

Jason,

Thanks for the question. This is an important area to explore and it's very true that some people have no choice but to drive, whether they're making deliveries, drive with their construction equipment, or don't have other options where they live. Thankfully, there's been extensive study of this issue here in Seattle. Additionally, Commute Seattle also helps with some parking programs downtown so we have a good handle on the data.

According to [this recently-released parking report](#), Seattle actually has 1.6 million parking spaces—far more parking than there are households or even parking users. In fact, downtown has over half a million parking spaces and records only a 64% occupancy rate during the day. There are over 500,000 parking spaces in downtown garages, which exceeds the needs of our 82,000 downtown residents and 262,000 workers (only 25% of which drive alone, translating to 66,500 single occupancy cars per day). As a result, there's only 64% occupancy of downtown parking spaces, implying that at any given moment there are nearly 200,000 parking spaces available somewhere in the center city.

So downtown, the issue isn't lack of parking. The issue is making efficient use of it and helping people find what's available. That's part of the impetus behind [SDOT creating the ePark system](#) that directs people to open spaces.

As for on-street parking, we are a popular city and there will never be enough space along curbs for all the people coming into downtown. And trying to accommodate all cars along the curb shouldn't be a priority for a couple reasons:

- The private sector provides more than enough parking off street, so why should the government be providing more of it?
- In a city where people worry about the ability of cars and buses to get to and through downtown, is it a best use of the right of way to place stationary cars in it? That space could otherwise be used to move people or serve freight and package delivery.
- We have \$35.8 Billion worth of parking in our city already at a replacement cost of \$117,677 per household.

That all said, we know it can be frustrating when people don't know where to look for parking. That's why we partner with area garages, WSDOT and SDOT on [DowntownSeattleParking.com](#) where people can find extensive parking spaces in area garages at low cost (\$3-\$7 per hour or flat rates nights and weekends). And if they're going between the Waterfront, Pioneer Square, Pike Place, Convention Center and Space Needle, we even have a [free waterfront shuttle](#) to get them from their parking spot to their destination with ease.

—Jonathan

SEATTLE PARKING FACTS

Population in 2016	704,352
Total Parking Replacement Cost	\$35.79 billion
Total Parking Stalls	1,596,289
Parking Cost per Household	\$117,677
Parking Stalls per Household	5.2