



DATE: February 27, 2024

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Mayor Mark Arapostathis and Vice Mayor Laura Lothian

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER THE COSTS, MECHANICS, AND LOGISTICS FOR PROVIDING PAINTED STREET PARKING LINES IN LA MESA, A.K.A. PARKING T'S

Background:

As the number of residential housing units in La Mesa increases, the community is experiencing impacts on the availability of on-street parking in many areas throughout La Mesa.

An increased supply of single-family homes, multi-unit housing, and accessory dwelling units - while all meeting the demand for additional housing opportunities - also has impacted available street parking.

As noted on the City's website, "As La Mesa has grown, the demands on available public parking spaces have intensified. In some cases, on-street parking use has expanded beyond the immediately adjacent street onto adjoining streets or even separate neighborhoods of the City."

Without any lined street parking/Parking T's, it is common for one car to inadvertently take up two spaces, two cars to take up three spaces, three cars to take up four spaces, and so on. Citizens complain about the increasing difficulty of finding available street parking. This is impacting both residents and visitors. Additionally, extra driving in the quest to find parking spaces increases air pollution and wastes fuel.

Discussion:

We believe it appropriate for staff to look into the cost, mechanics, and logistics of implementing a program in La Mesa for the painting of lined street parking/Parking T's, either in the most impacted areas or in instances where an appropriate neighborhood request is made.

A Citywide Permit Parking Program is currently in place, established to ensure that residents, businesses, public facility patrons, and other users have fair and equitable access to available on-street public parking, where there is significant competition for available spaces.

In that case, a request for a permit parking zone starts with a preliminary petition from a neighborhood and then is reviewed by the Traffic Engineering team.

Lined street parking would both supplement and complement this program, while in some cases helping to diminish the need for permit parking, as that option is often controversial in neighborhoods.

Similar to the way residents may currently submit a petition request for permit parking zones as well as neighborhood traffic calming measures, lined street parking/Parking T's could be considered based on a petition request from residents.

Options for consideration:

- As noted, residents could request the City mark their street, collecting signatures from those neighbors in support.
- If a house takes up an entire portion of a street between two streets or two driveways, that resident could potentially request on his/her own.
- The City could publish and distribute requirements and the approval process for those residents who may want to paint markings on their own (with the City offering the stencil and specific paint required). This would reduce costs, while the City would still need to ensure the paint was applied correctly.
- The City could mark all La Mesa streets or the most impacted streets.
- The City could mark all La Mesa streets with multi-unit housing.

Again, these are all options as "food for thought" only.

Consideration

We ask our City Council colleagues to provide appropriate direction to staff in this regard, to assess the relevant costs, mechanics, logistics, and overall options for implementing Lined Street Parking/Parking T's opportunities in La Mesa.

Photos of Parking Markings/Parking T's in San Clemente:

