

BCPUD Resident Permit Parking Plan Committee

Summary & Transition Update — December 2025

The Plan Is Implemented

After more than five years of work by the BCPUD Resident Permit Parking Plan Committee, the town now has an overnight parking program that reduces the burden on residents most affected by the increasing number of visitors to the two streets leading to the beach. Nearly 50 residential properties have already experienced relief from nighttime disruptions caused by visitors parking in front of their homes. Ninety one residents also have increased access to their homes as a result of this effort.

Additional Achievements During the Committee's Tenure

- Installed a stop sign at Park & Brighton Avenue
- Created green short-term parking zones at the Market (Wharf Road) and the Post Office (Brighton Avenue)
- Supported the County's April 2024 ordinance requiring vehicles in unincorporated areas to move 500 feet every 72 hours
- Built relationships with Marin County Departments including CDA and DPW

These steps improved parking turnover, access, and public safety.

However, problems persist on Brighton Avenue—trailers storing debris, limited enforcement of the 72-hour ordinance, and misuse of the green shoulder/10-foot utility easement. These concerns were discussed on December 9, the final meeting of the committee and it was agreed that addressing them will require coordinated action by neighbors, along with BCPUD support in working with the County.

Achieving the current program required more than five years of sustained effort, building on earlier community initiatives. Meeting minutes and reports on the BCPUD website reflect the complexity and persistence required.

This work also took place during a period of significant challenges, including:

- Legal constraints (2018–24): Ninth Circuit rulings restricted enforcement against unhoused people when shelter is unavailable; the Supreme Court's 2024 decision expanded enforcement options. Bolinas downtown streets also attract a large number of visitors seeking recreational camping sites, not just those who are unhoused.
 - California Coastal Commission requirements prioritizing public access and environmental justice.
 - Diverse community perspectives, with no consensus on solutions.
 - The COVID-19 pandemic.
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Pending Items Related to the Permit Program

1. Signage

- Wharf Road ordinance signs will be installed after seawall repairs (or earlier if possible).
- Additional signage is needed on Brighton Avenue.

2. Enforcement

- MCSO (Sheriff's office) is enforcing regulations, though frequency is unclear; enforcement continues to be largely complaint-driven via the non-emergency line.
- Community concerns remain regarding the 72-hour rule.

3. Permit Issuance

- The ordinance allows some flexibility beyond the standard permit cap.
- Former committee members can assist if questions arise.

4. Traffic Resolutions

- DPW can now adjust parking or traffic rules through Traffic Resolutions rather than full ordinance changes—useful for length limits or safety needs.
After an informal conversation with Supervisor Rodoni at a community event about the status of the permit program, he followed up on signage and enforcement (#1 and #2) by contacting the relevant agencies to express his interest in following the progress of these issues.
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Additional Work That Could Continue

Ideas considered but not advanced include:

- A stop sign at the entrance to town at Wharf Road and Brighton Avenue. DPW painted stripes at the entrance to Brighton to slow vehicles when turning onto the street as a partial solution.
- Striping and potential diagonal-parking adjustments on Brighton Avenue still need to be explored.
- A remote parking lot with shuttle service for high-volume days

While new ordinances have freed some spaces previously used for long-term parking, demand still far exceeds supply during the daytime hours. Coastal Commission requirements limit in-town restrictions but encourage identifying additional parking sites.

Continuing Community Needs

- Parking solutions for local workers living in vehicles
 - Speed humps, pedestrian walkways, and improved street maintenance
 - Better visitor services and trash management near beach access points
 - Clean-up and management of the Brighton Avenue green space, where debris accumulates
 - Clean-up of beach sand accumulation on downtown streets.
 - Stronger enforcement of parking and traffic ordinances
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What's Next?

- The committee held its final meeting on December 9. Members intend to form a community group meeting quarterly to identify issues to bring to the BCPUD Board. These members who are downtown residents will continue to promote respect for our shared downtown and its importance to the local community.
- In August, the BCPUD Board agreed to continue addressing downtown parking, traffic, and related matters on a quarterly basis, though issues may be raised anytime.
- 2026 meeting dates for the community group are: March 10, June 9, September 8, and December 8.
- A board member will serve as a point of contact for parking and traffic matters. BCPUD Board member Kirsten Walker volunteered for this role, attended the December 9 meeting and offered some helpful suggestions.
- The Board will not appoint a new formal committee at this time.
- A discussion of this transition and a review of downtown issues will take place on December 17, during the committee's final report to the Board.