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Community Outreach Meeting Kicks Off Downtown Parking Study

By Victor Ryerson



These six discrete downtown and adjacent residential areas will be analyzed Image provided

Orinda's parking study consultant, TJKM, began public outreach efforts on its parking study of Orinda's downtown area by conducting a public meeting for the city on Jan. 27. At that meeting the methodology for conducting the study was explained with a slide presentation, and public comments were received.

Among the highlights of the slide presentation, which may be viewed on Orinda's website, www. cityoforinda.org, were the parking needs identified by TJKM. These include the needs of visitors, employees and business owners, commuters, service providers, and persons with special needs, as well as residents. The consultant has defined six discrete downtown and adjacent residential areas for analysis, three on the Village side, and three on the Crossroads side. Existing conditions will be analyzed and operational solutions will be identified, and the public will have further

opportunities to contribute as the study progresses to the point where the city can consider a proposed action plan.

Various operational solutions under consideration include time limits, loading zones and curb restrictions, wayfinding signs, event-specific measures and enforcement. Selection of specific solutions will be governed by the parking policies defined by the city, such as pricing of parking, benefit districts, and availability of special permits.

The six-month study is expected to provide a clearer path for the City Council to follow in addressing Orinda's burgeoning parking problems, and the council has emphasized that it wants the study to produce an actionable plan that it can implement.

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