






Savannah Parking Matters Update

City Council Workshop
Thursday March 26th, 2026

PARKING MATTERS UPDATE ANALYSIS

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GPS and Parking Matters

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Goal 5: Improve quality of life by Raising Municipal Service Standards

1. Improve neighborhood quality and livability
 1. Strengthen enforcement of quality of life codes and effectively enforce city ordinances that protect the use of public spaces for the enjoyment of all

Goal 5: Improve quality of life by Raising Municipal Service Standards

1. Improve neighborhood quality and livability
 6. Balance resident and neighborhood needs, the preservation of our rich culture and heritage and maintain our place as a vibrant global visitor destination through a collaborative approach, data driven strategies and comprehensive communications.

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Project Objectives

The 2025 **Parking Matters Update** seeks to:

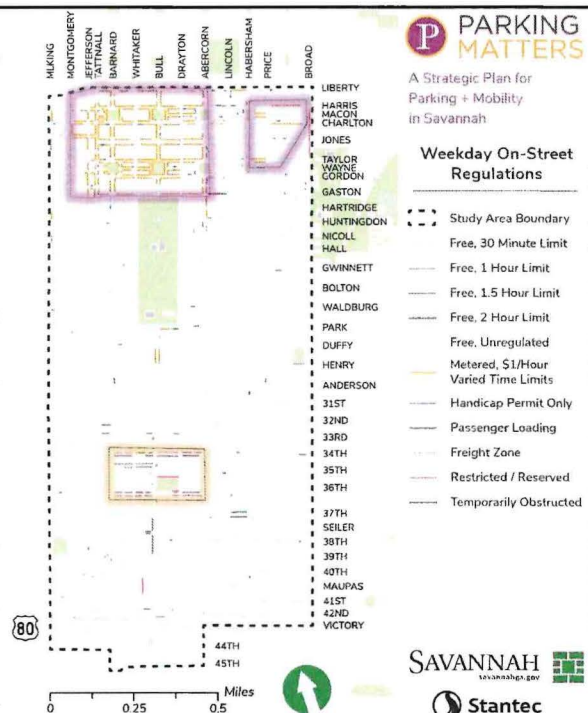
- Develop a **flexible** and **responsive** parking system that **adapts to ongoing growth** and development
- Establish a service hierarchy in the updated study area that **prioritizes the ability of residents** of areas of high demand to **find parking**
- Implement **standardized practices for parking management** as demand patterns have changed and will continue to change
- **Balance vehicular parking** demand with, enhancing overall mobility **other transportation modes**



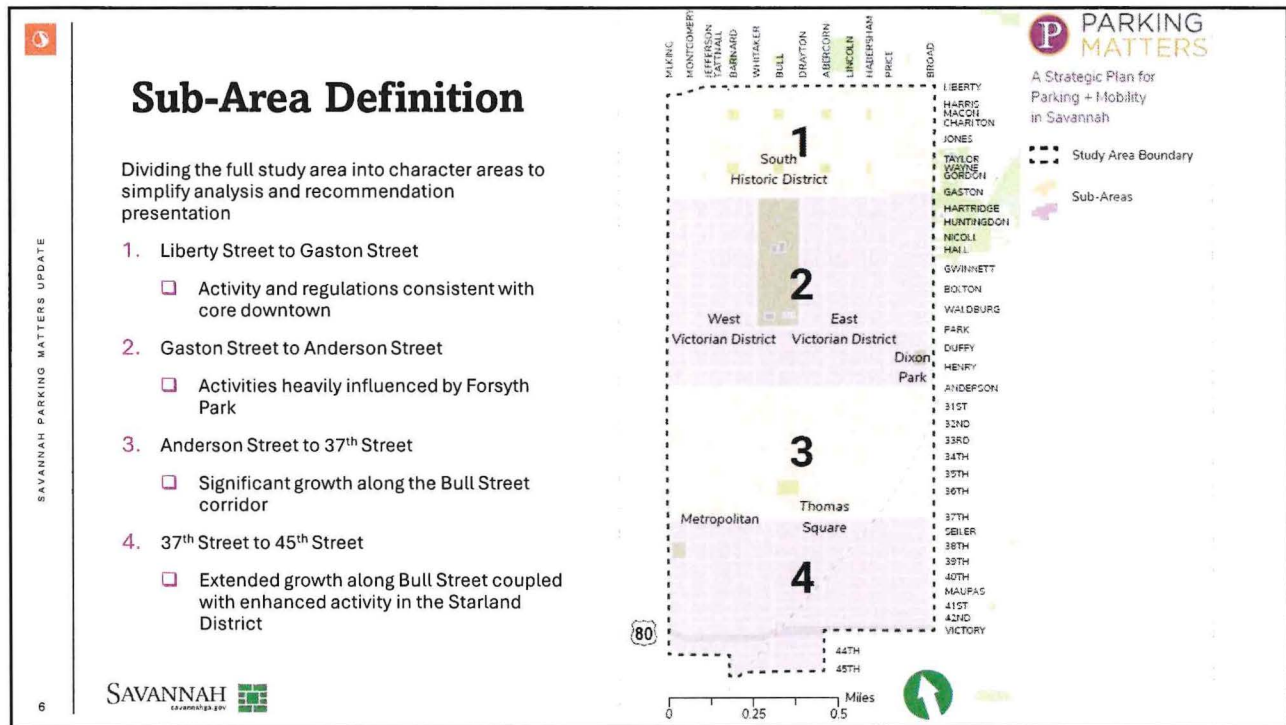
Existing Conditions On-Street Inventory and Regulations

- Primarily Metered Spaces between MLK, Liberty, Abercorn, and Gaston
- Mix of pay stations and single-space meters with varying time limits
- Most unmetered time-limited spaces near Thomas Square
- Remainder heavily unregulated minus passenger loading and freight zones
- **Few regulations south of Gaston**

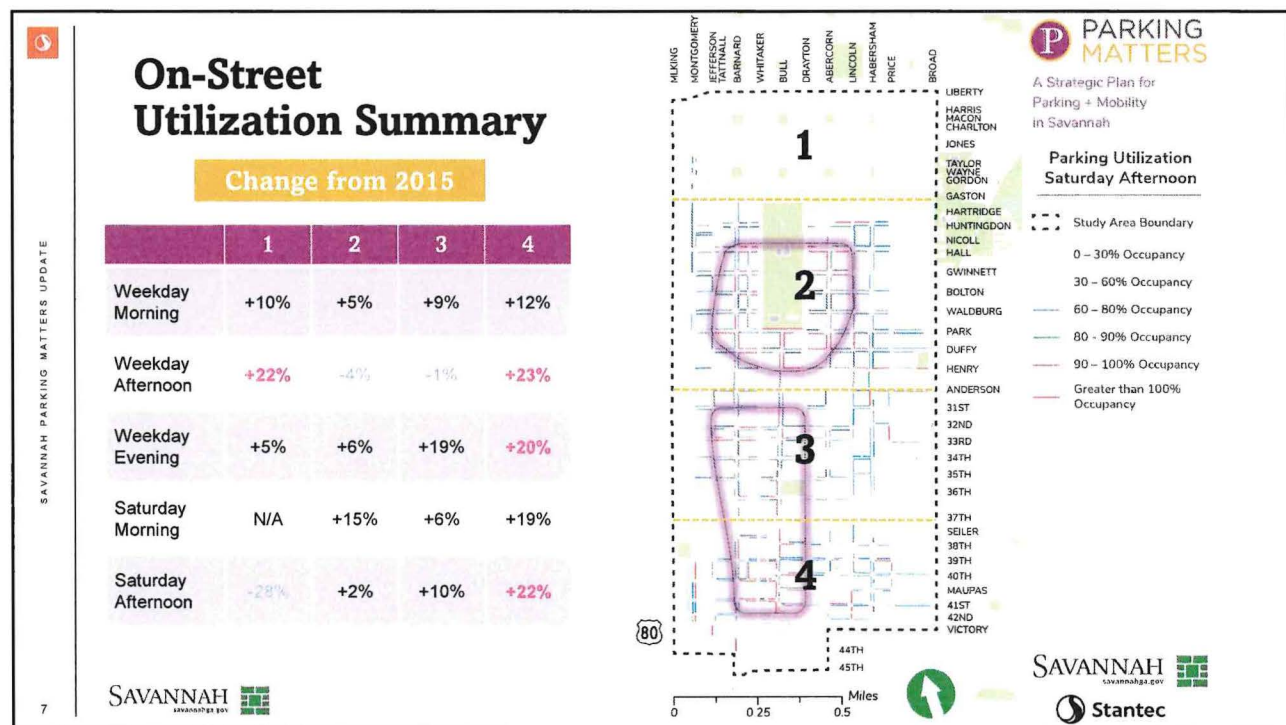
Inventory by Regulation	Count	%
Unregulated	7,884	83%
Regulated	518	6%
Metered	1,079	11%
Total	9,482	-



- Study Area Boundary
- Free, 30 Minute Limit
- Free, 1 Hour Limit
- Free, 1.5 Hour Limit
- Free, 2 Hour Limit
- Free, Unregulated
- Metered, \$1/Hour
- Varied Time Limits
- Handicap Permit Only
- Passenger Loading
- Freight Zone
- Restricted / Reserved
- Temporarily Obstructed



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SAVANNAH PARKING MATTERS UPDATE

Summary of Engagement

- **Initial Stakeholder Meetings**
 - ❑ Feedback on parking inventory, utilization trends
 - ❑ February through March 2025
- **Follow-up Stakeholder Meetings**
 - ❑ Feedback on recommendation approach
 - ❑ September 2025
 - ❑ March-September 2026
 - ❑ Victorian Neighborhood Association
 - ❑ Thomas Square Neighborhood Association
 - ❑ Forsyth Community Alliance
 - ❑ Downtown Neighborhood Association
- **Open House**
 - ❑ September 17th, 2025
- **Online Survey**
 - ❑ September 2025



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Stakeholder Groups

- **Victorian Neighborhood Association**
 - ❑ Advocating for **major changes to Drayton/Whitaker** for years
 - ❑ Noted pressures are **Wednesday night and Saturday morning**
- **Thomas Square Neighborhood Association**
 - ❑ Advocates for **changes to Drayton/Whitaker** including on-street parking
 - ❑ **DOT shuttle, walking, and biking** important for mobility
- **Forsyth Park Community Alliance**
 - ❑ Concerned about **Whitaker/Drayton** (Emergency services, other conflicts) and **parking demand spread** as a result of these measures
- **Park Avenue Businesses**
 - ❑ In **favor of regulations**, especially on Park Avenue, noting varying perception of Park Avenue parking scarcity
 - ❑ Observe parking in Forsyth Park lots and take DOT downtown due to **lack of regulation**
 - ❑ In favor of anything to **slow down traffic on Whitaker/Drayton**

- **Downtown Neighborhood Association**
 - ❑ Caution about Liberty Garage when Civic Center redeveloped
 - ❑ **Supports traffic calming** on Whitaker/Drayton (Reiterated 2017 Letter of Support)
 - ❑ Interested in **expanded EV charging**
 - ❑ Want attention paid to **construction impact management and development review**
- **Tourism Leadership Council**
 - ❑ Discussed previous Parking Matters process; first opposed by business owners in Downtown, but **benefits were ultimately recognized and supported**
 - ❑ Urged the City to speak on that previous process as it relates to this update
- **Savannah College of Art and Design**
 - ❑ Supports improvements to **encourage walking and biking** – SCAD bike share
 - ❑ Aligning classes and residence halls





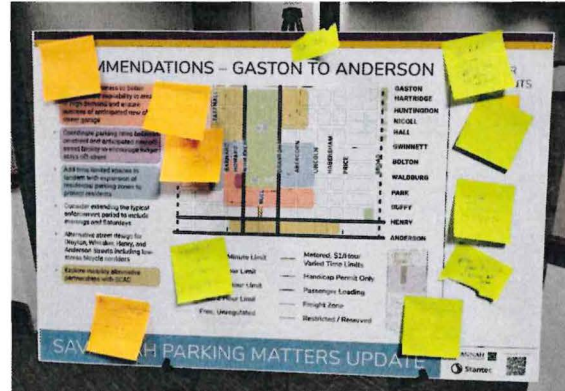
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Public Meeting / Open House

- September 17 (5 p.m. - 7 p.m.)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center
- Attendees used the comment space on presentation boards to provide detailed feedback on draft recommendations
- Concerns and suggestions spanned parking demand, meter policies, enforcement, safety, and impacts of institutional and hotel uses.



Recommendations



PARKING MATTERS | A Strategic Plan for
Parking + Mobility
in Savannah

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Recommendations – Liberty to Gaston

- Add parking meters to better ensure space availability in areas of high demand
- St. Vincents Area to protect residents per feedback (EXCEPTION - retain time limits)
- Upgrade equipment in locations served by single-space meters to allow for additional payment options
- Simplify regulations (e.g. if one side of block or portion of a block face is metered, entire block should be metered)

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Recommendations – Gaston to Anderson

- Add parking meters to better ensure space availability in areas of high demand and to protect residents
 - ❑ Ensure success of anticipated new off-street garage
 - ❑ Discourage east side hotel guests from using on-street spaces (EXCEPTION – Retain time limits on meters near hotels if daily sum of hourly rate is less than hotel parking fee)
- Coordinate parking rates between on-street and anticipated new off-street facility to encourage longer stays off-street
- Add time limited spaces in tandem with expansion of residential parking zones to protect residents
- Consider extending the typical enforcement period to include evenings and Saturdays

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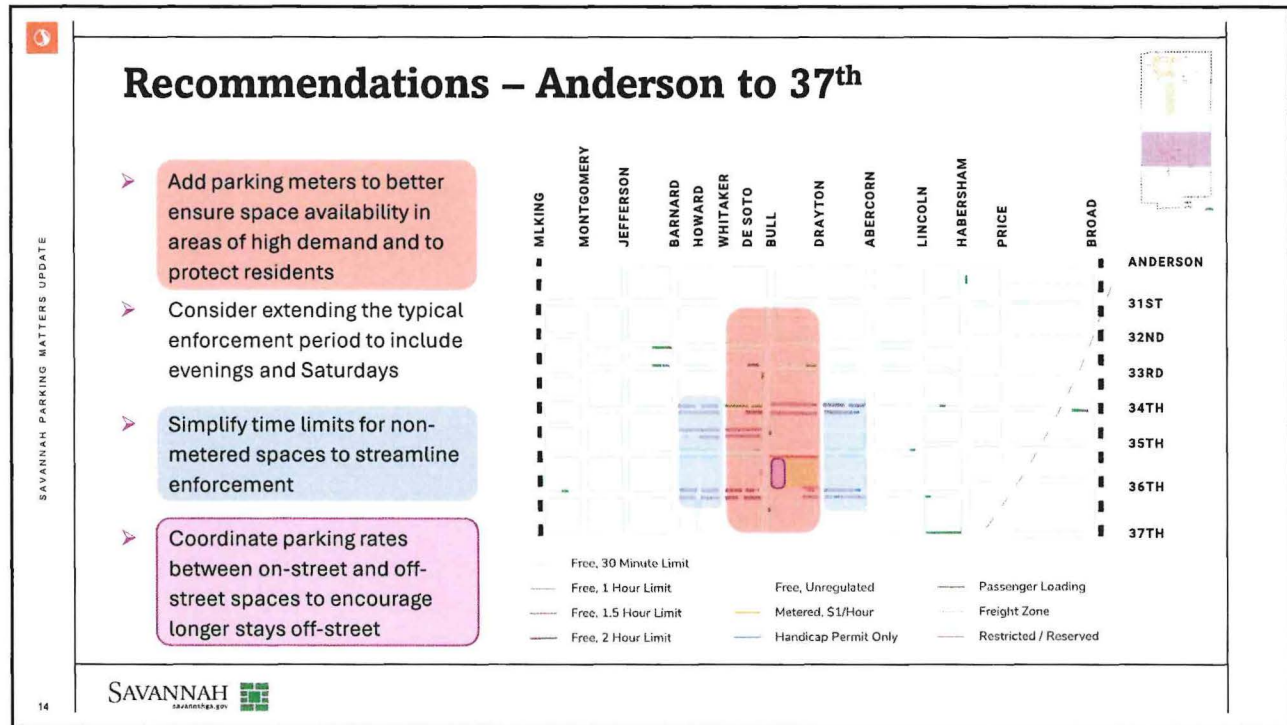
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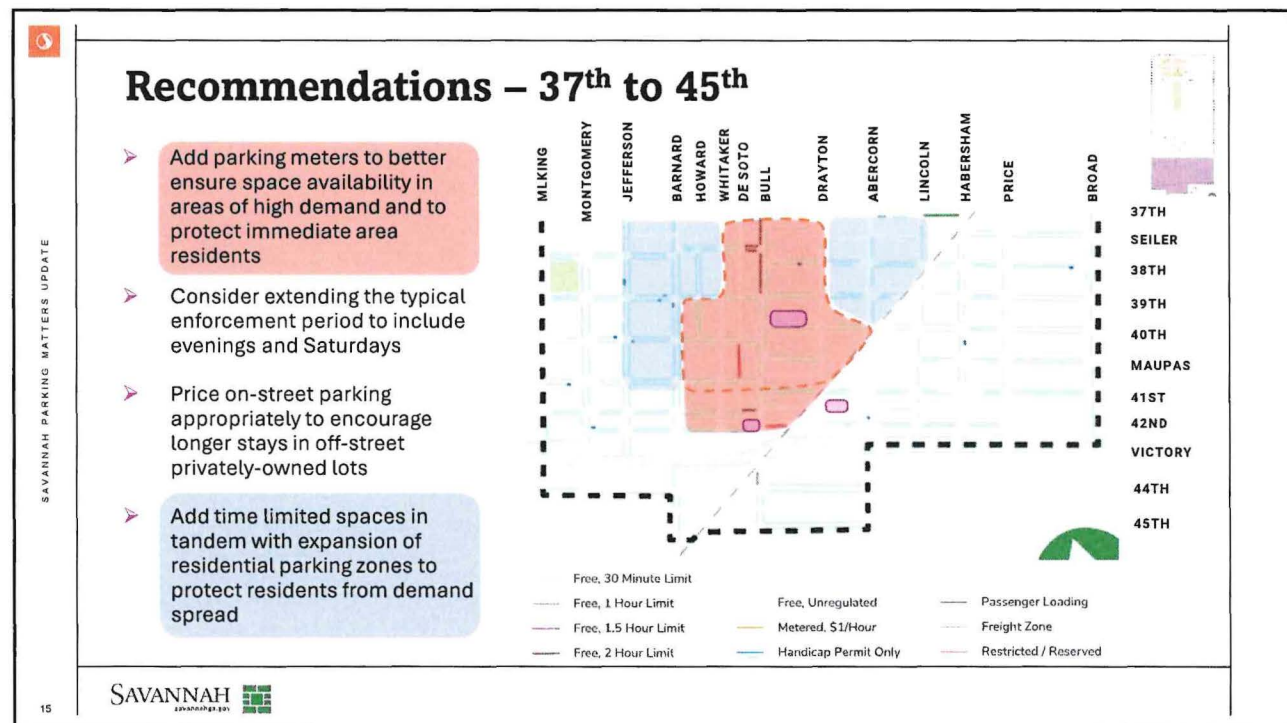
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Accommodations made for stakeholders

- **St. Vincents**
 - ❑ *Issuance of Student Decals*
 - ❑ *\$200 per school year / \$1.75 per school day*
 - ❑ *Would apply to school days only*
 - ❑ *Would apply to school hours only*
 - ❑ *Extra curricular hours taken into account*
- **Congregation Mickve Israel**
 - ❑ *Issuance of decals for worshippers/guests*
 - ❑ *Working with synagogue representatives on decal look*
 - ❑ *Security concerns*

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Sub-area Recommendations – Summary

Liberty to Gaston (1)	Gaston to Anderson (2)	Anderson to 37th (3)	37th to 45th (4)	Recommendation
X				Remove time limits from metered spaces (with exceptions)
X	X	X	X	Add meters in high-demand areas
	X		X	Add time limited spaces
		X		Simplify time limits for non-metered spaces
	X	X	X	Extend residential parking zones to newly regulated areas
X	X	X	X	Coordinate parking fees of on-street vs. off-street facilities
	X	X	X	Extend enforcement to include evenings and Saturdays

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Recommendations – Summary

(Capital and Program Additions)

Areas	Newly Regulated Spaces
Liberty to Gaston	313
Gaston to Anderson	1300
Anderson to 37th Street	233
37th Street to 45th Street	779
TOTAL	2,398

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Next Steps

- Council considers ordinance updates
- Implementation(If approved)
 - ❖ Purchase of new equipment
 - ❖ Allocation of new positions
 - ❖ Communication with impacted areas

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