

Downtown Bolinas Area Overnight Parking Restrictions

Monitoring Report

November 21, 2020

Marin County Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, received approval for the County to enact a resolution prohibiting the parking of any vehicles except for automobiles, motorcycles and pickups between the hours of 11:00 PM and 5:00 AM on Brighton Avenue, Park Avenue and Wharf Road in Bolinas in accordance with Marin County Code 15.36.080. The purpose of this restriction is to encourage parking turnover for daytime access to Bolinas Beach.

The overnight parking restrictions intend to directly address the issue of parking turnover for daytime coastal access to Bolinas Beach and to provide for the orderly use of public property in order to encourage and enhance greater access to the coast in a manner consistent with the Marin County Coastal Local Program's Policies on Public Access in a reasonable, rational manner that also considers the impacts on local businesses and property owners.

The Marin County Deputy Zoning Administrator approved a Coastal Permit for the proposed parking restrictions on November 21, 2019. The Community Development Agency received no appeals of the Coastal Permit approval. The parking restrictions were approved to be implemented in phases in order to monitor and measure the effects of the parking restriction on parking turnover and to make adjustments over the course of the pilot program.

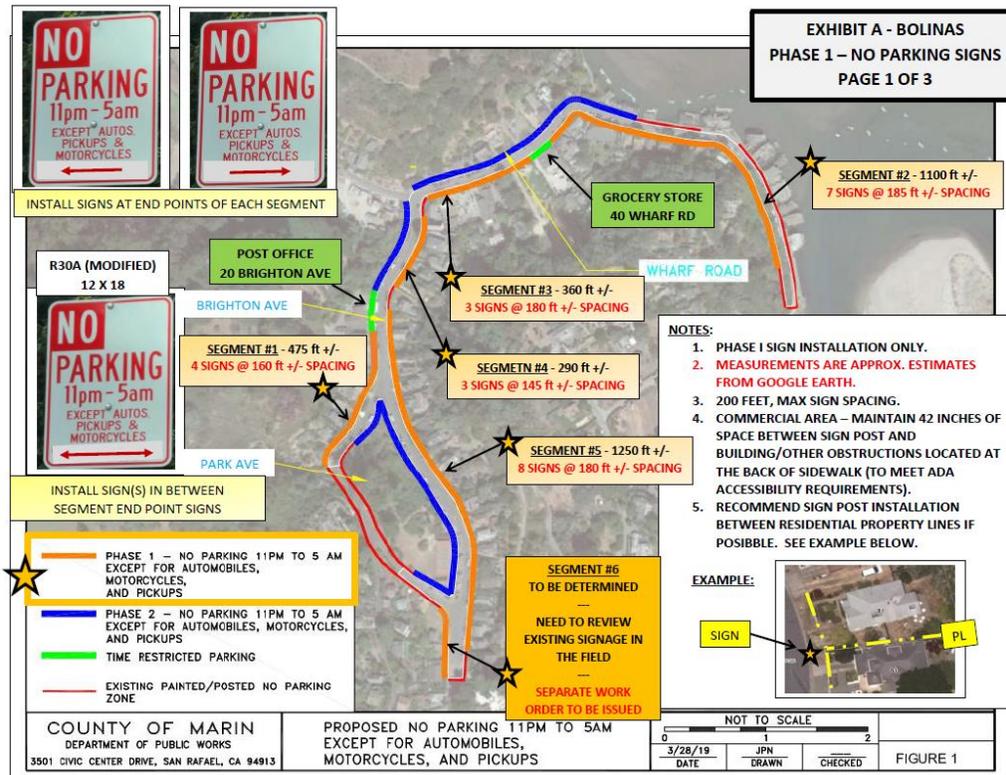
A monitoring report evaluating the effectiveness of the parking restriction was required as part of the Coastal Permit and this report fulfills that requirement. This Monitoring Report will be made available to the Marin County Community Development Agency, Planning Division and to the public one year from the date of approval, or by November 21, 2020.

To address issues caused by long-term parking in downtown Bolinas, the following parking restrictions were established in a phased manner, as follows:

- 1) Phase 1: Prohibit parking of vehicles except automobiles, motorcycles and pickup trucks along the residential frontages of Brighton and Park Avenues and the southern side of Wharf Road between the hours of 11:00 PM and 5:00 AM. Additionally, provide two 20-minute time limit parking restriction areas in front of the grocery store at 40 Wharf Rd and the Post Office at 20 Brighton Ave.
- 2) Phase 2: If there is insufficient improvement in parking turnover, expand overnight parking prohibition to the western side of Brighton Avenue, a small section of Park Avenue, and the northern side of Wharf Road from Brighton Avenue east to the existing no parking area.

Implementation of Phase 1 Parking Restrictions

Phase 1 parking restrictions were implemented on May 4, 2020 with the installation of signage per the attached map. Notices were posted in the community 1 week prior to installation of the signs and communications to community members was also done via email to interested parties and to the Bolinas Public Utility District (BPUD).



Data Collection

Data was collected shortly after 5:00a, which is the conclusion of the overnight parking restriction timeframe. This is to establish how many vehicles likely parked overnight, and how many parking spaces would likely be available for daytime use, or visitor access turnover. The total number of vehicles were counted and the general type of vehicle was noted and counted independently if it appeared to fall outside the likely definition of an automobile, motorcycle or pickup truck.

Existing Conditions (prior to implementation of parking restriction signage)

Data was collected on Saturday 3/21 at 5:00a, which is when the overnight parking restriction time period ends. Weather was typical, though schools had closed and coronavirus-related shelter in place orders were issued the prior week on Tuesday 3/17. Later that day, West Marin experienced significant visitations, later resulting in the closure of all parks in Marin County.

There were **81** vehicles parked in the downtown Bolinas study area. Of these 81 vehicles, 7 vehicles did not appear be autos, pickup trucks or motorcycles. Of these 7 vehicles, only 1 vehicle was parked in a Phase 1 parking restricted area.

Phase 1 Conditions

Data was collected on Saturday, August 10, 2020 around 5:30a, which is just after the overnight parking restriction time period ends. Weather was typical, schools were still out for the summer and coronavirus-related shelter-in-place orders were being relaxed, and it was not a holiday weekend. In scheduling the “after” data collection, careful attention was paid to the ongoing health orders related to travel and visitation of our coastal communities in order to select a weekend when conditions were as close to "normal" summer weekend conditions as possible.

There were **139** vehicles parked in the downtown Bolinas study area. Of these 139 vehicles, 4 vehicles did not appear be autos, pickup trucks or motorcycles. None of these 4 vehicles were parked in a Phase 1 parking restricted area.

Observations of Conditions

West Marin continued to experience significant visitorship as noted in several news stories and articles due to coronavirus related changes to summer travel recommendations to stick close to home rather than travel by air. Employer changes that significantly increased remote working situations have substantially increase the number of people traveling for pleasure while also working away from an office.

The Bolinas Community Coastal Alliance (BCCA) provided input detailing observations from community members on parking in the area. The input corroborated staff’s observations that there continue to be parking issues in the community and that demand far exceeds the supply. Visitors and residents continue to circle the streets looking for open parking spaces. The BCCA reported that the new 20-minute time limit parking areas in front of the Post Office and grocery store are appreciated and are working to ensure parking is available for residents to access their mail and grocery shopping needs.



Conclusion and Next Steps

It is recommended that the Director of Public Works implement Phase 2. There continues to be insufficient parking turnover during the monitoring period for Phase 1. Bolinas continues to be impacted by high visitorship and there is insufficient parking turnover for daytime coastal access to Bolinas Beach and to provide for the orderly use of public property in order to encourage and enhance greater access to the coast in a manner consistent with the Marin County Coastal Local Program's Policies on Public Access in a reasonable, rational manner that also considers the impacts on local businesses and property owners.

Courtesy notices will be posted for a minimum of 1 week prior to implementation of Phase 2, which will be the installation of additional signage in Phase 2 areas identified in the map above.

Continuation of parking restrictions beyond November 21, 2021 would require coastal permit re-authorization, and a subsequent Traffic Resolution approval by the Board of Supervisors.