

## **Proposed Changes and Ways You Can Engage Before the February 20 County Board to VOTE to Change Residential Parking Permits**

On February 20, the County Board will vote on whether to approve the following changes to Residential Parking Permits (Please see the comparison chart at this link below to see how the proposed changes could affect residents): [https://projects.arlingtonva.us/.../rpp\\_review\\_RTAs...](https://projects.arlingtonva.us/.../rpp_review_RTAs...)

According to the chart, proposed changes include: Two-hour paid parking on all streets with restrictions, vehicles with a Residential Parking Permit or Pass would be exempt from the two-hour limit, no meters would be installed; increased fees for Residential Parking Permits, and reduced times and days for Residential Permit Parking.

The County's list of the proposed changes is:

- Expand the number of households eligible to petition for restrictions and join the Residential Permit Parking (RPP) program;
- Provide more parking options for short-term visitors and service providers, including two-hour, paid parking during the hours of restriction for parkers without RPP permits or passes;
- Introduce a limited number of permits for elementary, middle and high school employees, as well as employees who work at group homes;
- Raise permit and pass fees to end general tax support for the program, while offering a discount for low-income households;
- Charge households with a driveway, garage, or parking lot higher fees up to \$250 for a third or fourth permit than those charged to households without a driveway, garage, or parking lot;
- Alter the petition process by removing the "out-of-area" test for vehicles parked on a petitioning street while raising the thresholds for parking occupancy and the share of households supporting the petition.
- Consideration to keep the maximum number of annual permits that all households may receive in one year at four (4) or, alternatively, reduce the maximum number to two (2) for households with a driveway, garage, or parking lot and three (3) for households without a driveway, garage, or parking lot.

In response to a query from the civic association, the County Point of Contact for the Residential Permit Parking Review reported that:

“All of the changes described are for streets with Residential Permit Parking (RPP); streets without RPP will not have two-hour, paid parking installed. There are changes for residents who

do not have RPP but who want to apply to get those restrictions (see my answers to your next question).

Here are the changes that, under the proposed program, would impact residents who do not have RPP restrictions on their street:

- More residents will be eligible to petition to join the program. Any Bluemont residents living in a duplex, townhome, or apartment building built “by right” (i.e., without a Site Plan) will be able to petition to join the program; the current rules prevent most residents of these kinds of housing from applying.
- A larger majority of households on a block will need to support a petition for new RPP restrictions or expanding existing restrictions to new times of the day. Residents who want to get RPP restrictions or expand their existing restrictions will need to get support from 80% of the households on the block, not 60% as is the case now.
- Residents who do not have RPP permits and passes will be able to park on streets with RPP restrictions during the hours of restriction for up to 2 hours if they pay. Parking will stay free during the hours when RPP is not in effect.
- Fees for passes and permits will increase so that the program’s costs are covered by fees from RPP participants without support from the taxes paid by other residents.”

### **Opportunities for you to engage**

If you have concerns or questions about the proposed changes, now is the time for you to let the County Board know. You could discuss this with a County Board member at the February 8 virtual Open Door Monday session. Here is the link for information on that session. [Virtual Open Door Monday - County Board \(arlingtonva.us\)](https://countyboard.arlingtonva.us/events/virtual-open-door-monday-2021-02-08/)

Another opportunity to discuss this with a Board Member is the Open Door Monday session on February 15. <https://countyboard.arlingtonva.us/events/virtual-open-door-monday-2021-02-15/>

Here is the link to information about these Open Door Monday opportunities to discuss issues with County Board members. <https://countyboard.arlingtonva.us/open-door-mondays/>

The proposed changes will next be discussed at the Monday, February 8 virtual Planning Commission meeting that begins at 7 pm. This will be their last meeting before they decide on how they are going to advise the County Board.

<https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/events/planning-commission-hearing-feb-2021/>

### **COUNTY BOARD VOTE**

The County Board will vote on proposed program changes at its Regular Meeting on February 20, 2021.

Visit the County Board web page <https://countyboard.arlingtonva.us> to learn how to watch the meeting and sign up to speak.

For more information on the RPP Review, visit: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/rppreview/>.