

Listening session summary – Long-term parkers

Date: Friday, Jan. 3, 2020

Location: Deschutes Parkway

Department of Enterprise Services staff, accompanied by Olympia Downtown Ambassadors, had one-on-one conversations with long-term parkers along Deschutes Parkway. In some cases, the Ambassadors were able to provide helpful information to individuals about resources available in the community. DES also provided an update on the rulemaking process, shared a rulemaking process map, and shared that concepts for future phases on the process map will be influenced by what DES hears at listening sessions and may be updated.

Items discussed include:

How parking restrictions would affect parkers and/or their use of

Deschutes Parkway: Individuals expressed a range of thoughts, from concern about where else to go, to being impacted on a few evenings/nights a week, to no impact as they have other options available to them.

Barriers to parking elsewhere: Limited income, need for fuel or repairs, waiting for a disabled placard, parking rules in nearby jurisdictions, lack of work in areas have access to park, difficulties getting into rental homes and / or RV parks, have not found private land that is available, safety issues.

Options and strategies that would be helpful to current long-term parkers as DES examines elements of an implementation plan: Identify safe places to go, explore partnerships with businesses/private sector, resources for restrooms, locations for black water dumping, and places to take trash.

What brought people to Deschutes Parkway: Recommendation from public and/or private resources interacting with in the area, enforcement in other areas, news coverage, saw other vehicles parked in area, proximity to lake/pleasant environment. Duration of parking varies from a few weeks to a few months to intermittently for a couple of years.

Other questions, concerns and suggestions: Finding locations with power, security and/or services; access to drinking water; difficulty finding resources for assistance; safety in shelters; concerns with conditions in some RV parks; past experiences with service organizations; getting children into school; challenges associated with being disabled veterans; barriers to finding work; harassment from people who don't want RVs parked in various areas.