



Office of the City Manager

PUBLIC HEARING

June 24, 2025

(Continued from June 17, 2025)

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Terrance Davis, Director of Public Works

Subject: Changes to Select Public Works Transportation Permit Fees

RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt a Resolution increasing fees for parking permits, rescinding Resolution No. 68,344-N.S.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The recommendations in this report to adopt increased fees for parking permits will generate revenue to recover City costs associated with program activities. All parking permit fees are deposited into the General Fund. The new fees will go into effect on March 1, 2026, for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 permit purchases.

The resulting net revenue increase from this recommendation is anticipated to be approximately \$459,170, which would equate to a total annual revenue projection of \$3,307,670 in FY27, up from \$2,848,500 in Fiscal Year 2026.

Parking Permit Program Expenses

Per City Council Budget Policy, the Residential Preferential Parking Permit (RPP) Program is intended to be financially self-sufficient, which it has not achieved in many years. As of March 2025, the program runs an annual structural deficit of approximately \$1,271,000. The deficit is a result of revenue being relatively flat since 2018, while program personnel and equipment costs have increased due to inflation and other factors.

As shown in Table 1, the proposed increase in year one will help close the gap between revenue and program costs. However, a substantial shortfall will remain even after the increase in permit fees. Therefore, similar increases are anticipated over the next 5 years to comply with City policy and to close the program's revenue shortfall. To completely eliminate the parking permit program deficit, the majority of parking permit fees would need to be increased by over 100%. For example, Annual Residential and

In-Home Care permit fees would need to increase from \$66 to roughly \$180, or a 173% increase.

Table 1: Parking Permit Fee Increase Schedule and Annual Revenue Projection

| Permit type | Current Fee (FY26) | Proposed Fee (FY27) | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
| | | Amount (\$) | % Increase |
| Annual Residential & In-Home Care | \$66 | \$85.00 | 29% |
| Semi-Annual Residential & In-Home Care | \$33 | \$42.00 | 27% |
| Child Care | \$66 | \$83.00 | 26% |
| 1-Day Visitor | \$3 | \$4.00 | 33% |
| 14-Day Visitor | \$34 | \$44.00 | 29% |
| Neighborhood Serving Community Facility | \$83 | \$90.00 | 8% |
| 1-Day Senior Center | \$3 | \$4.00 | 33% |
| Merchant | \$185 | \$190.00 | 3% |
| Parking Permit Program Costs | \$4,119,891 | \$4,243,487.23 | -- |
| Parking Permit Program Revenue | \$2,848,500 | \$3,307,672.58 | -- |
| Net Revenue | -\$1,271,391 | -\$935,814.66 | -- |

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Preferential Parking Program includes Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) and business parking permits. The following parking permit types are issued by the City: residential, in-home care, child-care, 1-day visitor, 14-day visitor, Neighborhood-Serving Community Facility, 1-day senior center, and merchant permits.

Revenue from existing permit fees is inadequate to cover all costs related to the program, which include Parking Enforcement staffing and equipment to enforce parking restrictions in RPP areas, Department of Finance revenue collection and customer service costs for printing, postage, processing renewals, and responding to inquiries; vendor charges for the City’s digital permit management system, and Department of Public Works costs for program management. Council last increased permit fees by roughly 20% on April 1, 2018 (Resolution No. 68,344-N.S. Fees: Residential Preferential Parking Permits, adopted February 27, 2018). In particular, Resolution No. 68,344-N.S. increased the cost for Annual Residential and In-Home Care permits from \$55 to \$66 and Merchant permits from \$154 to \$185. Note that other parking permit fees were increased by a similar amount.

As shown in Attachment 2, the program as a whole is operating at an annual deficit of approximately \$1,271,000 despite City policy directing the Preferential Parking Program to pay for itself. The large deficit is due to permit fees being static since April 1, 2018,

when they were increased by approximately 20-percent and to increases in staff, equipment and operating costs. While the basis for increasing parking permit fees is to bring the program closer to revenue neutrality, it would also bring the City's permit fees closer to the fees charged by the City of Oakland and San Francisco. If this resolution is passed, the City's annual residential, in-home care, and childcare permit fees would be \$85 in Fiscal Year 2026. For a regional comparative example, the cost of annual residential parking permits in San Francisco and Oakland are \$190 and \$84-\$162, respectively.

BACKGROUND

The Preferential Parking Program (RPP) was instituted in 1980 to: 1) protect City residential neighborhoods from an influx of non-resident vehicles and related traffic; 2) assure continued quality of life for residents; and 3) provide neighborhood parking for residents. The parking permit programs limit parking for vehicles without valid permits in most areas to two hours, and reserves available daytime parking for residents or other permit-holders, from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on some blocks, Saturday.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Increasing parking permit program fees may encourage people to consider alternatives to driving and parking, which would result in a reduction in vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as improvements in air quality and road safety.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The recommendations included herein would bring Public Works permit programs closer to revenue neutrality, which is a City policy per the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026. However, these fee increases will not completely eliminate the parking permit program deficit – future year fee increases will be submitted to bring parking permit revenue more in line with costs. The reason for spreading out the fee increases over 5 years is to ease the financial burden on customers, so they aren't subject to permit fee increases exceeding 100% in any individual year.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Council could reject these recommendations, which would keep the status quo, including operating these Public Works permit programs at a more significant deficit.

CONTACT PERSON

Wahid Amiri, Deputy Director, Public Works, (510) 981-6396

Noah Budnick, Senior Management Analyst, Public Works, (510) 812-9661

Elliott Schwimmer, Senior Planner, Parking Services, Public Works, (510) 981-7066

Changes to Selected Public Works Transportation
Permit Fees

PUBLIC HEARING
June 24, 2025

Attachments:

1. Resolution - Fees: Preferential Parking Program Permits
2. Public Hearing Notice – Parking Permit Fees

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

FEES: PREFERENTIAL PARKING PROGRAM PERMITS

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2018, City Council adopted Resolution No. 68,344-N.S., establishing a revised fee schedule for parking permits for annual residential preferential parking, 1-Day Visitors, 2-Week Visitors, annual in-home care, annual community-serving facility, annual merchant, 1-Day Senior Center, Semi-annual residential, and Semi-annual in-home care permits issued for the Preferential Parking Program; and rescinded Resolution No. 66,075-N.S.; and

WHEREAS, the current RPP Program is operating at an annual deficit of approximately \$1,271,000; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to increase Preferential Parking Program permit fees in order to operate the parking programs as a cost-neutral program in accordance with City Council Budget Policies.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the fees for the Preferential Parking Program are hereby established:

| Permit type | Current Fee (FY26) | FY27 Fee |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| Annual Residential & In-Home Care | \$66 | \$85 |
| Semi-Annual Residential & In-Home Care | \$33 | \$42 |
| Child Care | \$66 | \$83 |
| 1-Day Visitor | \$3 | \$4 |
| 14-Day Visitor | \$34 | \$44 |
| Neighborhood Serving Community Facility | \$83 | \$90 |
| 1-Day Senior Center | \$3 | \$4 |
| Merchant | \$185 | \$190 |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these fees shall be effective March 1, 2026 for Fiscal Year 2027 permit purchases and shall be deposited into the General Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution No. 68,344-N.S. is hereby rescinded effective March 1, 2026.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL

The public may participate in this hearing by remote video or in-person.

Notice is hereby given by the City Council of the City of Berkeley that a public hearing will be conducted by said city council of the City of Berkeley at which time and place all persons may attend and be heard upon the following:

The Department of Public Works is proposing to increase the Preferential Parking Program permit fees over five years to reduce the programs operational deficit and recover costs associated with the Program.

| Permit type | Current Fee (FY26) | Proposed Fee - FY27 |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| Annual Residential & In-Home Care | \$66 | \$85 |
| Semi-Annual Residential & In-Home Care | \$33 | \$42 |
| Child Care | \$66 | \$83 |
| 1-Day Visitor | \$3 | \$4 |
| 14-Day Visitor | \$34 | \$44 |
| Neighborhood Serving Community Facility | \$83 | \$90 |
| 1-Day Senior Center | \$3 | \$4 |
| Merchant | \$185 | \$190 |

The hearing will be held on June 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the School District Board Room, located at 1231 Addison Street, Berkeley CA 94702.

For further information, please contact at Elliott Schwimmer, Senior Planner, 510.981.7066.

A copy of the agenda material for this hearing will be available on the City's website at <https://berkeleyca.gov/> on June 5, 2025. **Once posted, the agenda for this meeting will include a link for public participation using Zoom video technology, as well as any health and safety requirements for in-person attendance.**

Written comments should be mailed or delivered directly to the City Clerk, 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704, or e-mailed to council@berkeleyca.gov in order to ensure delivery to all Councilmembers and inclusion in the agenda packet.

Communications to the Berkeley City Council are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to the City Council, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service

or in person to the City Clerk. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the City Clerk at (510) 981-6900 or clerk@cityofberkeley.info for further information.

If you challenge the above in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Berkeley at, or prior to, the public hearing. Background information concerning this proposal will be available at the City Clerk Department and posted on the City of Berkeley webpage at least 12 days prior to the public hearing.

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I hereby certify that the Notice for this Public Hearing of the Berkeley City Council was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City’s website, on June 5, 2025.

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Mark Numainville, City Clerk

