

# **Center Harbor Rd Parking Study**

**February 27, 2024**

**Prepared by:**

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The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) conducted a street parking study on Center Harbor Rd between Wiehle Ave and Reston Pkwy in February 2024 to determine the feasibility of repurposing parking for a traffic calming project. Based on the results of the study, FCDOT staff have concluded that street parking is not well used, averaging 11% occupancy on the westbound parking bay and 19% on the eastbound parking bay.

**Background**

Located in Reston in the Hunter Mill Magisterial District, Center Harbor Rd is a two-lane street with two parking lanes. Center Harbor Rd spans from Reston Pkwy and crosses Wiehle Ave before it dead ends. Aldrin Elementary School and entrances to several neighborhoods and condominium complexes are located along Center Harbor Rd. No homes are located directly on Center Harbor Rd. Each neighborhood and condominium complex has a parking lot directly adjacent to it. FCDOT staff counted 126 legal on-street spaces along Center Harbor Rd. Approximately 72 of those spaces are along the westbound parking bay and 54 of those spaces are along the eastbound parking bay.

With many of the parking lanes on Center Harbor unmarked and underused, drivers have a 20-foot-wide travel lane along several stretches of this road. For comparison, interstate travel lanes are typically 12 feet wide. As a result, drivers can easily exceed the 35-mph speed limit and 25 mph speed limit in the portion of the road located in the school zone.

**Methodology**

FCDOT staff counted parking occupancy on the following dates and times. Parking occupancy was measured along Center Harbor Rd. from Reston Parkway to Wiehle Ave. Staff counted the number of vehicles parked in each parking bay (the segment of Center Harbor Rd. between each side street).

Day of week	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8	Feb 9
Time (s)	9:30 AM	7:30 PM	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	9:30 AM	7:30 PM	12:30 PM
	11:30 PM			11:30 PM		12:30 PM	7:30 PM

This methodology was reviewed by Henri Stein McCartney, FCDOT’s Senior Transportation Planner for the On-Street Parking Team.

**Results**

Overall, street parking is significantly underutilized along the entire street. Throughout the study, FCDOT staff observed no vehicles parked along the roadway segment between North Village Rd. and Waterfront Rd. From Church Hill Pl to North Village Rd, there were consistently anywhere between one and three cars parked along this segment. Even the highest use segment only had nine vehicles using the spaces and only 18 of 126 spaces utilized on a consistent basis.

These tables show parking occupancy by the number of vehicles observed in each on-street space. Each segment was counted 2-3 times for each time listed below and averaged to get the number of cars parked on the street. Staff observed consistent utilization across all observed times.

Westbound		# of spaces per parking bay	# of cars on the street				
From	To		overall average	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	7:30 PM	11:30 PM
Heritage Oak Way	North Village Rd	44	3	3	2	4	3
North Village Rd	Reston Pkwy	28	4	3	4	4	6
	<i>total</i>	72	7	7	6	8	9

Eastbound		# of spaces per parking bay	# of cars on the street				
From	To		overall average	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	7:30 PM	11:30 PM
Church Hill Pl	North Village Rd	18	2	1	1	2	1
North Village Rd	Waterfront Rd	9	0	0	0	0	0
Waterfront Rd	Heritage Oak Way/	27	9	9	9	10	9
	<i>total</i>	54	11	10	10	11	12

These tables show parking occupancy based on the percentage of legal spaces occupied by vehicles.

Westbound		# of spaces per parking bay	% of parking bay occupied				
From	To		overall average	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	7:30 PM	11:30 PM
Heritage Oak Way	North Village Rd	44	7%	8%	5%	8%	7%
North Village Rd	Reston Pkwy	28	15%	12%	13%	15%	21%
	<i>average total</i>	72	11%	10%	9%	12%	14%

  

Eastbound		# of spaces per parking bay	% of parking bay occupied				
From	To		overall average	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	7:30 PM	11:30 PM
Church Hill Pl	North Village Rd	18	9%	6%	6%	11%	14%
North Village Rd	Waterfront Rd	9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Waterfront Rd	Heritage Oak Way/Aldrin Elementary South entrance	27	39%	36%	37%	41%	43%
	<i>average total</i>	54	16%	14%	14%	17%	19%

This aerial map represents the average percentage occupancy of each parking bay.

**Legend**

Green = 0% spaces occupied on average

Yellow = 7-16% of spaces occupied on average

Orange = 39% of spaces occupied on average

Numbers = Average number of cars parked in each bay

