structural racism in government decisions, particularly those relating to land use, as well as residents' personal experiences with government, can further alienate those that may find it difficult to attend meetings—like working individuals and families—and contribute to a reticence by historically marginalized people to speak in a public setting.

What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?

Some residents may not have sufficient on-site parking in driveways or parking areas to meet the needs of their households and will have to seek other places to park or to consider other travel options. Pizzeria Mercado may lose customers and/or have customers ticketed or towed. It is possible that the prohibition may affect parent queuing for drop-off/pick-up at Carrboro Elementary School.

How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences?

Planning staff reminded the owners of Pizzeria Mercado of the satellite parking agreement that they provided as part of the permit approval for the restaurant use. Public parking is typically available within a short walking distance. Staff will monitor the student peaks at Carrboro Elementary School.