



Work Session Memorandum

Date: September 15, 2026

To: Mayor and City Councilmembers

Through: Kelly DiMartino, City Manager ^{DS}
Jacob Castillo, Assistant City Manager ^{Initial}
Chad Wright, Housing and Community Vitality Director ^{Initial}

From: Brittany Depew, Lead Specialist, Homelessness ^{DS}
Vanessa Fenley, Senior Housing Manager ^{Initial}

Subject: September 8, 2026 Work Session Summary: Safe Parking Pilot Program

Bottom Line

The purpose of this memo is to document the summary of discussions during the September 8, 2026 Work Session on the Safe Parking Pilot Program. All Councilmembers were present.

Discussion Summary

Staff provided Council with an overview of Safe Parking Programs, City history exploring Safe Parking, and the City's role in a pilot program. Staff then outlined the current pilot program proposal and status of neighborhood outreach around the two proposed sites. Staff sought City Council input on the following questions:

1. Are Councilmembers interested in City staff bringing code updates to allow a Safe Parking Program to operate in Fort Collins?
2. If yes, what considerations for code updates and enforcement are top of mind for Councilmembers?

Highlights and key takeaways from the work session discussion include the following:

- Councilmembers expressed general support to explore code changes that would allow a Safe Parking Program pilot in Fort Collins, with mixed input on whether to pursue permanent code changes or a pilot.
- There was support for the City to hold neighborhood meetings prior to Council voting on an ordinance to ensure community and neighbor voices are heard.

- Councilmembers expressed gratitude to the faith community for partnering with nonprofits on this project, with encouragement to host shared dinners to build community through the program.
- Councilmembers raised questions about site safety, site monitoring, and how to manage the cars that utilize the site; staff communicated that partners will be responsible for operational oversight.
- Councilmembers acknowledged the two proposed pilot sites are different and discussed whether different expectations or monitoring could be applied to each site; while there was recognition the two sites differ, there was not consensus among Councilmembers for applying different expectations or requirements on the sites

Next Steps

Given Councilmembers' direction, staff will bring forward an ordinance to enable approved Safe Parking pilot sites to operate in Fort Collins. Staff anticipate bringing forward an ordinance for Council consideration in the next two months.

Staff are coordinating to host neighborhood meetings/conversations, tentatively scheduled for the week of October 19. Staff are also developing more specific pilot site approval guidelines, recommended pilot "off-ramps," and other information to share with Council alongside the forthcoming ordinance and/or code changes.

Follow-up Items

A question was asked about the funding structure for this program; staff have followed up with the partner agencies and have the following information to share:

- First United Methodist Church has funding available and is prepared to cover all related on-site costs.
- Trinity Lutheran, or the "301 Partners" (as the site additionally hosts Mary of Magdala Ecumenical Catholic Community and St. Paul's Episcopal Church) have shared site costs during their eight-year partnership and would share SafeLot Program costs. The 301 Partners have about \$9,000 to put toward start-up costs and have budgeted an additional \$2,000 annually. They have also applied for two grants and are awaiting decisions on those awards.

- Catholic Charities and Family Housing Network will absorb costs related to intake, case management, resource navigation and site monitoring, as these services are offered to all their clients.

CC: Noah Beals, Development Review Manager

Sgt. Annie Hill, Police Sergeant, Special Operations

Jay Hernandez, Code Compliance Senior Supervisor

Alyssa Bamonti, Assistant City Attorney