

**Subtitle I Traffic Code****Part 1****GENERAL PROVISIONS AND  
ADMINISTRATION****Chapter 11.10  
GENERAL PROVISIONS****Sections:**

- 11.10.020 Citation.**
- 11.10.040 Purpose and policy.**
- 11.10.080 Number, gender and tense.**
- 11.10.100 Effect of headings and references.**
- 11.10.120 Existing permits to remain in force.**
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- 11.10.140 Vehicle owner to act in person—Agents.**
- 11.10.160 False representation prohibited.**
- 11.10.180 Existing regulations to remain in force.**

**11.10.020 Citation.**

The ordinance codified in this subtitle constitutes the “Traffic Code” of the City and may be cited as such. Wherever a reference is made herein to “this Code” it shall be construed to mean “this subtitle.”

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.10.020), 1979.)

**11.10.040 Purpose and policy.**

This subtitle is enacted as an exercise of the police power of the City to protect and preserve the public peace, health, safety and welfare, and its provisions shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of these purposes. It is expressly the purpose of this subtitle to provide for and promote the health, safety and welfare of the general public, and not to create or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefited by the terms of this subtitle. It is the specific intent of this subtitle to place the obligation of complying with its requirements upon the owner or operator of the vehicles or upon the pedestrian within its scope, and no provision of nor term used in this subtitle is intended to impose any duty whatsoever upon the City or any of its officers or employees, for whom

the implementation or enforcement of this subtitle shall be discretionary and not mandatory. Nothing contained in this subtitle is intended to be nor shall be construed to create or form the basis for any liability on the part of the City, or its officers, employees or agents, for any injury or damage resulting from the failure of the owner or operator of a vehicle or a pedestrian to comply with the provisions of this subtitle, or by reason or in consequence of any act or omission in connection with the implementation or enforcement of this subtitle on the part of the City by its officers, employees or agents.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.10.040), 1979.)

**11.10.080 Number, gender and tense.**

Whenever consistent with the context of this subtitle, words in the present, past or future tenses shall be construed to be interchangeable with each other, words in the singular number shall be construed to include the plural, words in the plural shall be construed to include the singular, and words in any gender shall apply to the feminine, masculine and neuter genders.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.10.080), 1979.)

**11.10.100 Effect of headings and references.**

Chapter headings, tables of contents, parenthetical references to the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and former ordinance sections,<sup>1</sup> and section headings as used in this subtitle do not constitute any part of the law. (RCW 46.98.030)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.10.100), 1979.)

1. Editor's Note: References to former ordinance sections do not appear in this Code.

**11.10.120 Existing permits to remain in force.**

Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, all permits lawfully issued under the provisions of any ordinance repealed by the ordinance codified in this subtitle shall remain in force and effect until expiration according to the terms thereof, unless sooner surrendered or revoked; subject, however, to all other provisions of this subtitle.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.10.120), 1979.)

11.10.130 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

**11.10.130 Prosecution under expired or repealed ordinance.**

No offense committed and no penalty or forfeiture incurred previous to the time when any ordinance expires or is repealed, whether such repeal be express or implied, shall be affected by such expiration or repeal, unless a contrary intention is expressly declared in the expiring or repealing ordinance, and no prosecution for any offense or for the recovery of any penalty or forfeiture pending at the time any ordinance expires or is repealed, whether such repeal be express or implied, shall be affected by such expiration or repeal, but the same shall proceed in all respects as if such ordinance had not expired or been repealed, unless a contrary intention is expressly declared in the expiring or repealing ordinance. Whenever any ordinance defining an offense or making conduct unlawful is amended or repealed, whether such amendment or repeal be express or implied, any offense committed, conduct engaged in or penalty or forfeiture incurred while the ordinance was in force shall be punished or enforced as if the ordinance were in force, notwithstanding such amendment or repeal, unless a contrary intention is expressly declared in the amendatory or repealing ordinance, and every such amendatory or repealing ordinance shall be so construed as to save all proceedings under the amended or repealed ordinance pending at the time of the amendatory or repealing ordinance, unless a contrary intention is expressly declared therein.

(Ord. 116872 § 1, 1993.)

**11.10.140 Vehicle owner to act in person—Agents.**

Every act or statement required to be made by the owner or operator of any vehicle shall be made or done by the owner or operator in person, unless such owner is a company or corporation or incapable of acting in person, and if the same is made or done by the agent, the necessity thereof shall be stated and shown.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.10.140), 1979.)

**11.10.160 False representation prohibited.**

No person shall knowingly make a false statement or representation in any application, statement or report required by this subtitle to be made.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.10.160), 1979.)

**11.10.180 Existing regulations to remain in force.**

Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, all existing regulations lawfully established and installed in the streets and alleys by official traffic-control devices are hereby continued in full force and effect.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.10.180), 1979.)

**Chapter 11.12  
APPLICATION OF CODE**

**Sections:**

**11.12.020 Uniformity of application.**

**11.12.060 Application to government vehicle.**

**11.12.080 Exemption of authorized emergency vehicles.**

**11.12.100 Authorized work upon street.**

**11.12.120 Traffic Control Manual for In-street Work.**

**11.12.130 Flagger required.**

**11.12.140 Persons riding animals or driving animal-drawn vehicles.**

**11.12.160 Persons propelling pushcarts.**

**11.12.020 Uniformity of application.**

The provisions of this subtitle relating to the operation of vehicles shall be applicable to and uniform upon all persons operating vehicles upon the streets, alleys and ways open to the public of The City of Seattle except as otherwise specifically provided. (RCW 46.08.030)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.12.020), 1979.)

Cases: A privately owned paved parking lot on a major intersection with easy access to both adjoining streets came within the definition of a "way open to the public." *City of Seattle v. Tolliver*, 31 Wn.App. 299, 641 P.2d 719 (1982).

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**11.12.060 Application to government vehicle.**

The provisions of this subtitle shall apply to the operator of any vehicle owned by or used in the service of any government, including the United States government or any agency created by the United States, or of any foreign nation, or of this or any state, or of any political subdivision of this or any other state.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.12.060), 1979.)

**11.12.080 Exemption of authorized emergency vehicles.**

A. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, but subject to the conditions stated in this chapter.

B. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

1. Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this subtitle;
2. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;
3. Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as he does not endanger life or property;
4. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions:

Provided, that ambulances shall not exceed the posted speed limit by more than five (5) miles per hour and shall not proceed through stop signs or red traffic signal lights without first making a full stop and permitting traffic to clear the intersection; and provided further, that Fire Department vehicles, including aid cars and other vehicles, shall not be subject to the above restrictions on the operation of ambulances.

C. The exemptions granted in this section to an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when such vehicle is making use of visual signals meeting the requirements of RCW 46.37.190, except that:

1. An authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display a red light visible from in front of the vehicle;
2. Authorized emergency vehicles shall use audible signals when necessary to warn others of the emergency nature of the situation but in no

case shall they be required to use audible signals while parked or standing.

D. The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others. (RCW 46.61.035)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.12.080), 1979.)

**11.12.100 Authorized work upon street.**

The provisions of this subtitle relating to the operation of vehicles upon the streets or alleys of this City shall not apply to any persons, vehicles or other equipment while actually engaged in authorized work upon the surface of a street or alley insofar as suspension of the provisions of this subtitle are reasonably necessary for the carrying on of such work. Reasonable precautions must be taken to apprise and protect the users of such street or alley, in conformance with the guidelines set forth in the City's Traffic Control Manual for In-street Work which is adopted by reference, and three (3) copies of which are filed with the City Clerk. Such provisions of this subtitle shall apply to such persons, vehicles and other equipment when traveling to and from such works. The contract or permit for such authorized work shall set forth the extent of such suspension, and over what portions of the street or alley the suspensions shall apply. (RCW 46.61.030)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.12.100), 1979.)

**11.12.120 Traffic Control Manual for In-street Work.**

No person shall work on a street or alley area without providing flaggers, signs, barricades, and/or other traffic-control devices as established by the guidelines set forth in the City's Traffic Control Manual for In-street Work, which is adopted by reference, and three (3) copies of which are filed with the City Clerk, if such person is required to meet the guidelines of the Traffic Control Manual for In-street Work by a permit, contract, regulation or ordinance. (See Street Use Ordinance 90047.)<sup>1</sup>  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.12.120), 1979.)

1.Editor's Note: The Street Use Ordinance is codified in Title 15 of this Code.

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**11.12.130 Flagger required.**

No person other than a flagger or a peace officer shall direct or control traffic on or near a street or alley in which work is underway. (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.12.130), 1979.)

**11.12.140 Persons riding animals or driving animal-drawn vehicles.**

Every person riding an animal or driving any animal-drawn vehicle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this subtitle except those provisions of this subtitle which by their very nature can have no application. (RCW 46.61.025) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.12.140), 1979.)

**11.12.160 Persons propelling pushcarts.**

Every person propelling any pushcart upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this subtitle except those provisions of this subtitle which by their very nature can have no application. (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.12.160), 1979.)

**Chapter 11.14  
DEFINITIONS**

**Sections:**

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- 11.14.015 Abandoned vehicle.
- 11.14.020 Adult school crossing supervisor.
- 11.14.023 Alcohol concentration.
- 11.14.025 Alley.
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- 11.14.700 Unicycle.
- 11.14.703 Passenger car.
- 11.14.705 U turn.
- 11.14.710 Vehicle.
- 11.14.715 Way open to the public.
- 11.14.005 Definitions generally.  
 Words and phrases, wherever used in this subtitle shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this chapter except where otherwise defined, and unless where used the context thereof shall clearly indicate to the contrary. (RCW 46.04.010) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.010), 1979.)

For current SMC, contact the Office of the City Clerk

## 11.14.015 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

### 11.14.015 Abandoned vehicle.

“Abandoned vehicle” means any vehicle left upon the private property of another without the consent of the owner of such property for a period of twenty-four (24) hours or longer, except that a vehicle shall not be considered abandoned if its owner or operator is unable to remove it from the place where it is located and so notifies law enforcement officials and requests assistance. (RCW 46.52.102)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.030), 1979.)

### 11.14.020 Adult school crossing supervisor.

“Adult school crossing supervisor” means an adult who is either hired by the Chief of Police or appointed or hired by the executive head of a university, college, public or private school within the City, for the purpose of guiding and assisting school children crossing streets or alleys. An adult school crossing supervisor shall wear a uniform or other appropriate insignia, as approved by the Chief of Police. The adult school crossing guard shall have the authority to stop and control pedestrian and vehicular traffic while engaged in the performance of duty or while wearing or displaying appropriate insignia.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.035), 1979.)

### 11.14.023 Alcohol concentration.

“Alcohol concentration” means (i) grams of alcohol per two hundred ten (210) liters of a person's breath or (ii) grams of alcohol per one hundred (100) milliliters of a person's blood. (RCW 46.04.015).  
(Ord. 117734 § 1, 1995; Ord. 117155 § 1, 1994.)

### 11.14.025 Alley.

“Alley” means a highway not designed for general travel and primarily used as a means of access to the rear of residences and business establishments. (RCW 46.04.020)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.040), 1979.)

### 11.14.030 Alley entrance.

“Alley entrance” means that portion of the street which provides access to an alley through a curb cut or a depression in the constructed curb or, when there is no constructed curb, that area in front of such alley as is well defined or as is designated by authorized signs or markings.

“Alley entrance” shall include an alley exit for one (1) way alleys.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.045), 1979.)

### 11.14.035 Arterial street.

“Arterial street” means every street, or portion thereof, designated as such in Chapter 11.18. (RCW 46.04.030)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.050), 1979.)

### 11.14.040 Authorized emergency vehicle.

“Authorized emergency vehicle” means any vehicle of any fire department (including fire department medic and aid cars), police department, sheriff's office, Washington State Patrol, and ambulance service, public or private, which need not be classified, registered or authorized by the State Commission on Equipment, or any other vehicle authorized in writing by the State Commission on Equipment. (RCW 46.04.040)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.060), 1979.)

### 11.14.045 Automobile hulk.

“Automobile hulk” is synonymous with “wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicle or automobile hulk” and means the remnant or remains of a motor vehicle which is inoperative and cannot be made mechanically operative without the addition of vital parts or mechanisms and the application of a substantial amount of labor to effect repairs. (RCW 46.52.102)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.070), 1979.)

**11.14.050Axle.**

“Axle” means a structure or structures in the same or approximately the same transverse plane with a vehicle supported by wheels and on which or with which such wheels revolve. (RCW 46.04.060)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.080), 1979.)

**11.14.055Bicycle.**

“Bicycle” means every device with two (2) or more wheels, of which not more than one (1) wheel shall be less than sixteen (16) inches in diameter, having a steering device and saddle or seat or seats, and propelled solely by human power.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.090), 1979.)

**11.14.060Bicycle lane.**

“Bicycle lane” means a portion of the roadway which has been designated by traffic-control devices for preferential or exclusive use by bicycles.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.100), 1979.)

**11.14.065Boundary line.**

“Boundary line” means the line between the private property edge and the highway.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.120), 1979.)

**11.14.070Bus zone.**

“Bus zone” means a portion of the roadway along the curb which is reserved for loading and unloading of either transit coaches of the Metro Transit System, or school buses when authorized and designated by:

- A. A sign with the words “bus,” “bus zone” or “bus stop” and a parking control message; or
- B. By red-yellow-red (alternating red and yellow stripes) curb markings supplemented with the words “bus zone” placed on the curb; or
- C. A sign with the word “bus” and red-yellow-red (alternating red and yellow stripes) placed on the curb.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.130), 1979.)

**11.14.075Camper.**

“Camper” means a structure designed to be mounted upon a motor vehicle and which provides facilities for human habitation or for temporary outdoor or recreational lodging and which is five (5) feet or more in overall length and five (5) feet or more in height from its floor to its

ceiling when fully extended, but does not include motor homes as defined in Section 11.14.350. (RCW 46.04.085)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.140), 1979.)

**11.14.080Cancel.**

“Cancel,” in all its forms, means the invalidation indefinitely and until successful reapplication, but shall be for a period of not less than one (1) year. (RCW 46.04.090)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.150), 1979.)

11.14.080

VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

**Seattle Municipal Code**

**April, 2001 code update file**

**Text provided for historic reference only.**

**See ordinances creating and amending sections for complete text, graphics, and tables and to confirm accuracy of this source file.**

(Seattle 3-99)

**For current SMC, contact  
the Office of the City Clerk**

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See ordinances creating graphics, sections for complete and tables and to contact this source file.

**11.14.085Carpool.**

“Carpool,” unless provided otherwise by traffic-control device or by this subtitle, means a motor vehicle occupied by two (2) or more persons, except that the Traffic Engineer may define a carpool to require occupancy by three (3) or more persons in areas or at times where or when he or she deems that number more appropriate. (Ord. 118278 § 1, 1996; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.155), 1979.)

**11.14.090Centerline.**

“Centerline” means the line, marked or unmarked, parallel to and equidistant from the sides of a two-way traffic roadway of a street except as follows:

A. Where otherwise indicated by yellow lines or markers; or

B. On two-way traffic streets where parking is continuously prohibited by signs on one (1) side, the centerline is a line equidistant from the curb where parking is prohibited and the line which is eight feet (8') inside the curb where parking is permitted. (RCW 46.04.100)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.160), 1979.)

**11.14.095Center of intersection.**

“Center of intersection” means the point of intersection of the centerlines of the roadways of intersecting streets. (RCW 46.04.110)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.170), 1979.)

**11.14.100Citation.**

“Citation” means a form specified and adopted by competent authority for the purpose of charging a person with a violation of this subtitle.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.200), 1979.)

**11.14.105Combination of vehicles.**

“Combination of vehicles” means every combination of motor vehicle and motor vehicle, motor vehicle and trailer or motor vehicle and semitrailer. (RCW 46.04.130)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.210), 1979.)

**11.14.110Combustible liquid.**

“Combustible liquid” means any liquid defined as combustible by the current Seattle Fire Code.<sup>1</sup>

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.215), 1979.)

<sup>1</sup>.Editor's Note: The Fire Code is codified in Title 22 of this Code.

11.14.135 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

**11.14.113 Commercial vehicle load zone.**

“Commercial vehicle load zone” means a portion of a street designated by a sign and yellow paint markings or other traffic-control devices that is reserved for the exclusive use of commercial vehicles or vehicles possessing a valid commercial loading permit.

(Ord. 114518 § 1, 1989; Ord. 114251 § 6(part), 1988.)

**11.14.115 Commercial vehicle.**

For purposes of this Code, the term “commercial vehicle” means (1) a “motor truck” or “truck” except a passenger car or (2) a station wagon or van that has been permanently modified to carry no more than three (3) seated passengers. Such vehicles shall be properly licensed as a truck and shall have the name of the business to which the vehicle is registered permanently displayed on both the left and right sides in letters no less than two inches (2”) in height.

(Ord. 114251 § 1, 1988; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.220), 1979.)

**11.14.120 Commuter ride sharing.**

“Commuter ride sharing” means a carpool or a vanpool arrangement whereby a fixed group, passengers and driver not exceeding fifteen (15) persons is transported between their places of abode or termini near such places, and their places of employment or educational or other institution, in a single, daily round-trip where the driver is also on the way to or from his or her place of employment, educational or other institution whether or not the driver receives compensation.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.230), 1979.)

**11.14.125 Commuter ride-sharing vehicles.**

“Commuter ride-sharing vehicles” means a passenger motor vehicle with a seating capacity, including the driver, not exceeding fifteen (15) persons while being used for commuter ride sharing. A commuter ride-sharing vehicle shall not be deemed a for-hire cab or a taxicab.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.240), 1979.)

**11.14.130 Constructed curb.**

“Constructed curb” means a physical curb constructed from cement concrete, asphalt concrete, timber, or other construction material.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.250), 1979.)

**11.14.135 Crosswalk.**

“Crosswalk” means the portion of the roadway between the intersection area and the prolongation or connection of the farthest sidewalk line, or, in the event there are no constructed sidewalks, then between the intersection area and a line ten feet (10’) therefrom, except as modified by a marked crosswalk. (RCW 46.04.160)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.260), 1979.)

**11.14.140 Curb markings.**

“Curb markings” means the official markings installed on curbs. The following are curb markings indicating parking or standing regulations and shall have the meanings as set forth in this section:

- A. Red means a tow-away zone;
- B. Red-yellow-red (alternating red and yellow stripes) means a bus zone;
- C. Yellow means:
  - 1. A truck loading zone, or
  - 2. A load and unload zone, or
  - 3. A taxicab stand, or
  - 4. A no-parking zone adjacent to drive-ways or alleys;
- D. White means a passenger load zone.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.280), 1979.)

**11.14.145 Curb or curblines.**

“Curb” or “curblines” means the edge of a roadway whether marked by curbing construction or not.

(Ord. 108200 § 3(11.14.270), 1979.)

**11.14.150 Curb ramp.**

“Curb ramp” means that portion of the sidewalk area which provides a direct connection between the roadway level and the constructed sidewalk level, for the purpose of allowing persons and persons operating wheeled devices to have convenient access between the roadway and sidewalk.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.285), 1979.)

**11.14.155 Curb ramp return.**

“Curb ramp return” means that portion of the curb which provides a transition between the roadway level and the constructed curb level.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.290), 1979.)

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**11.14.160 Disabled person.**

“Disabled person” means a person in a wheelchair and includes a person propelling a wheelchair, or a person who is physically handicapped such that use of a curb ramp, where available, is desirable.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.428), 1979.)

**11.14.165 Downtown traffic-control zone.**

“Downtown traffic-control zone” means the area within the district bounded as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of First Avenue and Lenora Street, thence southerly along the west margin of First Avenue to the north margin of Yesler Way, thence easterly along the north margin of Yesler Way to the west margin of Fifth Avenue, thence northerly along the west margin of Fifth Avenue to the north margin of Madison Street, thence easterly along the north margin of Madison Street to the westerly margin of Eighth Avenue, thence northerly along the westerly margin of Eighth Avenue to the southerly margin of Lenora Street, thence westerly along the southerly margin of Lenora Street to the westerly margin of First Avenue, to the place of beginning. (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.295), 1979.)

**11.14.170 Driver.**

See “operator or driver.”  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.300), 1979.)

**11.14.175 Driveway.**

“Driveway” means that portion of street or alley area which provides access to an off-street vehicular facility through a depression in the constructed curb or over a constructed curb or, when there is no constructed curb, that area in front of such vehicular facility as is well defined or as is designated by authorized signs or markings. The area defined as a driveway may also be defined as a sidewalk.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.310), 1979.)

**11.14.180 Driveway return or alley entrance return.**

“Driveway return” or “alley entrance return” means that portion of a constructed driveway or alley entrance which curves or flares to meet a constructed curb.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.320), 1979.)

**11.14.183 Drug.**

“Drug” means and includes, but is not limited to, those drugs and substances regulated by RCW Chapters 69.41 and 69.50. (RCW 46.61.540) (Ord. 119189 § 1, 1998.)

**11.14.185 Excess weight.**

“Excess weight” means, for the purpose of determining additional fines as provided by Section 11.34.080, the poundage in excess of the sum of maximum gross weight prescribed by Sections 11.60.370 and 11.60.420 plus the weights allowed in Sections 11.60.480, 11.60.520 and Section 11.23.290. (RCW 46.44.045(6))

(Ord. 112092 § 2, 1984; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.330), 1979.)

**11.14.190 Explosives.**

“Explosives” means anything defined as explosive by the Seattle Fire Code.<sup>1</sup>

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.340), 1979.)

1.Editor's Note: The Fire Code is codified in Title 22 of this Code.

**11.14.195 Farm tractor.**

“Farm tractor” means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing machines, and other implements of husbandry. (RCW 46.04.180)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.350), 1979.)

**11.14.200 Farm vehicle.**

“Farm vehicle” means any vehicle other than a farm tractor or farm implement which is designed and/or used primarily in agricultural pursuits on farms for the purpose of transporting machinery, equipment, implements, farm products, supplies and/or farm labor thereon and is only incidentally operated on or moved along public highways for the purpose of going from one farm to another. (RCW 46.04.181)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.360), 1979.)

**11.14.205 Fire area.**

“Fire area” means an area about the scene of every fire during its course which shall consist of all streets and alleys within a radius of five hundred (500) feet or more from the fire, and in every case shall include the two (2) nearest street intersections.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.380), 1979.)

11.14.240 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

**11.14.210 Fire lane.**

“Fire lane” means an area on public or private property reserved for providing Fire Department access to structures, firefighting fixtures, or equipment.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.365), 1979.)

**11.14.215 Fire line.**

“Fire line” means a line established at the direction of the Fire Chief or other fire officer in charge during any emergency requiring the services of the Fire Department.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.370), 1979.)

**11.14.220 Flagger.**

“Flagger” means any person wearing a predominantly red or fluorescent orange jacket or vest and a yellow or orange safety helmet, equipped with a standard STOP-SLOW paddle, or red flag and authorized or assigned to direct and control traffic. All flaggers shall have in their possession a card certifying that they have completed the Flagger's Course as conducted by The State of Washington, Department of Labor and Industries.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.390), 1979.)

**11.14.225 Flammable liquid.**

“Flammable liquid” means any liquid defined as flammable by the Seattle Fire Code.<sup>1</sup>  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.393), 1979.)

1.Editor's Note: The Fire Code is codified in Title 22 of this Code.

**11.14.230 Foreign career consul.**

A “foreign career consul” means a career foreign service diplomat who is a citizen of the country he represents and who has been appointed by his government to be one of its official foreign policy spokesmen in this country.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.396), 1979.)

**11.14.235 For-hire car.**

“For-hire car” means for-hire vehicles as defined by the Seattle License Code.<sup>1</sup>  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.399), 1979.)

1.Editor's Note: The License Code provisions regarding for-hire vehicles are codified in Chapters 6.310 and 6.315 of this Code.

**11.14.240 Hazardous materials.**

“Hazardous materials” means any material defined as hazardous by the Seattle Fire Code.<sup>1</sup>  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.400), 1979.)

1.Editor's Note: The Fire Code is codified in Title 22 of this Code.

**11.14.245 Highway.**

“Highway” means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel. (RCW 46.04.431)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.405), 1979.)

**11.14.250 Hours of darkness.**

“Hours of darkness” means the hours from one-half (<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>) hour after sunset to one-half (<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>) hour before sunrise, and any other time when persons or objects may not be clearly discernible at a distance of five hundred (500) feet. (RCW 46.04.200)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.410), 1979.)

**11.14.255 Hulk hauler.**

“Hulk hauler” means any person who deals in vehicles for the sole purpose of transporting and/or selling them to a licensed motor vehicle wrecker or scrap processor in substantially the same form in which they are obtained and who may not sell secondhand motor vehicle parts to anyone other than a scrap processor. (RCW 46.79.010(5))  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.420), 1979.)

**11.14.257 Ignition interlock device.**

“Ignition interlock device” means breath alcohol analyzing ignition equipment, certified by the Washington State Patrol, designed to prevent a motor vehicle from being operated by a person who has consumed an alcoholic beverage. (RCW 46.04.215)  
(Ord. 119189 § 2, 1998.)

**11.14.260 Impoundment.**

See Section 11.30.010.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.423), 1979.)

**11.14.265 Intersection.**

A. “Intersection” means the area enclosed within the projection of the lateral curbs, or if no curbs, then the projection of the lateral roadway

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boundaries of two (2) or more streets which join one another at an angle, whether or not such streets cross each other.

B. Where a highway includes two (2) roadways thirty (30) feet or more apart, then every crossing of each roadway of such divided street by an intersecting street shall be regarded as a separate intersection. In the event such intersecting street also includes two (2) roadways thirty (30) feet or more apart then every crossing of two (2) roadways of such streets shall be regarded as a separate intersection.

C. The junction of an alley with a street shall not constitute an intersection. (RCW 46.04.220) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.430), 1979.)

#### **11.14.266 Intersection control area.**

“Intersection control area” means an intersection, together with such modifications of the adjacent roadway area as result from the arc of curb corners, and together with any marked or unmarked crosswalks adjacent to the intersection. (Statutory reference: RCW 46.04.240.) (Ord. 115323 § 1, 1990.)

#### **11.14.268 Junk motor vehicle.**

A. “Junk motor vehicle” means any motor vehicle meeting at least three of the following requirements:

1. Left on private property without the permission of the person having right to the possession of the property;
2. Left on a street, alley way open to the public, or on municipal or other public property for twenty-four (24) hours or longer;
3. Extensively damaged, such damage including but not limited to any of the following: A broken window or windshield, missing wheels, tires, motor, or transmission;
4. Apparently inoperable;
5. Having a fair market value of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) or less;
6. Without a current certificate of registration or a current and proper vehicle license.

B. Vehicles in Violation of this Section. Junk motor vehicles are subject to impoundment as provided for in Chapter 11.30 SMC in addition to any other penalty provided for by law. (Ord. 120098 § 1, 2000: Ord. 108200 § 2 (11.14.020), 1979.)

#### **11.14.270 Laned street.**

“Laned street” means a street the roadway of which is divided into clearly marked lanes for traffic. (RCW 46.04.260) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.470), 1979.)

#### **11.14.275 Lane line.**

“Lane line” means a solid or broken paint line or other marker line separating lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.450), 1979.)

#### **11.14.277 Legal holidays.**

The following are legal holidays: Sunday; the first day of January, commonly called New Year's Day; the third Monday of January being celebrated as the anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr.; the twelfth day of February, being the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; the third Monday of February, being celebrated as the anniversary of the birth of George Washington; the last Monday of May, commonly known as Memorial Day; the fourth day of July, being the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence; the first Monday in September, to be known as Labor Day; the eleventh day of November, to be known as Veteran's Day;



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VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

**Seattle Municipal Code**

**April, 2001 code update file**

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the fourth Thursday of November, to be known as Thanksgiving Day; the day immediately following Thanksgiving Day; and the twenty-fifth day of December, commonly called Christmas Day.

Whenever any legal holiday, other than Sunday, falls upon a Sunday, the following Monday shall be the legal holiday.

Whenever any legal holiday falls upon a Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be the legal holiday.

(Ord. 112076 § 1, 1984; Ord. 111890 § 3, 1984; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.755), 1979.)

**11.14.280 Limited access facility.**

“Limited access facility” means every highway, street or roadway in respect to which owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons have no legal right of access to or from the same except at such points only in and in such manner as may be determined by the public authority having jurisdiction over such highway, street or roadway. (UVC 1-110) (MUTCD Part 8A-2, 14) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.480), 1979.)

**11.14.285 Line.**

“Line,” when referring to pavement markings, means a marking on a roadway which may be solid or broken and which is indicated by paint, buttons, or reflectorized markers on the pavement placed in continuous contact or separated by spaces.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.490), 1979.)

**11.14.290 Litter receptacle.**

“Litter receptacle” means the state-approved litter bag or other bag, sack, or other container made of any material which is large enough to serve as a receptacle for litter inside a vehicle and similar in size and capacity to the state-approved litter bag. (RCW 70.93.020(4))

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.493), 1979.)

**11.14.295 Load and unload zone.**

“Load and unload zone” means a designated portion of the street or alley reserved for the use of vehicles for the purpose of expeditious pickup and loading or unloading and delivery of persons or property.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.495), 1979.)

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## 11.14.330 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

### **11.14.300Local access traffic.**

“Local access traffic” means motor vehicles having an origin or destination along a nonarterial street within an area bounded by arterial streets, except where boundaries are otherwise set by officially erected traffic-control signs or topographical barriers.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.497), 1979.)

### **11.14.305Main traveled portion of the road.**

“Main traveled portion of the road” means the portion of the road designed for the through movement of vehicles, exclusive of auxiliary lanes. An auxiliary lane is the portion of the road adjoining the main traveled portion of the road which is used or can be used for the parking of vehicles.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.498), 1979.)

### **11.14.310Marked bicycle crossing.**

“Marked bicycle crossing” means any portion of a roadway distinctly indicated for bicycle crossing by lines, marking, or other traffic-control devices.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.499), 1979.)

### **11.14.315Marked crosswalk.**

“Marked crosswalk” means any portion of a roadway distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface thereof. (RCW 46.04.290)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.500), 1979.)

### **11.14.320Median barrier.**

“Median barrier” means a physical barrier, a guard rail, or a solid yellow or cross-hatched pavement marking at least eighteen (18) inches in width, which divides any street into two (2) or more roadways. (RCW 46.61.150)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.510), 1979.)

### **11.14.325Metal tire.**

“Metal tire” means every tire, the bearing surface of which in contact with the street is wholly or partly of metal or other hard, nonresilient material. (RCW 46.04.300)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.520), 1979.)

### **11.14.330Mobile home.**

“Mobile home” means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is thirty-two (32) body feet or more in length and is eight (8)

body feet or more in width, and which is built on a permanent chassis, and designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities, and includes the plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, and electrical systems contained therein, except as hereinafter specifically excluded, and excluding modular homes.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.530), 1979.)

### **11.14.335Modular home.**

“Modular home” means any factory-built housing designed primarily for residential occupancy by human beings which does not contain a permanent frame and must be mounted on a permanent foundation. (RCW 46.04.303)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.540), 1979.)

### **11.14.340Motorcycle.**

“Motorcycle” means every motor vehicle on which the driver sits astride the frame and which is designed to travel on not more than three (3) wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding a farm tractor. (RCW 46.04.330)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.550), 1979.)

### **11.14.345Motor-driven cycle.**

“Motor-driven cycle” means every motorcycle, including every motor scooter, with a motor which produces not to exceed five (5) brake horsepower (developed by a prime mover, as measured by a brake applied to the driving shaft), and every bicycle with motor attached. (RCW 46.04.332)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.560), 1979.)

### **11.14.350Motor homes.**

“Motor homes” means motor vehicles originally designed, reconstructed, or permanently altered to provide facilities for human habitation. (RCW 46.04.305)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.520), 1979.)

### **11.14.355Motor truck or truck.**

“Motor truck” or “truck” means any motor vehicle designed or used for the transportation of commodities, merchandise, produce, freight or animals. (RCW 46.04.310)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.580), 1979.)

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**11.14.360 Motor vehicle.**

“Motor vehicle” means every vehicle which is self-propelled and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails. (RCW 46.04.320)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.590), 1979.)

**11.14.365 Motor vehicle wrecker.**

“Motor vehicle wrecker” means every person, firm, partnership, association or corporation engaged in the business of buying, selling or dealing in vehicles of a type required to be licensed under the laws of this state, for the purpose of wrecking, dismantling, disassembling or substantially changing the form of any motor vehicle, or who buys or sells integral secondhand parts of component material thereof in whole or in part, and deals in secondhand motor vehicle parts. (RCW 46.80.010)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.595), 1979.)

**11.14.370 Muffler.**

“Muffler” means a device consisting of a series of chambers, or other mechanical designs for the purpose of receiving exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine and effective in reducing noise resulting therefrom. (RCW 46.04.40)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.600), 1979.)

**11.14.375 Multiple lane street.**

“Multiple lane street” means any street the roadway of which is of sufficient width to accommodate reasonably two (2) or more separate lanes of vehicular traffic in the same direction, each lane of which shall be not less than eight (8) feet in width, and whether or not such lanes are marked. (RCW 46.04.350)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.610), 1979.)

**11.14.380 Nonresident.**

“Nonresident” means any person whose residence is outside the state of Washington and who is temporarily sojourning within the state. (RCW 46.04.360)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.620), 1979.)

**11.14.385 No-passing zone.**

“No-passing zone” means the portion of the length of a roadway indicated by a sign and/or:

A. A double centerline consisting of a broken yellow line and a solid yellow line when a vehicle is being driven adjacent to the solid line; or

B. A double centerline consisting of two (2) solid yellow lines.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.630), 1979.)

**11.14.390 Official foreign career consul vehicle.**

“Official foreign career consul vehicle” means a vehicle that bears consular corps license plates with foreign exempt tabs, which are issued by the Department of Licensing.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.640), 1979.)

**11.14.395 Official time standard.**

“Official time standard” means standard time or daylight saving time, whichever is in current use as authorized by law.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.650), 1979.)

**11.14.400 Operator or driver.**

“Operator” or “driver” means every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle. (RCW 46.04.370)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.660), 1979.)

**11.14.403 Other biological or technical device.**

“Other biological or technical device” means any device meeting the standards of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or the Washington State Patrol, designed to prevent the operation of a motor vehicle by a person who is impaired by alcohol or drugs. (RCW 46.04.215)

(Ord. 119189 § 3, 1998.)

**11.14.405 Owner.**

“Owner” means a person who has a lawful right of possession of a vehicle by reason of obtaining it by purchase, exchange, gift, lease, inheritance or legal action whether or not the vehicle is subject to a security interest and means registered owner where the reference to owner may be construed as either to registered or legal owner. (RCW 46.04.380)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.670), 1979.)

11.14.410 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

**11.14.410Parade.**

A parade is any organized movement or march of persons and/or things which requires the closure of streets to prevent a conflict with the regular flow of vehicular traffic, but does not include use of the streets in a single location pursuant to a street use permit issued pursuant to the Street Use Ordinance (90047).<sup>1</sup>  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.675), 1979.)

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1. Editor's Note: The Street Use Ordinance provisions on permits are codified in Chapter 15.04 of this Code.

**11.14.415 Park or parking.**

"Park" or "parking" means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading property or passengers. (RCW 46.04.381)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.680), 1979.)

**11.14.420 Park at an angle or angle park.**

"Park at an angle" or "angle park" means the parking of a vehicle at an angle between five degrees (5°) and ninety degrees (90°) to the curb. "Back-in" angle parking means the parking of a vehicle with the front of the vehicle toward the roadway and "front-in" angle parking means the parking of a vehicle with the rear of the vehicle toward the roadway.  
(Ord. 110967 § 1, 1983; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.690), 1979.)

**11.14.425 Parking meter.**

"Parking meter" means any mechanical device placed or erected adjacent to a parking space, which, after deposit of specified coinage and activation of the timer where required measures the period of time that occupancy of such parking space is allowed.  
(Ord. 110956 § 1, 1982; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.700), 1979.)

**11.14.430 Passenger load zone.**

"Passenger load zone" means a place reserved on the street for the exclusive use of vehicles while receiving or discharging passengers.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.705), 1979.)

**11.14.435 Path.**

"Path" means any constructed trail which has been designed for the use of pedestrians, equestrians or bicyclists.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.707), 1979.)

**11.14.440 Peace officer.**

"Peace officer" means any officer, including police officers, authorized by law to execute criminal process or to make arrests for the violation of the regulations generally or of any particular regulation relative to the highways of the state or to the streets or alleys of the City. (RCW 46.04.391)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.710), 1979.)

**11.14.445 Pedestrian.**

11.14.475 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

“Pedestrian” means any person afoot or in a wheelchair, whether motorized or not. (RCW 46.04.400)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.715), 1979.)

**11.14.450Pedestrian zone.**

“Pedestrian zone” means the area or space officially set apart within a roadway for the exclusive use of pedestrians and which is protected or is marked or indicated by painted marks, signs, buttons, standards, or otherwise, so as to be plainly discernible.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.717), 1979.)

**11.14.455Pedicab.**

“Pedicab” means a non-motor-driven wheeled device designed for carrying passengers, which is for hire, the motive power of which is furnished by a person or persons peddling such device.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.720), 1979.)

**11.14.460Person.**

“Person” means every natural person, firm, copartnership, corporation, association, or organization, whether acting by self or by agent. (RCW 46.04.405)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.725), 1979.)

**11.14.465Physical barrier.**

“Physical barrier” means a continuous raised barrier, raised median island or curb installed in a roadway.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.728), 1979.)

**11.14.470Planted area.**

“Planted area” means that portion of street or alley that is planted or landscaped and maintained in a well-defined manner.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.730), 1979.)

**11.14.475Planting strip.**

“Planting strip” means that portion of street lying between the constructed curb and the property line exclusive of the sidewalk area: Provided, that if there is no constructed curb, then “planting strip” means that portion of the street lying between a constructed sidewalk and the property line: Provided further, that if there is no constructed curb or constructed sidewalk, there is no “planting strip.”  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.735), 1979.)

**11.14.480Pneumatic tires.**

“Pneumatic tires” means every tire of rubber or other resilient material designed to be inflated with compressed air or other gas to support the load thereon. (RCW 46.04.410)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.740), 1979.)

**11.14.485Private carrier bus.**

“Private carrier bus” means every motor vehicle designed for the purpose of carrying passengers (having a seating capacity for eleven (11) or more persons) used regularly to transport persons in furtherance of any organized agricultural, religious or charitable purpose. Such term does not include buses operated by common carriers under a franchise granted by the City or the Washington Public Utilities Commission. (RCW 46.04.416)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.750), 1979.)

**11.14.490Proof of financial responsibility for the future.**

“Proof of financial responsibility for the future” means proof of ability to respond in damages for liability, on account of accidents occurring subsequent to the effective date of said proof, arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of a vehicle of a type subject to registration under the laws of this state, in the amount of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) because of bodily injury to or death of one (1) person in any one (1) accident, and, subject to said limit for one (1) person, in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) because of bodily injury to or death of two (2) or more persons in any one (1) accident, and in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) because of injury to or destruction of property of others in any one (1) accident. Whenever used in this title the terms “proof of financial responsibility” or “proof” shall be synonymous with the term “proof of financial responsibility for the future.” (RCW 46.29.260).  
(Ord. 117155 § 2, 1994.)

**11.14.495Public scale.**

“Public scale” means every scale under public or private ownership which is certified as to its accuracy and which is available for public weighing of motor vehicles. (RCW 46.04.435) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.760), 1979.)

**11.14.500Pushcart.**

“Pushcart” means every nonmotorized device capable of being pushed or drawn by human power upon a street or alley and in, upon, or by which any property is or may be transported upon a street or alley. (RCW 46.04.670) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.765), 1979.)

**11.14.505Railroad.**

“Railroad” means a carrier of persons or property upon vehicles operated upon stationary rails, the route of which is principally outside incorporated cities and towns. (RCW 46.04.440) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.770), 1979.)

**11.14.510Railroad sign or signal.**

“Railroad sign or signal” means any sign, signal or device erected by authority of a public body or official or by a railroad and intended to give notice of the presence of railroad tracks or the approach of a railroad train. (RCW 46.04.450) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.775), 1979.)

**11.14.515Restricted parking zone.**

“Restricted parking zone” means a portion of the street commonly used for vehicular parking, which except as to vehicles displaying a card or decal issued pursuant to RCW 46.16.380 is:

A. Reserved for the exclusive use of vehicles owned or used by residents of the abutting property and/or in the discretion of the Board, residents in the prescribed vicinity and vehicles used by their visitors; and service vehicles of persons having business in the street or with abutting or nearby residents;

B. Reserved for such exclusive use during certain hours; or

C. Subject to time limits that apply to parking of all vehicles except vehicles owned or used by such residents, or their visitors, or service vehicles of persons having business in the street or with the residents.

(Ord. 108354 § 5, 1979; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.782), 1979.)

**11.14.520Revoke.**

11.14.530 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

“Revoke,” in all its forms, means the invalidation for a period of one (1) calendar year and thereafter until reissue. (RCW 46.04.480) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.785), 1979.)

**11.14.525 Right-of-way.**

“Right-of-way” means the right of one (1) vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian or device to proceed in a lawful manner in preference to another vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian or device approaching under such circumstances of direction, speed, and proximity as to give rise to the possibility of collision unless one (1) grants precedence to the other.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.790), 1979.)

**11.14.530 Roadway.**

“Roadway” means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the sidewalk or shoulder even though such sidewalk or shoulder is used by persons riding bicycles. In the event a highway includes two (2) or more separated roadways, the term “roadway” shall refer to any such roadway separately but shall not refer to all such roadways

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collectively. (RCW 46.04.500)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.795), 1979.)

**11.14.532 Roadway construction zone.**

“Roadway construction zone” means an area where construction, repair, or maintenance work is being conducted by public employees or private contractors on or adjacent to any public roadway. (RCW 46.61.527(1))  
(Ord. 11901 § 1, 1998.)

**11.14.535 School bus.**

“School bus” means every motor vehicle used regularly to transport children to and from school or in connection with school activities, which is subject to the requirements set forth in the most recent edition of “Specifications for School Buses” published by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, but does not include buses operated by common carriers in urban transportation of school children.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.800), 1979.)

**11.14.540 School loading zone.**

“School loading zone” means an area or space officially set apart within a roadway for the exclusive act of loading or unloading passengers adjacent to a school and within which vehicles with drivers may stand for reasonable periods of time while waiting for the passengers.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.805), 1979.)

**11.14.545 School patrol.**

“School patrol” means a student appointed from the student body of any public or private school or institution of learning by the superintendent of schools for the Seattle School District or officer or board performing like functions with respect to private schools or institutions of learning, who wears a uniform and other appropriate insignia, and who may display “stop” or other proper traffic directional signs or signals at school crossings or other points where school children are crossing or are about to cross a street or alley.  
(RCW 46.61.385)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.810), 1979.)

**11.14.550 Semitrailer.**

“Semitrailer” means every vehicle without motive power designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle or truck tractor or so constructed that an appreciable part of its weight and that of its load rests upon and is carried by such motor vehicle or truck tractor. (RCW 46.04.530)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.820), 1979.)

**11.14.555 Service parking.**

“Service parking” means the use of parking space while rendering service in cleaning, painting, adjusting, or making minor repairs or replacements in or to buildings or building equipment or to public utilities in the vicinity of the service parking space.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.825), 1979.)

**11.14.560 Service parking meter hood.**

“Service parking meter hood” means a device issued pursuant to this subtitle (Chapter 11.26) for use in conjunction with a service parking permit to cover a parking meter while the parking space is being utilized for service parking.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.830), 1979.)

**11.14.565 Shoulder.**

“Shoulder” means the area between the roadway edge and the sidewalk on the portion of a street where there are no constructed curbs, but shall not include a planted area.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.833), 1979.)

**11.14.570 Sidewalk.**

“Sidewalk” means that area between the curblines or the lateral edge lines of a roadway and the adjacent property, intended for the use of pedestrians or such portion of private property parallel and in proximity to a street or alley and dedicated to use by pedestrians. For the purposes of this subtitle, there is always deemed to be a sidewalk not less than three (3) feet in width, whether actually constructed or not, on each side of each street except where there is less than three (3) feet between the edge of the roadway and a physical obstruction which prohibits reasonable use by pedestrians. The sidewalk is located where constructed, or if not constructed, adjacent to the property line or as close thereto as can reasonably be used by pedestrians; provided, that no sidewalk shall be deemed to exist on private property unless it is actually constructed.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.835), 1979.)

**11.14.575 Sightseeing bus or charter bus.**

A. “Sightseeing bus” means every motor vehicle having a seating capacity of nine (9) or more passengers used for sightseeing purposes over a fixed or defined route of travel and charging a sum certain for each trip.

B. “Charter bus” means every motor vehicle, not continuously operated over a fixed route, that

has a seating capacity of nine (9) passengers or more, as per manufacturer's rating, and is for hire by a person or persons, by charter, for their exclusive use, the consideration for which and the points of origin and destination are determined at the time of chartering.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.838), 1979.)

**11.14.577 Sign.**

“Sign” means any outdoor sign, device, placard, poster, or pavement marking which is officially posted, installed or marked on any City street or alley.

(Ord. 110967 § 2, 1983.)

**11.14.580 Solid tire.**

“Solid tire” means every tire of rubber or other resilient material which does not depend upon inflation with compressed air for the support of the load thereon. (RCW 46.04.550)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.840), 1979.)

**11.14.585 Special mobile equipment.**

“Special mobile equipment” means every vehicle not designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property and only incidentally operated or moved over a street or alley, including but not limited to: ditchdigging apparatus, well-boring apparatus and road construction and maintenance machinery such as asphalt spreaders, bituminous mixers, bucket loaders, tractors other than truck tractors, ditchers, leveling graders, finishing machines, motor graders, road rollers, scarifiers, earth-moving carryalls and scrapers, power shovels and drag lines, and self-propelled cranes and earth-moving equipment. The term does not include house trailers, dump trucks, truck-mounted transit mixers, cranes or shovels or other vehicles designed for the transportation of persons or property to which machinery has been attached. (RCW 46.04.552)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.845), 1979.)

**11.14.590 Stage.**

“Stage” means any motor vehicle used for the purpose of carrying passengers, together with incidental baggage and freight or either, on a regular schedule of time and rates; provided, that no motor vehicle shall be considered to be a stage where substantially the entire route traveled by such vehicle is within the corporate limits of the City. (RCW 46.04.050)

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(Ord. 108200 § 1(11.14.855), 1979.)

**11.14.595Stand or standing.**

“Stand or standing” means the halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of, and while actually engaged in, receiving or discharging passengers. (RCW 46.04.555)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.850), 1979.)

**11.14.597State Commission on Equipment.**

References to the “State Commission on Equipment” or the “Commission on Equipment” shall mean the Washington State Patrol. (Ord. 113906 § 4, 1988.)

**11.14.600Stinger steered.**

“Stinger steered” means a tractor and semi-trailer combination which has the coupling connecting the semitrailer to the tractor located to the rear of the centerline of the rear axle of the tractor. (RCW 46.44.030)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.860), 1979.)

**11.14.605Stop.**

“Stop” when required, means cessation of movement. (RCW 46.04.565)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.865), 1979.)

**11.14.610Stop or stopping.**

“Stop” or “stopping” when prohibited, means any halting even momentarily of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or when in compliance with the direction of a peace officer or traffic-control sign or signal. (RCW 46.04.566)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.870), 1979.)

**11.14.615Street or City street.**

“Street” or “City street” means every highway, or part thereof located within the corporate limits of Seattle, except alleys. (RCW 46.04.120)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.875), 1979.)

**11.14.617Streetcar.**

“Streetcar” means a single car vehicle, other than a train, which is owned and operated by The City of Seattle or the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle for the purpose of transporting persons or property on a fixed route within the City

upon stationary rails at or below street grades. (Ord. 110566 § 1, 1982.)

**11.14.620Suspend.**

“Suspend,” in all its forms, means invalidation for any period less than one (1) calendar year and thereafter until reinstatement. (RCW 46.04.580)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.880), 1979.)

**11.14.625Switching.**

“Switching” means the starting and stopping, coupling and uncoupling and/or moving back and forth of engines, trains, or parts of trains on, or across any street or alley. (Tacoma 9.14.040)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.883), 1979.)

**11.14.630Taxicab.**

“Taxicab” means and includes every motor vehicle having a seating capacity of nine (9) passengers or less, as per manufacturer’s rating, used for the transportation of passengers for hire, and not operated exclusively over a fixed and defined route.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.885), 1979.)

**11.14.635Taxicab stand.**

“Taxicab stand” means that portion of a street or alley set aside and properly marked as a place where taxicabs may lawfully park or angle-park while awaiting employment.  
(Ord. 108200 § 1(11.14.890), 1979.)

**11.14.640Tow-away zone.**

“Tow-away zone” means a portion of a street or alley that is signed or marked as a “tow-away zone.”  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.900), 1979.)

**11.14.645Traffic.**

“Traffic” includes pedestrians, bicycles, ridden or herded animals, vehicles, and other conveyances, either singly or together while using any street, alley, or public path, for purposes of travel. (RCW 46.04.590)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.910), 1979.)

**11.14.650Traffic-control devices.**

“Traffic-control devices” means all signs, signals, markings, curb markings, cross-hatchings, buttons and other devices officially placed or erected for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding traffic. (RCW 46.04.611)

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(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.920), 1979.)

**11.14.655Traffic-control signal.**

“Traffic-control signal” means any traffic device, whether manually, electrically or mechanically operated, by which traffic alternately is directed to stop or proceed, or otherwise controlled. (RCW 46.04.600)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.915), 1979.)

other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and load so drawn. (RCW 46.04.650)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.955), 1979.)

**11.14.660Trailer.**

“Trailer” means any vehicle without motive power designed to be drawn by or used in conjunction with a motor vehicle constructed so that no appreciable part of its weight rests upon or is carried by such motor vehicle. (RCW 46.04.620)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.925), 1979.)

**11.14.665Train.**

“Train” means a vehicle, other than a streetcar, propelled by steam, electricity, or other motive power with or without cars coupled thereto, operated upon stationary rails.  
(Ord. 110566 § 2, 1982; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.930), 1979.)

**11.14.670Transit coach.**

“Transit coach” includes every vehicle designed for carrying more than ten (10) persons and used for the transportation of persons by King County's Metro Transit, Snohomish County's Community Transit, Pierce County's Pierce Transit and the Regional Transit Authority.  
(Ord. 119011 § 2, 1998; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.935), 1979.)

**11.14.675Truck.**

See “Motor truck or truck.”  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.945), 1979.)

**11.14.680Truck load zone.**

“Truck load zone” means a designated portion of the street or alley reserved for the exclusive use of truck-licensed commercial vehicles during the unloading and delivery or pickup and loading of property.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.950), 1979.)

**11.14.685Truck tractor.**

“Truck tractor” means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry a load



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**11.14.690Two (2) way left-turn lane.**

“Two (2) way left-turn lane” means a lane near the center of the roadway set aside for use by vehicles making left turns in both directions from or into the roadway. (RCW 46.61.290(3)

(a)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.960), 1979.)

**11.14.695Uncontrolled intersection.**

“Uncontrolled intersection,” means an intersection where the right-of-way is not controlled by a stop sign, yield sign, or traffic signal.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.965), 1979.)

**11.14.700Unicycle.**

“Unicycle” means and includes a single-wheeled device which has a saddle or seat or seats, and is propelled by human power, via pedals.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.970), 1979.)

**11.14.703Passenger car.**

“Passenger car” means every motor vehicle except motorcycles and motor-driven cycles, designed for carrying ten (10) passengers or less.

(Ord. 114251 § 6(part), 1988.)

**11.14.705U turn.**

“U turn” means turning a vehicle within the roadway to permit travel in the opposite direction on the same street. (RCW 46.61.295)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.975), 1979.)

**11.14.710Vehicle.**

“Vehicle” means every device capable of being moved upon a street or alley and in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a street or alley excepting devices moved exclusively by human or animal power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks. (RCW 46.04.670)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.980), 1979.)

**11.14.715Way open to the public.**

“Way open to the public” means any road, alley, lane, parking area, path, or any place, private or otherwise, adapted to and fitted for travel, that is in common use by the public with the consent, expressed or implied, of the owner or owners, and further shall mean public playgrounds, schoolgrounds, recreation grounds,

park, parkways, park drives, park paths and wharves, station grounds, and rights-of-way open to the use of the public.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.14.985), 1979.)

Cases: A privately owned paved parking lot on a major intersection with easy access to both adjoining streets came within the definition of a “way open to the public.” *City of Seattle v. Tolliver*, 31 Wn.App. 299, 641 P.2d 719 (1982).

**Chapter 11.16  
TRAFFIC ADMINISTRATION**

**Sections:**

**11.16.020Police Department authority.**

**11.16.040Police authorization.**

**11.16.060Fire Department authorization.**

**11.16.080Collision investigation.**

**11.16.100Peace officers present at collision to report.**

**11.16.120Director of Transportation—Authority.**

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**11.16.125Director of Transportation—Authority—Street and alley closures.**

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**11.16.317** Establishing, expanding and reducing restricted parking zones.

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**11.16.320** Traffic Engineer—Authority—Regulations.

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**11.16.440** School patrol authorized.

**11.16.460** School patrol and adult school crossing supervisors—Authority.

**11.16.480** City Finance Director to collect parking meter revenue.

**11.16.020** Police Department authority.

It is the function of the Police Department to enforce this subtitle and all of the State Motor Vehicle Laws applicable to traffic and trains in this City, to make arrests and/or issue citations for traffic offenses, to cooperate with the Director of Transportation and other officers of the City in the administration of the traffic laws and in developing ways and means to improve traffic conditions, and to carry out those functions specially imposed upon the Police Department by this subtitle and other traffic ordinances of this City. (Ord. 118409 § 10, 1996; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.020), 1979.)

**11.16.040** Police authorization.

Officers of the Police Department and such officers as are assigned by the Chief of Police are authorized to direct all traffic by voice, hand or signal in conformance with the provisions of this subtitle: Provided, that in the event of a fire or other emergency or to expedite traffic or to safeguard pedestrians, officers of the Police Department may direct traffic as conditions may require, notwithstanding the provisions of this subtitle.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.040), 1979.)

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### 11.16.060 Fire Department authorization.

Officers of the Fire Department, when at the scene of a fire, may direct or assist the police in directing traffic thereat or in the immediate vicinity as conditions may require notwithstanding the provisions of this subtitle.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.060), 1979.)

### 11.16.080 Collision investigation.

It shall be the function of the Police Department, assisted by other agencies, to investigate traffic collisions, to arrest and/or issue citations, and to assist in the prosecution of those persons charged with violations of law causing or contributing to such collisions.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.080), 1979.)

### 11.16.100 Peace officers present at collision to report.

Any peace officer of the City present at the scene of any collision or in possession of any facts concerning any collision, whether by way of official investigation or otherwise, shall make report thereof in the same manner as required of the parties to such collision and as fully as the facts in his possession concerning such collision will permit.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.100), 1979.)

### 11.16.120 Director of Transportation—Authority.

The Director of Transportation is authorized:

A. To increase the maximum speed allowed upon arterial streets;

B. To declare a minimum speed limit which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected when it is determined that slow speeds on any part of an arterial street unreasonably impede the normal movement of traffic;

C. To make recommendations to the City Council for parking meter rates within parking meter zones and for fees for permits issued pursuant to this subtitle;

D. To determine the maximum load limits on all streets, alleys, bridges or elevated structures in the City;

E. To adopt a Traffic Control Manual for In-street Work;

F. To establish, revise or abolish restricted parking zones. A decision to establish, or to refuse to establish, a restricted parking zone is subject to

review or reconsideration pursuant to SMC Section 11.16.317 B;

G. To promulgate rules and regulations for the use of restricted parking zones, and the issuance or revocation of permits in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Code (SMC Chapter 3.02).

(Ord. 118409 § 11, 1996: Ord. 118369 § 1, 1996: Ord. 115995 § 1, 1991: Ord. 113240 § 2, 1986: Ord. 108354 § 3, 1979: Ord. 108200 § 2 (11.16.120), 1979.)

### 11.16.122 Authority to close certain areas under bridges, viaducts, and overpasses.

A. The Director of Transportation is authorized, in accordance with the Administrative Code (Chapter 3.02), to close off from entry or use by the public any public place under the structure of a bridge, viaduct or overpass, other than a roadway as defined in Section 11.14.530 or a paved pedestrian walkway, whenever and for as long as the Director deems closure of the area to be necessary in order to preserve the public peace, accommodate construction or maintenance work, prevent injury to the public, or respond to any identified danger to the public health or safety.

B. Upon ordering its closure, the Director shall cause the area to be enclosed with fencing, or posted with “no admittance” or “no trespassing” signs, or both enclosed and posted.

(Ord. 118409 § 12, 1996: Ord. 116538 § 1(part), 1993.)

### 11.16.125 Director of Transportation—Authority—Street and alley closures.

The Director of Transportation is authorized:

A. To close, or authorize closure, of any street or alley or portion thereof to any or all traffic pursuant to the provisions of this subtitle;

B. To close or authorize closure of any alley for entry or travel by the general public in order to make repairs or maintenance of the street; to accommodate construction on abutting properties or of utilities in the alley or a special use of an abutter under permit; to protect the public from a health or sanitation hazard, a hazard or obstruction in the alley or an unsafe structure on abutting property; or based on a recommendation of the Chief of Police that such a closure is necessary in order to prevent criminal activity occurring in or

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emanating from the alley. Unless otherwise ordered, the alley shall remain open to access by the following persons: owners and occupants of the abutting properties and their guests; agents of utilities with facilities in the alley or serving the abutting properties; government employees and emergency personnel in the performance of their duties; and permittees under a street use permit issued pursuant to Title 15. Upon ordering the closure, the Director shall cause the area to be posted with signs or barricades stating the hours of closure;

C. To designate any streets for one (1) way traffic and the required direction of such traffic. (Ord. 118409 § 13, 1996; Ord. 118369 § 2, 1996; Ord. 116871 § 1, 1993; Ord. 115995 § 2, 1991.)

**11.16.170 Traffic Engineer—Appointment.**

The Director of Transportation, or a designee, shall appoint a City Traffic Engineer who shall be a registered professional engineer, and who shall be directly responsible to and supervised by the Director of Transportation or the Director's designee. (Ord. 118409 § 14, 1996; Ord. 118003 § 2, 1996.)

**11.16.180 Traffic Engineer—Authority—Studies.**

It shall be the function of the Traffic Engineer under the supervision of the Director of Transportation to:

- A. Conduct studies of traffic and transportation impacts including but not limited to noise pollution, air pollution, and community disruption;
- B. Conduct studies of traffic, traffic collisions, congestion and other conditions affecting the safe and convenient use of the street and alleys;
- C. Collect facts regarding the effect and operation of regulations controlling street or alley traffic;
- D. Study means for the facilitation of traffic along existing routes;
- E. Make traffic surveys;
- F. Prepare traffic-flow maps;
- G. Conduct studies of the utilization of street or alley curb space;
- H. Conduct such other similar studies relating to traffic and transportation as may be requested by the Director of Transportation.

(Ord. 118409 § 15, 1996; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.180), 1979.)

**11.16.200 Traffic Engineer—Authority—Records.**

For current SMC, contact the Office of the City Clerk

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It is the function of the Traffic Engineer under the supervision of the Director of Transportation to keep records of:

- A. Traffic collisions;
- B. Traffic volume;
- C. Traffic-control devices;
- D. Street curb space utilization.

(Ord. 118409 § 16, 1996; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.200), 1979.)

**11.16.220Traffic Engineer—Authority—Annual report.**

The Traffic Engineer shall prepare an annual traffic and transportation report containing information on traffic conditions with particular reference to number of traffic collisions, number of persons killed and injured, other traffic collision data and traffic trends throughout the City. This report shall be submitted to the Director of Transportation who shall file copies with the Mayor, the City Council, and the Chief of Police. (Ord. 118409 § 17, 1996; Ord. 115995 § 3, 1991; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.220), 1979.)

**11.16.240Traffic Engineer—Authority—Review and recommend.**

It shall be the function of the Traffic Engineer under the supervision of the Director of Transportation to:

- A. Review and make recommendations on all applications for street vacations, rezones, variances, conditional use permits and plats with respect to the effect on traffic and transportation;
- B. Review and make recommendations on all designs, drawings and plans prepared by any department or agency of the City for the construction, major modification or location of any public building, park, or recreational area, or other structure which may affect the movement of traffic;
- C. Recommend and review plans for traffic and transportation improvements;
- D. Prepare and approve traffic-control layout and detour plans;
- E. Review and make recommendations regarding Metropolitan King County Transit routes in the City;
- F. Review and make recommendations concerning pedicab and horse carriage routes;

G. Review and make recommendations concerning all applications for all building permits except in single-family SF and multi-family, Lowrise 1 (L1) zones regarding facilitation of traffic with respect to new or existing driveways;

H. Review and make recommendations concerning all applications for commercial driveways regarding facilitation of traffic with respect to the size, number and location of such commercial driveways.

(Ord. 118409 § 18, 1996; Ord. 112421 § 1, 1985; Ord. 108200 § 2 (11.16.240), 1979.)

**11.16.280Traffic Engineer—Authority—Special zones.**

Consistent with Section 11.23.420, the Traffic Engineer is authorized under the supervision of the Director of Transportation to:

- A. Determine the location of and establish stage zones and bus zones;
- B. Determine the location of and establish truck load and commercial load zones where practicable, when upon investigation it appears that there are no alley entrances or other similar means of approach to buildings or property and that congested traffic conditions require such zones for the purpose of loading or unloading, and in each case to fix the hours during which such zones shall be maintained open for the purpose for which the same are intended;
- C. Determine the location of and establish passenger load zones and in each case to fix the hours during which such zones shall be maintained open for the purpose for which the same are intended;
- D. Determine the location of and establish taxicab, pedicab and other for-hire car stands;
- E. Determine the location of and establish pedestrian zones;
- F. Determine the location of and establish other special zones for the purpose and in accordance with the criteria specified in this section;
- G. Make surveys and recommendations with respect to the Stadium Event Restricted Parking Zone, process applications for parking in the zone, issue decals or other authorizations for such parking, and delegate to the University of Washington or deputize its staff to receive applications and deliver such permits.

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(Ord. 118409 § 19, 1996; Ord. 114251 § 2, 1988; Ord. 112988 § 3, 1986; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.280), 1979.)

(Ord. 118409 § 20, 1996; Ord. 115995 § 4, 1991; Ord. 108354 § 5, 1979; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.300), 1979.)

**11.16.300Traffic**

**Engineer—Authority—Parking.**

The Traffic Engineer is authorized under the supervision of the Director of Transportation to:

A. Determine upon what streets or alleys or portions thereof vehicles shall be angle parked, as distinguished from parallel parked, and shall indicate the same by marks or signs placed in such streets or alleys, or portions thereof;

B. Determine the location of and establish time-limit regulations for parking;

C. Determine upon what streets or alleys or portions thereof stopping, standing or parking of vehicles shall be prohibited at certain times, or entirely;

D. Establish parking metered areas and the time limit for parking therein; order installation or removal of parking meters where it is determined upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that the installation or removal of parking meters shall be necessary to aid in the regulation, control, and inspection of the parking of vehicles; and designate the parking space adjacent to each parking meter for which such meter is to be used by appropriate markings upon the pavement and/or the curb. Each parking meter shall be so designed, constructed, installed and set, that upon the expiration of the time period registered by the deposit of one or more coins of United States currency, it will indicate by a mechanical or electronic operation and the display of an appropriate signal that the lawful parking period has expired, and during said period of time and prior to the expiration thereof, will indicate the interval of time which remains of such period. Each parking meter shall bear thereon a legend indicating the days and hours when the requirement to deposit coins therein shall apply, the value of the coins to be deposited, and the limited period of time for which parking is lawfully permitted in the parking space adjacent to which the meter is located;

E. Make surveys and recommendations with respect to restricted parking zones, process applications for parking in restricted parking zones, and implement rules and regulations for the use of restricted parking zones and the issuance, use, and revocation of permits.

**11.16.310Traffic Engineer—Carpool parking.**

A. The Traffic Engineer shall perform or cause to be performed an impact analysis, including where appropriate, origin/destination and turnover studies, of the preferential use of on-street parking spaces by certified carpool vehicles, and pursuant to such analysis, the Traffic Engineer, under the supervision of the Director of Transportation, shall designate and establish on-street parking spaces for such use under a flexible system for such designation and establishment to allow for changing uses of adjacent land and for changing parking demands.

B. The use and effects of such preferential parking shall be monitored and evaluated by the Traffic Engineer and periodic reports shall be provided to the City Council.

C. The Director of Transportation shall implement and collect carpool parking fees established from time to time by ordinance.

(Ord. 118409 § 21, 1996; Ord. 118278 §§ 2, 3, 1996; Ord. 115995 § 5, 1991; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.310), 1979.)

**11.16.315Authority for, administration of, restricted parking zones.**

A. The Director of Transportation may establish a restricted parking zone, consistent with Section 11.16.317 and according to the Policies and Procedures Concerning the Implementation of Residential Parking Zones. A restricted parking zone may have one (1) or more of the following provisions:

1. Parking in the street is reserved for the exclusive use by the owners of abutting properties and/or residents in a prescribed vicinity; vehicles used by their visitors; and service vehicles of persons having business in the street or with the residents; and/or

2. Parking in the street is reserved during certain posted hours for such exclusive use and available at all other times without restriction; and/or

3. Time limits are established for parking in the street which apply to all vehicles except vehicles owned by or used by such residents, their visitors or service vehicles of persons having business in the street or with the residents;



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provided, that each restricted parking zone shall be subject to review by the Director of the Transportation after its first six (6) months of operation.

B. In any restricted parking zone, the Director of Transportation may issue permits or other means of identification, maintain lists of vehicles owned or used by residents, or adopt any other reasonable means of distinguishing, from other vehicles, vehicles that may validly be parked in any restricted parking zone. The establishment of restricted parking zones shall not limit parking of vehicles displaying a card or decal issued pursuant to RCW 46.16.381 (Disabled Person's Parking Card). Restricted parking zones shall be appropriately signed and/or marked. (Ord. 118409 § 22, 1996: Ord. 117235 § 1, 1994: Ord. 115995 § 6, 1991: Ord. 111644 § 1, 1984: Ord. 108354 § 1, 1979: Ord. 108200 § 2 (11.16.315), 1979.)

**11.16.317 Establishing, expanding and reducing restricted parking zones.**

A. The Director of Transportation may establish a restricted parking zone whenever seventy-five percent (75%) or more of the capacity of the streets available for parking in such designated area is generally occupied during regular business hours or any consecutive eight (8) hour period during evenings or during any consecutive eight (8) hour period on both Saturdays and Sundays; at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the vehicles parked on the street in the area during such hours are not owned by residents of the designated area; a petition signed by, or a survey indicating that, a majority of the residents in the designated area approves the restricted parking zone; and the public interest would be served. In cases where the criteria listed above are not all met, the Director of Transportation is authorized to establish a restricted parking zone when, in his or her judgment, the parking problem will be ameliorated by a restricted parking zone and the public interest would be served.

B. The Director of Transportation's decision to establish or not to establish a restricted parking zone may be subject to review or reconsideration within fifteen (15) days of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce and/or local newspaper. Requests for review or reconsideration may be initiated by residents, business owners, or employees in the proposed RPZ. On review or

reconsideration, the Director, or his or her designee, shall conduct a public hearing before the Director makes a final decision. Grounds for review or reconsideration may include the validity of the study; the stringency of the parking restrictions; the boundaries of the restricted parking zone; and violations of Policies and Procedures Concerning the Implementation of Residential Parking Zones.

C. The Director may modify boundaries or hours of an existing RPZ consistent with Policies and Procedures Concerning the Implementation of Residential Parking Zones.

D. A restriction of parking shall first take effect on a street segment when it is signed or posted, and shall cease when the signs or posting are removed pursuant to lawful order; provided, that vandalism or destruction of parking control signs shall not affect the validity of a restriction upon parking on any street segment designated by the Director of Transportation if other signs or traffic control devices give notice that parking in the street segment is restricted.

(Ord. 118409 § 23, 1996: Ord. 118369 § 3, 1996: Ord. 117235 § 2, 1994: Ord. 117108 § 1, 1994: Ord. 115995 § 7, 1991: Ord. 113240 § 1, 1986: Ord. 108354 § 2, 1979: Ord. 108200 § 2 (11.16.317), 1979.)

**11.16.319 Fees for resident identification permits.**

Seattle Transportation shall collect from the recipient a fee of Twenty-seven Dollars (\$27.00) for each regular resident identification permit sticker issued for a two (2) year period, or for each identification of preferential parking privilege using other means except for fees stated below:

Type of Permit	Fee
Temporary permit	\$10.00
Guest permit as only permit	\$27.00
Lost guest permit	\$10.00 — \$20.00
Elderly/low-income permanent permit	\$10.00

(Ord. 118409 § 24, 1996: Ord. 114251 § 3, 1988: Ord. 111644 § 2, 1984.)

(Seattle 9-98)

**11.16.320Traffic Engineer—Authority—Regulations.**

The Traffic Engineer is authorized under the supervision of the Director of Transportation to:

A. Formulate traffic rules and regulations and laws, and make recommendations regarding the same;

B. Supervise the movement of all heavy and wide equipment on the streets and alleys of the City;

C. Designate and have charge of the routing and passenger stops of all stages entering, passing through or operating over the streets or alleys of the City;

D. Determine locations at which all vehicles, a class of vehicles, or vehicles with less than a specified number of occupants, shall either make or not make turns or other movements, or shall not use certain lanes of streets or alleys (RCW 47.52.025, 1974);

E. Develop and publish a Traffic Control Manual for In-street Work which sets forth the guidelines for the methods and devices to be used for safeguarding and controlling traffic at and near work in streets or alleys;

F. Designate alleys and short sections of streets for one (1) way traffic;

G. Determine and designate streets, parts of streets, or specific lanes thereon upon which vehicular traffic, regardless of the centerline of the roadway, shall proceed in one (1) direction during a given period and in the opposite direction during another period of the day and shall place and maintain appropriate markings, signs, or other devices to give notice thereof;

H. Decrease the maximum speed allowed upon any street from those established by this subtitle or other ordinances by the City Council, where, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation it is determined by the Director of Transportation that such maximum speed is greater than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist on any street; provided, that in no case shall speed limits be less than twenty (20) miles per hour (RCW 41.61.405).

(Ord. 118409 § 25, 1996; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.320), 1979.)

**11.16.340Traffic Engineer—Authority—Traffic-control devices.**

The Traffic Engineer is authorized under the supervision of the Director of Transportation to:

A. Design and prepare the specifications for the operation of all traffic-control devices including, but not limited to those traffic-control devices specifically mentioned in this subtitle;

B. Determine and designate the points of stop, and shall order the placement of a stop sign on each and every street intersecting the arterial street system unless traffic at any such intersection is controlled at all times by traffic signals, or unless the intersecting street is a one (1) way street designated for travel away from the arterial street; provided, that when the findings of a traffic engineering study show that the condition of an intersection is such that vehicles may safely enter the arterial street without stopping, the Traffic Engineer may order the placement of a "yield" sign;

C. Determine intersections which require control by "stop" or "yield" signs and order placement of same;

D. Determine and order the marking of crosswalks at intersections or at such other places where the Traffic Engineer deems it appropriate for the identification of the crossing location;

E. Determine and order the closure of certain crosswalks to pedestrians;

F. Determine and order the marking of traffic lanes upon the roadway of any street or alley;

G. Determine and order the designation of a two (2) way left-turn lane on a roadway (RCW 46.61.290(3)(a));

H. Determine and order the placement of curbs, buttons, paint lines or other devices to form islands or barriers upon the roadway to channel and control traffic;

I. Order the placement of signs at all arterial street entrances to the City indicating that the speed limit on arterial streets is thirty (30) miles per hour and the placement of signs along all arterial streets upon which the maximum speed limit has been increased above thirty (30) miles per hour (RCW 46.61.415(3));

J. Determine and order the designation of no-passing zones;

K. Determine and order the placement of traffic-control devices indicating the course to be traveled by turning vehicles, which course to be traveled may conform to or be other than as prescribed by this subtitle (RCW 46.61.290(4));

**Seattle Municipal Code  
April, 2001 code update file  
Text provided for historic reference only.**

**See ordinances creating and amending  
sections for complete text, graphics,  
and tables and to confirm accuracy of  
this source file.**

**For current SMC, contact  
the Office of the City Clerk**

L. Test new or proposed traffic-control devices under actual conditions of traffic (SB 3211, Section 47(23));

M. Order the placement at the ends of designated streets, alleys, bridges or elevated structures, signs setting forth specified maximum load limits allowed on such streets, alleys, bridges or elevated structures or notice of closure as conditions warrant as determined;

N. Determine and order the placement of official traffic-control devices when and as required under this subtitle to make effective the provisions of this subtitle, and order the placement of such additional official traffic-control devices as may be deemed appropriate to regulate, warn, or guide traffic under this subtitle (SB 3211, Section 47(1));

O. Determine the placement of official traffic-control devices as may be deemed appropriate to regulate, warn, or guide traffic for construction, detours, emergencies, and special conditions (SB 3211, Section 47(2)); and

P. Determine the streets where the use of compression brakes shall be prohibited, devise signs prohibiting their use, and place the signs at the appropriate locations. To be eligible for designation, a street shall have a grade five (5) percent or less for a distance of one thousand (1,000) feet.

(Ord. 119510 § 1, 1999; Ord. 118409 § 26, 1996; Ord. 116500 § 1, 1992; Ord. 115995 § 8, 1991; Ord. 112421 § 2, 1985; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.340), 1979.)

#### **11.16.360Traffic**

##### **Engineer—Authority—General.**

It shall be the function of the Traffic Engineer, under the supervision of the Director of Transportation to:

A. Issue permits in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle;

B. Determine and make recommendations concerning arterial street and business district street lighting needs and in connection therewith determine design criteria necessary for traffic safety;

C. Perform such other duties as may be appropriate for facilitating traffic and transportation. (Ord. 118409 § 27, 1996; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.360), 1979.)

#### **11.16.380Official foreign career consul vehicle—Mayor's duties.**

The Mayor shall:

A. Certify each foreign career consul vehicle, on the written request of the presiding officer of the City Consular Corps, as being eligible to park in a space located and marked by the Director of Transportation in accordance with Section 11.16.420;

B. Forward to the Director of Transportation a written notice of certification of each foreign career consul vehicle;

C. Order a hearing for any foreign career consul charged with abusing parking privileges provided by Section 11.16.400. If the charges are sustained, the Mayor may revoke the certification. (Ord. 118409 § 28, 1996; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.380), 1979.)

#### **11.16.400Official foreign career consul vehicle—Parking space allocation.**

The Director of Transportation shall allocate one (1) free parking space for each official foreign career consul vehicle, as conveniently near as possible to each foreign career consul's work place, the parking space to be located so as not to interfere with existing street traffic patterns, and the Director of Transportation shall so mark each such space so that it is readily apparent that it is unlawful to park any vehicle in the space other than the designated official foreign career consul vehicle.

(Ord. 118409 § 29, 1996; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.400), 1979.)

#### **11.16.420Official foreign career consul vehicle—Director of Transportation's functions.**

The Director of Transportation further shall:

A. Locate and appropriately mark, within two (2) weeks after receiving the Mayor's certification, the parking space mentioned in Sections 11.16.380 and 11.16.400 for the official foreign career consul vehicle;

B. Inform the Seattle Police Department, the Violations Bureau and the City Finance Director, in writing, of the parking space location and consular corps' license plate number of the certified vehicle and of any change of such location or license plate number;

C. Maintain each such parking space in accordance with the standards provided for in this subtitle; and



11.16.420 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

D. Furnish to the Mayor, in writing, any information concerning the abuse of any of the privileges provided by Section 11.16.400. (Ord. 118409 § 30, 1996; Ord. 116368 § 211, 1992; Ord. 109475 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.420), 1979.)

**11.16.440 School patrol authorized.**

The executive heads of universities, colleges, and public and private schools within the City, in conformity with RCW 46.61.385, may cause to be appointed or hired:

A. From the student bodies of their respective schools, students, who shall be known as members of the "school patrol"; and

B. Adults to serve as school crossing supervisors. (RCW 46.61.385) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.440), 1979.)

**11.16.460 School patrol and adult school crossing supervisors— Authority.**

The members of such school patrol and the adult crossing supervisors are authorized to display "Stop" or other proper traffic-control signs or signals at school crossings or other points where school children are crossing or about to cross a street, but such member of the school patrol and such adult school crossing supervisors shall be subordinate to and obey the orders of any peace officer present and having jurisdiction. (RCW 46.61.385) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.16.460), 1979.)

**11.16.480 City Finance Director to collect parking meter revenue.**

The coins required to be deposited in parking meters as provided in this subtitle (Chapter 11.76) are levied and assessed as fees to cover the costs of installations, inspection, supervision, regulation and maintenance involved in the control of traffic and parking upon the streets and the duly authorized agents of the City Finance Director shall, from time to time, collect, and deposit the same in the General Fund. (Ord. 116368 § 212, 1992; Ord. 108200 § 1(11.16.480), 1979.)

**Chapter 11.18  
ARTERIAL STREETS DESIGNATED**

**Sections:**

(Seattle 9-99)

**11.18.010 Arterial street map.**

**11.18.010 Arterial street map.**

The streets which are identified as arterial streets in Exhibit 11.18.010 A<sup>1</sup> are designated as arterial streets for application of this subtitle. (Ord. 118401 §§ 1, 2, 1996; Ord. 117923 § 1, 1995; Ord. 111963 § 1, 1984; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.18.010), 1979.)

<sup>1</sup>Editor's Note: Exhibit 11.18.010 A of Ord. 118401 is on file with the ordinance in the City Clerk's Office.

**Part 2  
LICENSES, PERMITS AND  
COLLISION REPORTS**

**Chapter 11.20  
DRIVER LICENSES**

**Sections:**

- 11.20.010 Driver's license required—Exception—Penalty.**
- 11.20.020 License to be in immediate possession and displayed on demand.**
- 11.20.040 Special endorsement for motorcycle operator's license—Moped exception.**
- 11.20.100 Display of nonvalid driver's license.**
- 11.20.120 Loaning driver's license.**
- 11.20.140 Displaying the driver's license of another.**
- 11.20.160 Unlawful use of driver's license.**
- 11.20.180 Unlawful to allow unauthorized minor child or ward to drive.**
- 11.20.200 Unlawful to allow unauthorized person to drive.**
- 11.20.220 Unlawful renting of vehicle to unlicensed person—Rental record.**

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**11.20.230 Ignition interlock or other biological or technical device required.**

(Ord. 109476 § 3(part), 1980: Ord. 108200 § 1 (11.20.010), 1979.)

**11.20.320 Stopping of vehicle registered to person whose driver's license has been suspended or revoked authorized—Display of license.**

Cases: An earlier ordinance requiring driver to have operator's license in his immediate possession was not pre-empted by state law. *Seattle v. Long*, 61 Wn.2d 737, 380 P.2d 472 (1963).

**11.20.340 Financial responsibility required.**

**11.20.040 Special endorsement for motorcycle operator's license—Moped exception.**

**11.20.345 Post citation proof of financial responsibility.**

No person shall drive a motorcycle, as defined in RCW 46.04.330, or a motor-driven cycle, as defined in RCW 46.04.332 as now or hereafter amended, unless such person has a valid driver's license specially endorsed by the Director of Licensing to enable the holder to drive such vehicles; provided, that any person sixteen (16) years of age or older, holding a valid driver's license of any class issued by the state of the person's residence, may operate a moped without taking any special examination for the operation of a moped. (RCW 46.20.500) (Ord. 109698 § 1(part), 1981.)

**11.20.347 Scope of financial responsibility sections.**

**11.20.350 Proof of financial responsibility—Penalty for falsification.**

**11.20.010 Driver's license required—Exception—Penalty.**

A. No person, except those expressly exempted by RCW Chapter 46.20, shall operate a motor vehicle within the City unless such person has a valid driver's license issued under the provisions of RCW Chapter 46.20.

B. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor and is a lesser included offense within the offense described in Section 11.56.320 or Section 11.56.340. However, if a person in violation of this section provides the citing officer with an expired driver's license or other valid identifying documentation under RCW 46.20.035 at the time of the stop and is not in violation of Section 11.56.320 or Section 11.56.340, the violation of this section is an infraction and is subject to a penalty of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250). If the person appears in person before the court or submits by mail written proof that he or she obtained a valid license after being cited, the court shall reduce the penalty to Fifty Dollars (\$50). (RCW 46.20.021) (Ord. 118105 § 1, 1996: Ord. 116872 § 2, 1993: Ord. 109476 § 3(part), 1980: Ord. 108200 § 1(11.20.010), 1979.)

**11.20.020 License to be in immediate possession and displayed on demand.**

Every licensee shall have his driver's license in his immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle and shall display the same upon demand to any police officer or to any other person when and if required by law to do so. (RCW 46.20.190)

**11.20.100 Display of nonvalid driver's license.**

No person shall display or cause or permit to be displayed or have in his possession any cancelled, revoked, suspended, fictitious or fraudulently altered driver's license. (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.20.100), 1979.)

**11.20.120 Loaning driver's license.**

No person shall lend his driver's license to any other person or knowingly permit the use thereof by another. (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.20.120), 1979.)

**11.20.140 Displaying the driver's license of another.**

No person shall display or represent as one's own any driver's license not issued to him. (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.20.140), 1979.)

**11.20.160 Unlawful use of driver's license.**

No person shall permit any unlawful use of a driver's license issued to him. (RCW 46.20.-336(6)) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.20.160), 1979.)

**11.20.180 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC**

**11.20.180 Unlawful to allow unauthorized minor child or ward to drive.**

No person shall cause or knowingly permit his child or ward under the age of eighteen (18) years to drive a motor vehicle upon any street, alley, or way open to the public when such operation is in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter. (RCW 46.20.343) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.20.180), 1979.)

**11.20.200 Unlawful to allow unauthorized person to drive.**

No person shall authorize or knowingly permit a motor vehicle owned by him or under his control to be unlawfully driven upon any street, alley, or way open to the public. (RCW 46.20.344) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.20.200), 1979.)

**11.20.220 Unlawful renting of vehicle to unlicensed person—Rental record.**

A. No person shall rent a motor vehicle of any kind to any person unless such person is then duly licensed in this state as a vehicle operator for the kind of motor vehicle being rented; or, in case of a nonresident, only if such nonresident is duly licensed as an operator under the laws of the state or country of his or her residence.

B. No person shall rent a motor vehicle to another person until he or she has inspected the driver's license of such other person and compared and verified the signature thereon with the signature of such other person written in his presence.

C. Every person renting a motor vehicle to another person shall keep a record of the vehicle license number of the motor vehicle so rented, the name and address of the person to whom the motor vehicle is rented, the number of the driver's license of the person renting the vehicle, and the date and place when and where such vehicle driver's license was issued. Such record shall be open to inspection by any peace officer or anyone acting for the Director of Licensing with the consent of the owner, or pursuant to warrant, and during reasonable hours. (RCW 46.20.220) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.20.220), 1979.)

**11.20.230 Ignition interlock or other biological or technical device required.**

A. The court may order that after a period of suspension, revocation, or denial of driving privileges, and for up to as long as the court has jurisdiction, any person convicted of any offense involving the use, consumption, or possession of alcohol while operating a motor vehicle may drive only a motor vehicle equipped with a functioning ignition interlock or other biological or technical device.

B. If a person is convicted of a violation of Section 11.56.020 A or B, the court shall order that after a period of suspension, revocation, or denial of driving privileges, the person may drive only a motor vehicle equipped with a functioning ignition interlock or other biological or technical device.

C. The court shall establish a specific calibration setting at which the ignition interlock or other biological or technical device will prevent the motor vehicle from being started and the period of time that the person shall be subject to the restriction.

D. In the case of a person subject to the restriction under subsection B of this section, the duration of the restriction shall be as follows:

1. For a person subject to subsection N1b, N2 or N3 of Section 11.56.020 who has not previously been restricted under this section, RCW 46.20.720 or equivalent local ordinance, a period of not less than one (1) year;

2. For a person who has previously been restricted under subsection D1 of this section, RCW 46.20.720(3)(a), or equivalent local ordinance, a period of not less than five (5) years;

3. For a person who has previously been restricted under subsection D2 of this section, RCW 46.20.720(3)(b), or equivalent local ordinance, a period of not less than ten (10) years.

E. For purposes of this section, "convicted" means being found guilty of an offense or being placed on a deferred prosecution program under RCW Chapter 10.05. (RCW 46.20.720) (Ord. 119189 § 4, 1998.)

(Seattle 3-99)

**11.20.320 Stopping of vehicle registered to person whose driver's license has been suspended or revoked authorized—Display of license.**

Any peace officer who has received notice of the suspension or revocation of a driver's license from the Department of Licensing may, during the reported period of such suspension or revocation, stop any motor vehicle identified by its vehicle license number as being registered to the person whose driver's license has been suspended or revoked. The driver of such vehicle shall display his driver's license upon request of the peace officer. (RCW 46.20.430) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.20.320), 1979.)

**11.20.340 Financial responsibility required.**

A. No person may operate a motor vehicle subject to registration under Chapter 46.16 RCW in this City unless the person is insured under a motor vehicle liability policy with liability limits of at least the amounts provided in RCW 46.29.090, is self-insured as provided in RCW 46.29.630, is covered by a certificate of deposit in conformance with RCW 46.29.550, or is covered by a liability bond of at least the amounts provided in RCW 46.29.090. Written proof of financial responsibility for motor vehicle operation must be provided on the request of a law enforcement officer in the format specified under RCW 46.30.030.

B. A person who drives a motor vehicle that is required to be registered in another state that requires drivers and owners of vehicles in that state to maintain insurance or financial responsibility shall, when requested by a law enforcement officer, provide evidence of financial responsibility or insurance as is required by the laws of the state in which the vehicle is registered.

C. When asked to do so by a law enforcement officer, failure to display an insurance identification card as specified under RCW 46.30.030 creates a presumption that the person does not have motor vehicle insurance.

D. Failure to provide proof of motor vehicle insurance is a traffic infraction and is subject to penalties as set by the supreme court under RCW 46.63.110 or community service. (RCW 46.30.020(1)) (Ord. 115895 § 1, 1991; Ord. 115040 § 1(part), 1990.)

**11.20.345 Post citation proof of financial responsibility.**

If a person cited for a violation of Section 11.20.340 appears in person before the court and provides written evidence that at the time the person was cited, he or she was in compliance with the financial responsibility requirements of Section 11.20.340, the citation shall be dismissed. In lieu of personal appearance, a person cited for a violation of the financial responsibility requirements of Section 11.20.340 may, before the date scheduled for the person's appearance before the court, submit by mail to the court written evidence that at the time the person was cited, he or she was in compliance with the financial responsibility requirements of Section 11.20.340, in which case the citation shall be dismissed without cost, except that the court may assess court administrative costs of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25) at the time of dismissal. (RCW 46.30.020(2)) (Ord. 115895 § 2, 1991; Ord. 115040 § 1(part), 1990.)

**11.20.347 Scope of financial responsibility sections.**

The provisions of Sections 11.20.340 and 11.20.345 shall not govern:

A. The operation of a motor vehicle registered under RCW 46.16.305(1), governed by RCW 46.16.020, or registered with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission as common or contract carriers; or

B. The operation of a motorcycle as defined in Section 11.14.340, a motor-driven cycle as defined in Section 11.14.345, or a moped as defined in RCW 46.04.304. (RCW 46.30.020(3)) (Ord. 119011 § 3, 1998; Ord. 115895 § 3, 1991; Ord. 115040 § 1(part), 1990.)

**11.20.350 Proof of financial responsibility—Penalty for falsification.**

Any person who knowingly provides false evidence of financial responsibility to a law enforcement officer or to a court, including an expired or canceled insurance policy, bond, or certificate of deposit is guilty of a criminal offense subject to punishment under subsection B of Section 11.34.020. (RCW 46.30.040) (Ord. 115895 § 4, 1991; Ord. 115040 § 2, 1990.)

11.20.350 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

**Chapter 11.22  
VEHICLE LICENSING**

**Sections:**

- 11.22.020 Registration certificate.
- 11.22.025 Transfer of ownership.
- 11.22.030 Time period tonnage license.
- 11.22.070 Licenses and plates  
required—Penalties—

**Exceptions.**

- 11.22.080 Vehicle license plates displayed.
- 11.22.090 Vehicle trip permits—  
Restrictions and  
requirements—Penalty.
- 11.22.100 License plates—Camper.
- 11.22.140 Unlawful use of vehicle license  
plates.
- 11.22.160 License plates—Wrecker.
- 11.22.180 Display of license  
plates—Wrecker.
- 11.22.200 Special license plates—Hulk  
hauler.
- 11.22.220 Display of special license  
plates—Hulk hauler.
- 11.22.240 Dealer and manufacturer license  
plates—Use.



**11.22.020 Registration certificate.**

No person shall operate or have in his possession a vehicle without carrying thereon a valid certificate of license registration and a maximum gross weight license if required for the class of vehicle as provided in RCW Chapter 46.16. (RCW 46.16.260)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.22.020), 1979.)

**11.22.025 Transfer of ownership.**

Failure or neglect of a purchaser or transferee of a vehicle to make application to transfer the certificate of ownership and license registration of the vehicle within forty-five (45) days after the date of delivery of the vehicle is a misdemeanor. (RCW 46.12.101(6))  
(Ord. 119011 § 4, 1998)

**11.22.030 Time period tonnage license.**

No vehicle licensed under the provisions of RCW 46.16.135 shall be operated over the streets or alleys unless the owner or operator renews the time period tonnage license prior to the expiration of the existing tonnage license. Any person who operates any such vehicle upon the streets or alleys after the expiration of the existing tonnage license, shall be guilty of a violation, and in addition shall be required to purchase a tonnage license for the vehicle involved at the fee covering an entire registration year's operation thereof, less the fees for any registration quarter or registration quarters of the registration year already paid. If, within five (5) days thereafter, no tonnage license for a full registration year has been purchased as required aforesaid, the Police Department shall order that such vehicle be impounded in accordance with Chapter 11.30.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.22.030), 1979.)

**11.22.070 Licenses and plates required—Penalties—Exceptions.**

A. It is unlawful for a person to operate any vehicle over and along a street or alley without first obtaining and having in full force and effect a current and proper vehicle license and displaying vehicle license number plates therefor as provided by RCW Chapter 46.16. Failure to make initial registration before operation on a street or alley is a misdemeanor, and any person convicted thereof shall be punished by a fine of no less than Three Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$330), no part of which may be suspended or deferred. Failure to renew an

expired registration before operation on a street or alley is a traffic infraction.

B. The licensing of a vehicle in another state by a resident of this state, as defined in RCW 46.16.028, thereby evading the payment of any tax or license fee imposed in connection with registration, is a gross misdemeanor punishable as follows:

1. For a first offense, up to one (1) year imprisonment and a fine equal to twice the amount of delinquent taxes and fees, no part of which may be suspended or deferred;

2. For a second or subsequent offense, up to one (1) year imprisonment and a fine equal to four (4) times the amount of delinquent taxes and fees, no part of which may be suspended or deferred.

C. This section shall not apply to vehicles exempt from RCW 46.16.010. (RCW 46.16.010)  
(Ord. 119011 § 5, 1998.)

**11.22.080 Vehicle license plates displayed.**

No person shall operate any vehicle on any street or alley without first having displayed current and proper vehicle license plates thereon as provided in RCW Chapter 46.16. The vehicle license plates shall be attached conspicuously at the front and rear of each vehicle for which the same are issued and in such manner that they can be plainly seen and read at all times; provided, that if only one (1) license plate is legally issued for any vehicle such plate shall be conspicuously attached to the rear of such vehicle. Each vehicle license plate shall be placed or hung in a horizontal position at a distance of not less than one (1) foot nor more than four (4) feet from the ground and shall be kept clean so as to be plainly seen and read at all times; provided, however, that this requirement shall not apply in cases where the State Commission on Equipment has granted permission to deviate therefrom, as provided in RCW 46.16.240.

(Ord. 113898 § 1, 1988; Ord. 110967 § 3, 1980; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.22.080), 1979.)



**11.22.080 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC**

**11.22.090 Vehicle trip permits—Restrictions and requirements—Penalty.**

A. Each trip permit issued under RCW 46.16.160 shall authorize the operation of a single vehicle at the maximum legal weight limit for such vehicle for a period of three (3) consecutive days commencing with the day of first use. No more than three (3) such permits may be used for any one (1) vehicle in any period of thirty (30) consecutive days, except that in the case of a recreational vehicle as defined in RCW 43.22.335, no more than two (2) trip permits may be used for any one (1) vehicle in a one-year period. Every permit shall identify, as the Washington Department of Licensing may require, the vehicle for which it is issued and shall be completed in its entirety and signed by the operator before operation of the vehicle on a street or alley. Correction of data on the permit such as dates, license number, or vehicle identification number invalidates the permit. The trip permit shall be displayed on the vehicle to which it is issued as prescribed by the Washington Department of Licensing.

B. A violation of or a failure to comply with any provision of this section is a gross misdemeanor. (RCW 46.16.160) (Ord. 119011 § 6, 1998.)

**11.22.100 License plates—Camper.**

No person shall operate any vehicle equipped with a camper without first having obtained and having in full force and effect a current and proper camper license and displaying a camper license plate therefor as required by RCW Chapter 46.16; provided, that if a camper is part of the inventory of a manufacturer or dealer and is unoccupied at all times, and a dated demonstration permit, valid for no more than seventy-two (72) hours is carried in the motor vehicle at all times it is operated by any such individual, such camper may be demonstrated if carried upon an appropriately licensed vehicle. (RCW 46.16.505) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.22.100), 1979.)

**11.22.140 Unlawful use of vehicle license plates.**

No person shall display upon the front or rear of any vehicle any Washington State vehicle license plate or plates other than those furnished by the Director of Licensing for such vehicle or display upon any vehicle license plate or plates

which have been in any manner changed, altered, disfigured or have become illegible. (RCW 46.16.240) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.22.140), 1979.)

**11.22.160 License plates—Wrecker.**

Every motor vehicle wrecker shall obtain a special set of license plates in addition to the regular licenses and plates required for the operation of such vehicles as provided in RCW 46.80.060. (RCW 46.80.060) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.22.160), 1979.)

**11.22.180 Display of license plates—Wrecker.**

The special set of license plates required by Section 11.22.160 shall be displayed on vehicles owned and/or operated by a motor vehicle wrecker and used in the conduct of his business as provided in RCW 46.80.060. (RCW 46.80.060) (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.22.180), 1979.)

**11.22.200 Special license plates—Hulk hauler.**

Every hulk hauler or scrap processor shall obtain a special set of license plates in addition to the regular licenses and plates required for the operation of vehicles owned and/or operated by him and used in the conduct of his business as provided in RCW 46.79.060. (RCW 46.79.060) (Ord. 109698 § 1(part), 1981.)

**11.22.220 Display of special license plates—Hulk hauler.**

The special license plates required by Section 11.22.200 shall be displayed on the operational vehicles and shall be in lieu of a trip permit or current license of any vehicle being transported as provided in RCW 46.79.060. (RCW 46.79.060) (Ord. 109698 § 1(part), 1981.)

**11.22.240 Dealer and manufacturer license plates—Use.**

A. Motor vehicle dealer license plates may be used:

1. To demonstrate motor vehicles held for sale when operated by an individual holding a valid operator's license, provided that a dated demonstration permit, valid for no more than seventy-two (72) hours, is carried in the vehicle at all times it is operated by any such individual;

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2. On motor vehicles owned, held for sale and which are in fact available for sale by the firm when operated by an officer of the corporation, partnership, or proprietorship or by a bona fide full-time employee of the firm, provided that a card so identifying any such individual is carried in the vehicle at all times it is operated by him. Any such vehicle so operated may be used to transport the dealer's own tools, parts and equipment to a total weight not to exceed five hundred (500) pounds;

3. On motor vehicles being tested for repair;

4. On motor vehicles being moved to or from a motor vehicle dealer's place of business for sale;

5. On motor vehicles being moved to or from motor vehicle service and repair facilities before sale;

6. On motor vehicles being moved to or from motor vehicle exhibitions within the State of Washington, provided that any such exhibition does not exceed a period of twenty (20) days.

B. Mobile homes and travel-trailer dealer license plates may be used:

1. On units hauled to or from the place of business of the manufacturer and the place of business of the dealer or to and from places of business of the dealer;

2. On mobile homes hauled to a customer's location for set-up after sale;

3. On travel-trailers held for sale to demonstrate the towing capability of the vehicle, provided that a dated demonstration permit, valid for not more than seventy-two (72) hours, is carried with the vehicle at all times;

4. On mobile homes being hauled from a customer's location, provided that the requirements of RCW 46.16.105 and 46.16.106 are met;

5. On any motor vehicle owned by the dealer which is used only to move vehicles legally bearing mobile home and travel-trailer license plates of the dealer so owning any such motor vehicle;

6. On vehicles being moved to or from vehicle exhibitions within the State of Washington, provided that any such exhibition does not exceed a period of twenty (20) days.

C. Miscellaneous vehicle dealer license plates may be used:

1. To demonstrate any miscellaneous vehicle, provided that:

a. No such vehicle shall be demonstrated on a public highway unless the customer has an appropriate endorsement on his driver's license, if such endorsement is required to operate such vehicle, and

b. A dated demonstration permit, valid for no more than seventy-two (72) hours, is carried with the vehicle at all times it is operated by any such individual;

2. On vehicles owned, held for sale and which are, in fact, available for sale, by the firm when operated by an officer of the corporation, partnership or proprietorship or by a bona fide full-time employee of the firm, provided that a card so identifying such individual is carried in the vehicle at all times it is operated by him;

3. On vehicles being tested for repair;

4. On vehicles being transported to or from the place of business of the manufacturer and the place of business of the dealer or to and from places of business of the dealer;

5. On vehicles on which any other item sold or to be sold by the dealer is transported from the place of business of the manufacturer to the place of business of the dealer or to and from places of business of the dealer; provided, that such vehicle and such item are purchased or sold as one (1) package.

D. Manufacturers properly licensed pursuant to this chapter may apply for and obtain manufacturer license plates and may be used:

1. To transport vehicles to or from the place of business of a manufacturer to a vehicle dealer within this state who is properly licensed pursuant to this chapter;

2. To test vehicles for repair.

E. Vehicle dealer license plates and manufacturer license plates shall not be used for any purpose other than set forth in this section and specifically shall not be:

1. Used on any vehicle not within the class for which the vehicle dealer license plates are issued unless specifically provided for in this section;

2. Loaned to any person for any reason not specifically provided for in this section;

3. Used on any vehicles for the transportation of any person, produce, freight, or com-

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modities unless specifically provided for in this section, except there shall be permitted the use of such vehicle dealer license plates on a vehicle transporting commodities in the course of a demonstration over a period not to exceed seventy-two (72) consecutive hours from the commencement of such demonstration, if a representative of the dealer is present and accompanies such vehicle during the course of the demonstration;

4. Used on any vehicle sold to a resident of another state to transport such vehicle to that other state in lieu of a trip permit or in lieu of vehicle license plates obtained from that other state. (RCW 46.70.090) (Ord. 109698 § 1(part), 1981.)

**Chapter 11.23  
SPECIAL PERMITS AND PERMIT  
PROCEDURES—DRIVERS AND  
VEHICLES**

**Sections:**

- 11.23.020Application.**
- 11.23.030Commercial loading permit—Requirements.**
- 11.23.032Commercial load zone permit—Fee.**
- 11.23.040Overlegal trucking operation.**
- 11.23.060Conditions of trucking permits.**
- 11.23.080Moving, loading or parking operation.**
- 11.23.100Conditions of loading or moving permit.**
- 11.23.120Fee schedules.**
- 11.23.140Refunds for unused permits.**
- 11.23.210Excess weight—Logging trucks—Special permits—County or City permits—Fees—Discretion of arresting officer.**
- 11.23.220Special permits for oversize or overweight movements.**
- 11.23.250Special permits for oversize or overweight movements—Gross weight limit.**
- 11.23.290Annual additional tonnage permits—Fees.**
- 11.23.320Special permits—Regulations.**
- 11.23.340Special permits—Display.**
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- 11.23.360State or county permits—Validity.**
- 11.23.380Disabled person's parking card.**
- 11.23.390Carpool parking—Application for certificate and permit.**
- 11.23.400Disabled parking—Enforcement.**
- 11.23.410Carpool parking—Free and preferential parking.**
- 11.23.415Carpool parking—Unlawful use of permit.**
- 11.23.420Curb space parking permits.**
- 11.23.440Parking privileges.**

**11.23.020Application.**

Application for any permit required by this subtitle shall be made to the Traffic Engineer on forms provided for such purpose. (Ord. 115995 § 9, 1991; Ord. 108200 § 2 (11.23.020), 1979.)

**11.23.030Commercial loading permit—Requirements.**

A. The Traffic Engineer is hereby authorized to administer a system for the issuance of commercial loading permits and to collect fees therefor. Commercial loading permits shall only be issued to persons or entities that possess a current business license issued by any governmental jurisdiction. The applicant may obtain one (1) nontransferable permit for each truck licensed vehicle operated by the company named in the business license except as provided in subsection B of this section. The permit shall be permanently affixed to the lower left-hand corner of the vehicle's windshield except as provided in subsection B of this section. The applicant shall provide the license plate number, as well as other vehicle identification information as determined by the Traffic Engineer.

B. Companies that operate a fleet of ten (10) or more commercial vehicles will be eligible to purchase one (1) transferable permit for every five (5) commercial vehicles in their fleet with nontransferable permits. The transferable permits shall only be used on other commercial vehicles in the company fleet while a commercial vehicle with a nontransferable permit is temporarily out of service. Transferable permits shall be displayed in the lower left-hand corner of the windshield. Under no circumstances shall a transferable permit be used on any vehicle other than a commercial vehicle.



C. Permits shall be valid for one (1) calendar year. Permits issued after July 1st of any calendar year shall have their fee reduced by fifty (50%) percent.  
(Ord. 114736 § 1, 1989; Ord. 114518 § 2, 1989; Ord. 114251 § 7(part), 1988.)

**11.23.032 Commercial load zone permit—Fee.**

A. The Traffic Engineer shall collect an annual fee of Seventy-five Dollars (\$75) for the first permit issued to an applicant.

B. The fee for additional annual permits for the same applicant shall be Thirty-five Dollars (\$35) each.  
(Ord. 114251 § 7(part), 1988.)

**11.23.040 Overlegal trucking operation.**

If a permit is required by Sections 11.23.220, 11.23.250, or 11.23.290, such application shall contain a description of the object to be transported, or the vehicle, or vehicles, to be driven or used, the route desired to be traversed, the hours within which it is desired to perform the work, the means of locomotion to be used, and such other information as may be required.

(Ord 112421 § 3, 1985; Ord. 112092 § 3, 1984; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.040), 1979.)

**11.23.060 Conditions of trucking permits.**

The Traffic Engineer shall specify in permits issued pursuant to Sections 11.23.220, 11.23.250, or 11.23.290 of this subtitle, the routes to be traversed and the hours during which the operation may be undertaken, in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle.

(Ord. 112421 § 4, 1985; Ord. 112092 § 4, 1984; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.060), 1979.)

**11.23.080 Moving, loading or parking operation.**

If the application is for a permit to move, load, stand, park or angle park a vehicle contrary to the provisions of this subtitle, such application shall show the location and explain the necessity for the operation, shall explain whether the operation may endanger other traffic or prevent it from using the street and such other information as may be required.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.080), 1979.)

**11.23.100 Conditions of loading or moving permit.**

The Traffic Engineer shall authorize and specify in permits for loading or moving the hours under which the activity will be permitted, the manner in which it shall be performed, and shall outline any special precautions which may be required to protect the public.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.100), 1979.)

**11.23.120 Fee schedules.**

The Director of Engineering shall recommend to the City Council, for adoption by ordinance, a schedule of fees for all permits issued pursuant to the trucking and parking regulations of this subtitle. The fees shall be commensurate with the cost of administration, inspection, policing and roadway maintenance involved in the use of the streets and alleys within the City and shall, whenever possible, correspond with the fees specified in RCW 46.44.094, 46.44.095, and 46.44.096. Such schedule, when approved by the City Council by ordinance, shall govern the amount of the fee for such permit, and the fee shall be collected by said Director as a condition to the issuance or continuance of any such permit except when such permit is issued as a component of a master filming permit pursuant to SMC Section 15.35.010.

(Ord. 118238 § 2, 1996; Ord. 115995 § 10, 1991; Ord. 108200 § 2 (11.23.120), 1979.)

**11.23.140 Refunds for unused permits.**

Whenever an overweight or overload permit has been issued and a fee paid therefor and either no rights are exercised pursuant thereto and such permit is surrendered or the fee charged is erroneous for any reason and application is made for refund, the Traffic Engineer shall certify the facts justifying such refund, the amount thereof, and his or her approval of such refund, and upon presentation of such certificate the City Finance Director is authorized to draw and to pay a warrant on the General Fund in the amount of such refund, and the necessary appropriations are made from any surplus in the fund. If the appropriate fund is solvent at the time payment is ordered, the Finance Director may elect to make payment by check.

(Ord. 120114 § 33, 2000; Ord. 116368 § 213, 1992; Ord. 108200 § 2 (11.23.140), 1979.)

For current SMC, contact the Office of the City Clerk

**11.23.210 Excess weight—Logging trucks—Special permits—County or City permits—Fees—Discretion of arresting officer.**

A three (3) axle truck tractor and a two (2) axle pole trailer combination engaged in the operation of hauling logs may exceed by not more than six thousand eight hundred (6,800) pounds the legal gross weight of the combination of vehicles when licensed, as permitted by law, for sixty-eight thousand (68,000) pounds: Provided, That the distance between the first and last axle of the vehicles in combination shall have a total wheel-base of not less than thirty-seven feet (37') apart and shall not exceed thirty-three thousand six hundred (33,600) pounds. Such additional allowances shall be permitted by special permit issued in accordance with the provisions of RCW 46.44.047. (RCW 46.44.047)  
Ord. 112092 § 17, 1984.)

**11.23.220 Special permits for oversize or overweight movements.**

A. A special permit in writing may be obtained from the Traffic Engineer upon application in writing and good cause being shown therefor, authorizing the applicant to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size, weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum specified in Chapter 11.60, or otherwise not in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 11.60, upon any street or alley.

B. No overweight permit shall be issued to any vehicle or combination of vehicles unless such vehicle or combination of vehicles is licensed for the maximum gross weight allowed by law. (RCW 46.44.090)  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.220), 1979.)

**11.23.250 Special permits for oversize or overweight movements—Gross weight limit.**

A. Except as otherwise provided in subsections C and D of this section, no special permit shall be issued for movement on any street or



alley where the gross weight, including load, exceeds the following limits:

1. Twenty-two thousand (22,000) pounds on a single axle or on dual axles with a wheelbase between the first and second axles of less than three feet six inches (3' 6");

2. Forty-three thousand (43,000) pounds on dual axles having a wheelbase between the first and second axles of not less than three feet six inches (3' 6") but less than seven feet (7');

3. On any group of axles or in the case of a vehicle employing two (2) single axles with a wheelbase between the first and last axle of not less than seven feet (7') but less than ten feet (10'), a weight in pounds determined by multiplying six thousand five hundred (6,500) times the distance in feet between the center of the first axle and the center of the last axle of the group;

4. On any group of axles with a wheelbase between the first and last axle of not less than ten feet (10') but less than thirty feet (30'), a weight in pounds determined by multiplying two thousand two hundred (2,200) times the sum of twenty (20) and the distance in feet between the center of the first axle and the center of the last axle of the group;

5. On any group of axles with a wheelbase between the first and last axle of thirty feet (30') or greater, a weight in pounds determined by multiplying one thousand six hundred (1,600) times the sum of forty (40) and the distance in feet between the center of the first axle and the center of the last axle of the group.

B. The total weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles allowable by special permit under subsection A of this section shall be governed by the lesser of the weights obtained by using the total number of axles as a group or any combination of axles as a group.

C. The weight limitations pertaining to single axles may be exceeded to permit the movement of equipment operating upon single pneumatic tires having a rim width of twenty inches (20") or more and a rim diameter of twenty-four inches (24") or more or dual pneumatic tires having a rim width of sixteen inches (16") or more and specially

designed vehicles manufactured and certified for special permits prior to July 1, 1975.

D. Permits may be issued for weights in excess of the limitations contained in subsection A of this section for any shipment duly certified as necessary by military officials, or by officials of public or private power facilities, or when in the opinion of the Traffic Engineer the movement or action is a necessary movement or action: Provided, That in the opinion of the Traffic Engineer, streets or alleys on the routes involved are capable of sustaining weights in excess of

such limitations and it is not reasonable, for economic or operational considerations, to transport such excess weights by rail or water for any substantial distance of the total mileage applied for.

E. Application shall be made in writing on special forms provided by the Traffic Engineer and shall be submitted at least thirty-six (36) hours in advance of the proposed movement. An application for a special permit for a gross weight of any combination of vehicles exceeding two hundred thousand (200,000) pounds shall be submitted in writing to the Traffic Engineer at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed movement. (RCW 46.44.091) (Ord. 112092 § 18, 1984.)

**11.23.290 Annual additional tonnage permits—Fees.**

A. When a combination of vehicles has been lawfully licensed to a total weight of eighty thousand (80,000) pounds and when a three (3) or more axle single-unit vehicle has been lawfully licensed to a total gross weight of forty thousand (40,000) pounds pursuant to Section 11.60.370, a permit for additional gross weight may be issued by the Traffic Engineer upon the payment of Thirty-seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$37.50) per year for each one thousand (1,000) pounds or fraction thereof of such additional gross weight: Provided, That the tire limits specified in Section 11.60.420 shall apply, and the gross weight on any single axle shall not exceed twenty thousand (20,000) pounds, and the gross load on any group of axles shall not exceed the limits set forth in Section 11.60.370: Provided further, That within the tire limits of Section 11.60.420 and notwithstanding Sections 11.60.370 and 11.23.250, a permit for an additional six thousand (6,000) pounds may be purchased for the rear axles of a two (2) axle garbage truck or eight thousand (8,000) pounds for the tandem axle of a three (3) axle garbage truck at a rate not to exceed Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) per thousand (1,000).

B. The annual additional tonnage permits provided for in this section shall be issued upon such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the department pursuant to general rules adopted by the Traffic Engineer. Such permits shall entitle the permittee to carry such additional load in an amount and upon streets or alleys, as may be determined by the Traffic Engineer to be

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capable of withstanding increased gross load without undue injury to the street or alley.

C. The annual additional tonnage permits provided for in this section shall commence on the first of January or the first of April of each year. The permit may be purchased at any time, and if they are purchased for less than a full year, the fee shall be one-twelfth ( $\frac{1}{12}$ ) of the full fee multiplied by the number of months, including any fraction thereof, covered by the permit. When the Traffic Engineer issues a duplicate permit to replace a lost or destroyed permit and where the Traffic Engineer transfers a permit from one (1) vehicle to another a fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00) shall be charged for each duplicate issued or each transfer. The Traffic Engineer shall issue permits on a temporary basis for periods not less than five (5) days at One Dollar (\$1.00) per day for each two thousand (2,000) pounds or fraction thereof.

D. The fees levied in this section shall not apply to any vehicles owned and operated by the state of Washington, any county within the state, or any city or town or metropolitan municipal corporation within the state, or by the federal government. (RCW 46.44.095)  
(Ord. 112421 § 5, 1985; Ord. 112092 § 19, 1984.)

#### **11.23.320 Special permits—Regulations.**

The special permit provided for in Section 11.23.290 shall be used under such rules and regulations, and upon such terms and conditions consistent therewith, as may be prescribed by the Traffic Engineer. Such special permits shall entitle the permittee to carry such additional load in such an amount upon such streets or alleys as may be determined by the Traffic Engineer to be capable of withstanding such increased load without undue injury to the street or alley. (RCW 46.44.095)  
(Ord. 112092 § 5, 1984; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.320), 1979.)

#### **11.23.340 Special permits—Display.**

Every special permit issued under this chapter shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be open to inspection by any peace officer or authorized agent of any authority granting such permit.

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(Ord. 112092 § 6, 1984; Ord. 108200 § 2 (11.23.340), 1979.)

**11.23.350 Fire Department permit—Display.**

Every vehicle requiring a Fire Department permit shall carry a copy of the permit in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be open to inspection by any peace officer or authorized agent of the Fire Department.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.350), 1979.)

**11.23.360 State or county permits—Validity.**

Trucks carrying overlegal loads to or from the City under valid state or county permit shall obtain a validation number for that state or county permit from the Traffic Engineer which will authorize operation to any destination within the City, except the Central Business District, by such routes and at such time as the Traffic Engineer may prescribe. The validation number shall be noted on the back of the state or county permit by the operator and any peace officer checking this permit shall report the time, date, and validation number to the Traffic Engineer for determination of the validity of the operation. Violation of the terms of the validation will void the right of the permittee to further use of this privilege, and will require the permittee to obtain a written permit in the manner prescribed in this chapter. (RCW 46.44.096)

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.360), 1979.)

**11.23.380 Disabled person's parking card.**

A person who has received a current and valid special disabled person's card, decal or license plate from the Washington State Department of Licensing under RCW 46.16.381 shall be allowed to park a vehicle being used to transport such person in parking meter spaces free of charge and for unlimited periods of time in parking zones or areas which are otherwise restricted as to the length of time parking is permitted. This section shall have no application to those zones or areas in which the stopping, parking, or standing of all vehicles is prohibited or which are reserved for special types of vehicles. Such person shall not be permitted the foregoing privilege unless he obtains and displays a distinguishing card, decal, or license plate issued pursuant to RCW 46.16.381. (RCW 46.16.381)

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(Ord. 112421 § 11, 1985; Ord. 109476 § 3(part), 1980; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.380), 1979.)

**11.23.390 Carpool parking—Application for certificate and permit.**

Application for certification and issuance of a carpool parking permit shall be made in accordance with certification procedures established by the Director of Engineering.

(Ord. 115995 § 11, 1991; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.390), 1979.)

**11.23.400 Disabled parking—Enforcement.**

A. Knowingly providing false information in conjunction with an application for a disabled parking permit is a gross misdemeanor. For purposes of this subsection, “knowingly” has the same meaning as in Section 12A.04.030 B.

B. Except as provided by subsection A of this section, it is a traffic infraction, with a monetary penalty of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250), for any person wilfully to obtain a disabled parking placard, license plate, or photo identification card in a manner other than that established by RCW 46.16.381.

C. The unauthorized use of a disabled parking placard, license plate, or photo identification card issued by the Washington State Department of Licensing under RCW 46.16.381 is a traffic infraction with a monetary penalty of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250).

D. The court may not suspend more than one-half (1/2) of any fine imposed under subsection B or C of this section. For a second or subsequent violation of subsection B or C of this section, in addition to a monetary penalty, a violator must complete a minimum of forty (40) hours of either community service for a nonprofit organization that serves the disabled community or persons having disabling diseases or any other community service that may sensitize the violator to the needs and obstacles faced by persons who have disabilities.

E. Any peace officer or parking checker finding any unauthorized use of such placard, or license plate shall issue and affix a notice indicating the unauthorized uses thereof in the form and in the manner required by Section 11.31.030.

(Ord. 119011 § 7, 1998; Ord. 118105 § 2, 1996; Ord. 112421 § 12, 1985; Ord. 109476 § 3(part), 1984; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.400), 1979.)

**11.23.410 Carpool parking—Free and preferential parking.**

During all hours when it is otherwise lawful to park in specific parking spaces, persons holding a



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valid carpool parking permit shall be entitled to park free of charge in metered parking spaces which are designated by appropriate signs for carpool use and to park overtime in other parking spaces which are designated by appropriate signs for such use. The carpool parking permit shall be displayed upon each parked vehicle at the time, place and manner prescribed in such permit. (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.410), 1979.)

**11.23.415Carpool parking—Unlawful use of permit.**

It is unlawful to display upon any vehicle a carpool parking permit at a time or place or in a manner not consistent with the terms of such permit, and in addition to any other penalty prescribed by this subtitle, such unlawful display shall be sufficient cause for revocation of such permit. (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.415), 1979.)

**11.23.420Curb space parking permits.**

The Director of Engineering may authorize curb space parking permits for charitable, educational or community purposes, including, for example, medically related programs, armed forces recruiting efforts and street fairs; provided, that no permits shall be authorized for commercial purposes except in conjunction with community events. For purposes of this section, curb space constitutes roadway area next to the curb. (Ord. 115995 § 13, 1991; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.420), 1979.)

**11.23.440Parking privileges.**

No person shall be granted a franchise or special privilege to the exclusion of any other like person for parking vehicles on any roadway. Zones may be granted for taxicabs, official career consul vehicles, moving or loading, disabled persons, curb space parking, service parking, carpool parking, or similar uses, or for any residential parking program which may be developed. Establishment of such a zone does not constitute a grant of franchise. (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.23.440), 1979.)

**Sections:**

**11.24.020Parking lot barriers.**

**11.24.030Signage that may be required by Traffic Engineer.**

**11.24.100Temporary driveway permit.**

**11.24.020Parking lot barriers.**

No area abutting any sidewalk, alley or street area shall be used for off-street parking unless barriers determined by the Traffic Engineer to be of sufficient height and strength to prevent motor vehicles from protruding over or being driven or pushed upon any sidewalk, are constructed and maintained by the property owner or lessee on such area and parallel to the boundary line between such area and such sidewalk, alley or street area except at authorized access openings located and established as approved by the Traffic Engineer; provided, that such barriers may be placed to allow use of such areas when a permit from the Director of Engineering so authorizes. (Ord. 115995 § 13, 1991; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.24.020), 1979.)

**11.24.030Signage that may be required by Traffic Engineer.**

Whenever the Traffic Engineer determines that, to protect life, limb, or property, facilitate the movement of traffic, prevent traffic congestion, or maintain the most efficient transportation use of the streets or alleys, any of the following vehicular movements should be prohibited or required, it shall be incumbent upon and the duty of the owner or agent of property designated by the Traffic Engineer, when so ordered by such official, to install and maintain on such property one or more signs subject to approval by the Traffic Engineer as to sign design and location, indicating that the following vehicular movement(s) are prohibited or required, as specified by the Traffic Engineer:

**Chapter 11.24  
PROPERTY ACCESS PERMITS AND  
REGULATIONS**

A. Making a left turn or right turn from an off-street garage, parking lot, or other vehicular facility served by a driveway or other route commonly used for travel;

B. Obtaining ingress to or egress from private property by way of a specified driveway or other route commonly used for travel;

C. Backing into a street area from a driveway;  
or

D. Stopping or yielding for oncoming traffic.  
(Ord. 115995 § 14, 1991.)

**11.24.100 Temporary driveway permit.**

A temporary driveway permit may be obtained from the Street Use Division of the Engineering Department in accordance with Section 16 of the Street Use Ordinance (Ordinance 90047)<sup>1</sup>.  
(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.24.100), 1979.)

<sup>1</sup>.Editor's Note: Section 16 of the Street Use Ordinance is codified in Section 15.06.010 through 15.06.040 of this Code.

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VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

**Seattle Municipal Code**  
**April, 2001 code update file**

**Text provided for historic reference only.**

**See ordinances creating and amending sections for complete text, graphics, and tables and to confirm accuracy of this source file.**

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**For current SMC, contact  
the Office of the City Clerk**

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Chapter 11.25  
PARADE PERMITS

Sections:

**11.25.020**Permission for parade.

**11.25.040**Parades prohibited on limited access highways.

**11.25.020**Permission for parade.

No person shall conduct or participate in a parade upon any street or alley in the City without first submitting a written notification to the Chief of Police and obtaining a permit from the Chief of Police to do so. Upon written notification to the Chief of Police, the Chief of Police shall grant a permit. So that preparations for traffic regulation can be made, the written notification for permit shall state the place and hour of formation, the proposed line of movement or march, the scheduled starting time, and the names of the persons having charge or control of the parade, and the name of the sponsoring agency, if any. Such written notification shall be delivered to the Chief of Police at least forty-eight (48) hours before the parade is scheduled to begin: Provided, that the forty-eight (48) hour time limit for written notification may be waived by the Chief of Police if, at the time the written notice is submitted, the Chief of Police anticipates being able to make reasonable preparations for the parade within less time than forty-eight (48) hours. The Chief of Police may modify the place and hour of formation, the proposed line of movement or march, and the scheduled starting time in the interest of vehicular or pedestrian traffic safety. (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.25.020), 1979.)

**11.25.040**Parades prohibited on limited access highways.

No person shall march or participate in any parade, or assembly on any limited access highway facility which is open for public travel and no permit will be issued for a parade or assembly thereon. (Ord. 108200 § 2(11.25.040), 1979.)

11.26.040 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

**Chapter 11.26  
SERVICE PARKING PERMITS**

**Sections:**

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**11.26.060**Service parking meter hoods.

**11.26.080**Service parking in metered area.

**11.26.100**Service parking in nonmetered area.

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**11.26.140**Service parking—Meter space occupied.

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**11.26.180**Service parking—Duration.

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**11.26.260**Service parking permit—Fee—Time period.

**11.26.280**Service parking—Violation.

**11.26.290**On-street service parking—Meter space occupied.

**11.26.020**Service parking.

The Traffic Engineer is authorized to issue upon application permits for service parking upon payment of the prescribed fee as established herein. As many permits may be issued to any one (1) applicant as the Traffic Engineer deems necessary or convenient. Service parking permits are of two (2) types: Those needed for building service and those needed for on-street service functions. "Building service" is defined as rendering maintenance service to building and building equipment, including utilities. "On-street service" is defined as a commercial vehicle being used as a mobile shop or a commercial vehicle engaged in loading or unloading operations or when the parking space is to be cleared to allow work to occur in the roadway area.

(Ord. 112550 § 1, 1985; Ord. 110363 § 1, 1981; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.26.020), 1979.)

**11.26.040**Application for service parking.

Applicant for a service parking permit shall set

forth the nature of his business and the necessity for such permit in his application to the Traffic Engineer. Upon receipt of the application, the Traffic Engineer shall investigate the facts and upon approval, issue a permit.

(Ord. 108200 § 2(11.26.040), 1979.)

**11.26.060**Service parking meter hoods.

A. The holder of a valid building service parking permit shall be issued a service hood, padlock and keys to use in covering any parking meter, other than fifteen (15) minute meters, or for display in the vehicle where parking is controlled by time limit posting rather than by parking meters. As many service hoods may be issued as the Traffic Engineer deems necessary or convenient for the application upon payment of the prescribed fee.

B. The holder of a valid on-street service parking permit shall have a service hood installed and removed from a designated parking meter. Such installation and removal shall be done by the Traffic Engineer and in accordance with the schedule specified by the permit. As many service hoods may be issued as the Traffic Engineer deems necessary or convenient for the application upon payment of the prescribed fee.

(Ord. 112550 § 2, 1985; Ord. 110363 § 2, 1981; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.26.060), 1979.)

**11.26.080**Service parking in metered area.

Upon entering any available parking space, the building service parking permittee shall place the service hood over the meter and lock same in a neat and tidy manner as prescribed for the particular hood being used and shall place the service parking permit on the dashboard of the vehicle so that it is clearly visible through the front window of the vehicle; provided, that service hoods shall not be placed and locked over fifteen (15) minute meters.

(Ord. 112550 § 3, 1985; Ord. 110967 § 4, 1984; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.26.080), 1979.)

**11.26.100**Service parking in nonmetered area.

Upon entering any parking space in a nonmetered area, the building service parking permittee shall display the building service parking permit in accordance with the directions thereon. The service hood shall be left on the driver's seat with the window of the service hood displaying the



ownership and service address clearly visible through the side window of the vehicle. (Ord. 112550 § 4, 1985; Ord. 108200 § 2(11.26.100), 1979.)

**11.26.120 Service parking work location.**

The building service parking permittee shall before leaving the parked vehicle indicate in writing and place behind the window of the service hood the exact street address and room number where service work is being rendered. (Ord. 112550 § 5, 1985; Ord. 108200 § 1(11.26.120), 1979.)

See [11.26.040](#) for creating and amending sections for complete text, graphics, and tables and to confirm accuracy of this source file.

For current SMC, contact the Office of the City Clerk