
City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Thu 8/13/2026 5:34 PM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Cc City Council Clerk - Shr <ccclerk@portsmouthnh.gov>; City Council - Shr <ccemail@portsmouthnh.gov>; Carl E. Weber <ceweber@portsmouthnh.gov>; Karen S. Conard <kconard@portsmouthnh.gov>; Nathan D. Lunney <ndlunney@portsmouthnh.gov>; Susan G. Morrell <sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov>

Submitted on Thu, 08/13/2026 - 17:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Amiee

Last Name

Crispo

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

City workers parking

Address

[REDACTED]

Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801-4956

Message

As a member of the city of Portsmouth's service industry in downtown, you should focus more on your own people who strive to make this place the magical tourist spot it is. Free parking for those who serve your precious affluent patrons coming in by the boatloads, with all these ridiculous condos is the least you can do.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Thu 8/13/2026 9:21 AM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

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Submitted on Thu, 08/13/2026 - 09:21

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Barbara

Last Name

Sadick

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Resident Parking Program

Address

[REDACTED]

Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

I am not writing to you as an alternate on the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee, but rather as a homeowner in the "near downtown" part of our city. I want to express my support for the new Residents Parking Program. However, I feel like there needs to be some adjustments made to the area coverage. Right now, the new program is doing a great job of making more parking spaces on Hanover Street available to city residents. But, there is a considerable "spill over" of non-resident parking onto McDonough and the surrounding streets. Hopefully, the DPW is monitoring this. I urge you to expand the program's boundaries. Than you.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

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From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Thu 8/13/2026 4:06 PM

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Submitted on Thu, 08/13/2026 - 16:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

William

Last Name

Lyons

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Multimodal City: Shuttle Loop Pilot & Parking

Address

[REDACTED]

Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

My comments are on my own behalf, although I'm co-chair of the Sustainability Committee and a member of the Blue-Ribbon Bike and Pedestrian Committee. My perspective is from a 40-year career as Principal Technical Advisor for Transportation Planning at the US Dept of Transportation's research center developing policies, plans and projects in the U.S. and internationally.

Both Committees are between meetings but are strong supporters of the Council's goal to make Portsmouth a multimodal city and the importance of parking policy and transportation alternatives. We have provided extensive comments the last two and half years on the CIP project to expand transportation alternatives to meet the Climate Action Plan's energy and Greenhouse Gas reduction goals by reducing the major source of our emissions (60% from personal vehicles), addressing household affordability and access to jobs, encouraging car free tourism, reducing demand for parking demand, and bringing residents downtown who either cannot or prefer not to drive.

I was pleased that the Council discussion of the RAPP and parking rates included support for a possible shuttle loop pilot and invitation for combined public comments on August 17. A multimodal city integrates multiple ways to travel. Instead of relying only on cars and parking to meet demand, a multimodal system also connects public transit, walking, biking, and ride sharing into an efficient, safe, and affordable network, with smart parking management as a critical part.

The Council approved the Sustainability Committee's recommendation for a CIP project to examine alternative transportation options in the 2025 CIP and moved it up to begin in 2026 by unanimous Council vote 12/8/25. We recommended retitling to be consistent with the CIP project description to examine alternative modes including adjustment of current bus routes, a shuttle loop pilot, or microtransit. The CIP also calls for a task force to focus on next steps, which could include the public private partnerships and community engagement essential to build support for an innovative approach.

Since the Council finalized the CIP eight months ago, with the transportation alternatives project placed alongside a major parking project, I've been trying to find out the final budget, relationship to the parking initiative, and status for the task force. The Council's multimodal goal calls for a task force to report recommendations on a shuttle loop pilot by October. I learned informally this week that the city is moving ahead with an RFP for a consultant's study on microtransit.

With this background, I have several comments:

1. Task Force: the task force could have started two years ago or even last December to be ready to report focus and recommendations in October.
2. Microtransit: I oppose leading with a consultant's study of microtransit, which involves small vehicles with flexible routes and schedules, typically operated by a private vendor. Microtransit in Portsmouth has clear risks – high cost, complexity for real-time control and integration with current bus service, and risk of cannibalizing current service. Microtransit is often an option to replace under-performing fixed route public bus service. The risk is that budgeted funds are spent for a narrow and predictable study.
3. Shuttle Loop Pilot: working thru the task force, the City could explore a partnership with COAST to adapt current routes to provide direct and more frequent service, for example, the 40 and 41, serving the Lafayette Route 1 and Islington to West End, hospital and C&J corridors. A pilot with evaluation after a year could overlay growth corridors and neighborhoods (Master Plan), current and future PHA and other housing development (Housing Plan), bike-walk connectivity to transit (Bike and Pedestrian Plan), and remote parking (Parking Report). COAST identifies frequency as the major ridership inhibitor and the 41 and 40 routes as of high potential. There could be a strong case for investments from the hospitality industry, developers, hospital, or C&J in a branded and marketed shuttle loop.
4. RAPP and Parking Rates: as proposed, recognize that parking is a scarce public resource and that free or reduced rate parking is a subsidy from the community to residents, workers, or visitors, made up for in property tax. Using some of the increased parking revenue for a shuttle loop pilot would show immediate benefits from increased rates, as discussed by the Council, and supports the Multimodal City goal and sound transportation planning principles.

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Yes

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Submitted on Fri, 08/14/2026 - 16:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Anna

Last Name

La Voie

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Workkforce Parking

Address

[REDACTED]

Eliot, Maine. 03903

Message

Please restructure the Workforce Parking program to be more worker-friendly while still accommodating resident parking access. The discount for on-street parking should be extended to all streets downtown. In addition, the Foundry Place lot should have a dedicated Workforce Shuttle(s) with multiple stops around the downtown area. And/or extend the \$3 parking to the Forge Garage as well.

I love working in downtown Portsmouth, and I know the tourists visiting enjoy all the lovely local shops and restaurants - but none of it would function without the employees. It's hard not to look for other work (outside of downtown) that is easier to access and could lead to better overall earnings.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject - Subject

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Submitted on Fri, 08/14/2026 - 17:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Ashley

Last Name

Brown

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Parking for workers

Address

[REDACTED]

Durham, New Hampshire. 03824

Message

Without the service industry, Portsmouth would crumble. I've worked in the service industry for 15+ years and my current job in Portsmouth is the only job where I've had to pay to park in order to work. I love the tourist bump that we get almost year round and it's great that Portsmouth always has events going on, but there's isn't enough parking in the city and it's hard for many employees to not only find parking, but now that parking is even more expensive. If I come in for a 5pm shift and there's an event like market day or the Halloween parade, then there's literally no place to park, or all that's left is very expensive parking in the private lots. One night I had to pay \$30 to park for 3 hours in a private lot. I had to run out of work during the rush to move my car into the foundry to avoid paying more. It seems like the city is more than happy to have more luxury condos, but doesn't care about the people who help make the city run. This doesn't just affect my mindset in regards to work either. I live outside of Portsmouth and would love to come into the city on my time off to enjoy, but the hassle of parking holds me back. Instead I head to Dover to enjoy their restaurant scene. Bottom line, Portsmouth needs

more parking and that parking needs to be affordable for those that contribute to its economy. Please reinstate free street parking and please consider a resolution to the lack of affordable parking.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject - Subject

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

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Submitted on Fri, 08/14/2026 - 13:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

charlie

Last Name

griffin

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Proposed pakikng rate increse

Address

[REDACTED]

portsmouh, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Mayor McEachern and Members of the Council

In deciding whether to increase the non-resident parking rate from \$2 to \$3 per hour on certain city streets you need to be careful not to cut off your nose to spite your face. Portsmouth relies heavily on tourism but is in competition with other communities for the tourist traffic. By way of comparison. my wife and I] recently visited Newburyport which is very similar to Portsmouth ,has easily accessible parking but only charges \$2 per hour .

If you were a tourist would the lower hourly parking rate be a factor in deciding whether to choose Newburyport over Portsmouth ?

As always , I thank you for your consideration.

Charlie Griffin

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming

City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject - Subject

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Sun 8/16/2026 7:19 PM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

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Submitted on Sun, 08/16/2026 - 19:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Elizabeth

Last Name

O'Malley

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

RAPP feedback for consideration

Address

[REDACTED]

Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Hi Councillor(s),

My name's Elizabeth, I live on Manning St in Portsmouth's South End. I'm writing regarding the new parking policy, which I'm sure you're hearing a lot about! As a resident with no private, off-street parking, the new parking scheme has been extremely helpful and supportive for us and our neighbors. I urge you to consider adjusting the new parking program to continue with RAPP in areas where there are high amounts of homes with no private parking, such as on Gates St.

I also encourage you to remove charges at the Foundry garage for downtown workers and reopen Parrot Ave as free for all to ensure there are adequate options for the downtown workforce.

Best,

Elizabeth

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject - Subject

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Sun 8/16/2026 3:17 PM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Cc City Council Clerk - Shr <ccclerk@portsmouthnh.gov>; City Council - Shr <ccemail@portsmouthnh.gov>; Carl E. Weber <ceweber@portsmouthnh.gov>; Karen S. Conard <kconard@portsmouthnh.gov>; Nathan D. Lunney <ndlunney@portsmouthnh.gov>; Susan G. Morrell <sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov>

Submitted on Sun, 08/16/2026 - 15:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Jacquelyn

Last Name

Drury

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Portsmouth Workforce Parking

Address

[REDACTED]

Farmington, New Hampshire. 03835-4343

Message

Respected city council members, it is of the utmost importance that you heed the warning of what's to come if there is no workforce parking available for downtown employees. The latest available data suggests that retail workers make up 12.8% of the Portsmouth workforce; food service, 5.46%; community and social services, 2.73%; education roles, 5.78%; this alone is a combined total of 26.77% of the working population of Portsmouth. Our city has seen a decline in overall employment by -0.437% since last year. This is in large part due to the lack of free parking for the workforce of town. The average annual wage of the prior listed fields of labor amounts to approximately \$42,648. Furthermore, approximately 54% of downtown employees commute to work from other towns because we cannot afford to live in the town where we work. So, we pay for the gas and the tolls to get to town, on top of paying an average of \$20 per day of work just for parking - it's getting increasingly more expensive for employees to work in this town. Considering these figures, let's now turn our focus to the town itself. Portsmouth has a rich tourist population. Every year we see a higher

rate of visitors travelling from all over the world to come to our quaint little city. It's why we keep building new hotels and condos, to accommodate these visitors. And why are they coming to our town? For the restaurants, and for the shops. Portsmouth is rich with small, local businesses and unique restaurants. What is going to happen to our town when there are no more employees to brew our coffee, to run the shops, to wait tables, to teach our kids, to nurse our elderly and babies? Portsmouth will become a shell of itself. Businesses will close, investments will fail, restaurants will sit vacant. We're already seeing the beginning of it; there's already a number of empty storefronts and restaurants in the immediate downtown vicinity. This is in large part due to employees being unable to afford to come to work every day. This will have a disastrous effect on our lovely town. Portsmouth dug itself up out of a trench over the last 20 years and we've become a bustling attraction across the country and the world. If we don't address the availability of workforce parking in town, we will see the pendulum swing the other way and we will end up right back where we started. We write to you because we love this town, we care, and we want to see it improve not just for ourselves, but for the visitors and community alike. On a personal note, I lived in the west end for six years. I'm the manager of a retail shop downtown. I made the difficult decision to move out of town this year because it's simply too expensive for me to live there. I love my job, I love Portsmouth, I don't want to leave. But as previously stated, between the gas and tolls and parking expenses, I cannot afford to even work in this town anymore. You have been elected to look out for all of us, including us lowly service workers. Please hear us out, please take action. This situation is untenable for all of us. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject - Subject