



Permit Parking Program Frequently Asked Questions

August 1, 2018

1. Why is Sound Transit implementing a parking permit program for solo drivers who park at its facilities?

Lack of available station parking and uncertainty about whether riders will be able to find parking are among the top complaints Sound Transit receives from our riders. Some of our lots fill before 7:00 a.m. This results in rider crowding at lots and on early trains and buses, while commuters arriving later in the morning have limited, if any, access to transit parking.

Parking permits will provide Sound Transit riders who choose to use them guaranteed parking. Riders will benefit by knowing that they will be able to find parking at a station, whether they arrive early or later in the morning.

Permitted parking also makes better use of taxpayer investments by ensuring that valuable parking spaces are used by transit riders, since Sound Transit will automatically validate permit holders when riders tap their ORCA cards.

2. When will parking permits be available for solo drivers?

Sound Transit will begin selling permits for selected stations as soon as September 2018 for use as early as October 2018. More information will be posted on [soundtransit.org](https://www.soundtransit.org) as details are finalized. Interested riders can sign up to receive updates on <https://www.soundtransit.org/subscribe-to-alerts>.

3. Which transit facilities will provide permit parking for solo drivers?

Initially, all Sound Transit-owned and -operated parking facilities that are regularly filled to near capacity (at or above 90 percent occupancy) will be eligible for permit parking. The permit program will also include new parking facilities at Link light rail stations.

Subject to further review and approval, the following stations are eligible to offer solo-driver parking permits this fall:



Facility	Capacity (spaces)	May 2018 Weekday Utilization	Facility	Capacity (spaces)	May 2018 Weekday Utilization
Issaquah Transit Center	819	100%	Sumner Station	302	92%
Mercer Island Transit Center	447	98%	Puyallup Station	364	95%
Tukwila International Boulevard Station	600	100%	Lakewood Station	601	96%
Tukwila Sounder Station	390	95%	Auburn Station	633	100%
Angle Lake Station	1160	99%	Mukilteo Station	63	105%
Kent Station	877	97%	Edmonds Station	259	94%
Federal Way Transit Center	1190	97%	Northgate Park & Ride*	447	n/a
*Scheduled to open as early as October 2018. Eligible for SOV Permit Program as a new facility serving Link light rail					

Additional facilities that meet program requirements will be added in a phased implementation, based on market analysis and after further consultation with local jurisdictions.

4. How many transit parking facilities does Sound Transit own? Lease?

Parking is available for Sound Transit riders at more than 60 locations throughout the Central Puget Sound Region. The agency owns 41 parking facilities and leases and operates nineteen. This totals more than 15,600 parking spaces at owned and leased facilities.

5. Will this program cover facilities owned by King County Metro? Community Transit? Pierce Transit?

Sound Transit worked with King County Metro on the initial plans for permit parking earlier this year. Metro is developing a coordinated proposal to offer reserved permit parking next year at facilities that it owns and operates, with potential King County Council authorization in the fall of 2018 and potential solo driver permit implementation at Metro lots in the winter or spring of 2019.

In addition, Sound Transit has worked with King County Metro over the last two years to implement the regional carpool parking permit program at nine Sound Transit-owned facilities and 15 King County Metro-operated facilities. This involved both agencies working together to conduct joint public outreach to transit commuters and the public.



6. Are there Sound Transit-operated facilities that are exempt from this parking permit program?

Yes. Sound Transit park-and-ride facilities that are owned by the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) are excluded from any fee-based permit parking program. By state law, users of WSDOT-owned facilities cannot be charged a fee. The following are some of the high-demand, WSDOT-owned-parking facilities that are served by Sound Transit but would be excluded from the SOV parking permit program:

- South Everett Freeway Station
- Ash Way
- Mountlake Terrace
- Bothell
- Eastgate
- Kingsgate
- Green Lake
- South Renton
- SR-512

7. What is the projected annual cost of implementing a parking permit program for solo drivers?

The projected per-stall annual cost for permit administration and enforcement is about \$190. This amounts to approximately \$775,000 per year in operating costs.

8. Will permit fees bring in more revenues than it costs to operate the program? If so, how will these additional revenues be used?

Yes. Revenue derived from parking fees are added to the general fund. Net revenues over and above the amount assumed in the ST3 financial plan will be added to ST3 System Access Fund.

9. How did Sound Transit arrive at the discount of 50% or more for low-income solo drivers?

Sound Transit and King County Metro worked together to develop the permit parking program. Our agencies conducted an equity analysis of a single permit rate for all customers. Metro evaluated the discount necessary to ensure that the cost of the permit would not represent a disproportionate cost burden on ORCA Lift-Qualified commuters or those living in households earning no more than 200% of the federal poverty level. This evaluation concluded that at a 50% - 70% discount, low-income commuters would not pay a higher share of their household income for transit fares (plus parking costs) than commuters not qualified for the ORCA Lift discount.

(Note: No additional discount is available for people seeking to drive alone to the station or a park-and-ride. Sound Transit and King County Metro will continue to make at least half of



the parking spaces at participating stations available at no charge to commuters on a first-come, first-serve basis.)

Commuters who want the benefit of a guaranteed parking space at their preferred park-and-ride lot can also sign up to join a free carpool. More information on where to sign up is available at <http://rpnw.com/locations/transit-riders>.

10. Will the carpool permit program still be available?

Yes—in fact, Sound Transit is encouraging more people to take advantage of the HOV (carpool) parking permit program by eliminating the \$5 per month fee for carpoolers currently using parking permits, effective this fall. Registered carpool commuters will still be able to park at their station of choice. Sound Transit and King County Metro would also continue working with RideshareOnline and other public partners to connect interested commuters to carpooling and other ride-sharing options.

11. Sound Transit says it may consider charging riders who park at its facilities a daily parking fee. Will a daily parking fee be charged to all riders who drive to Sound Transit facilities?

Staff expect to develop an analysis of potential daily parking fee options for presentation to the Sound Transit Board in 2019.

12. How much will this fee be, and when would Sound Transit begin charging daily parking fees?

Any future implementation of daily parking fees would need to be determined by the Sound Transit Board.