



## **Designated Overnight Parking Program - Community Overview Discussions**

### **Designated Overnight Parking – Purpose**

The Municipality of Anchorage is launching the Designated Overnight Parking Program as part of its broader homelessness response strategy. This initiative offers a safe, legal, and supervised environment where individuals experiencing homelessness who live in their vehicles can park overnight. By connecting people to essential services, the program seeks to stabilize lives while reducing public health and safety risks associated with unmanaged vehicle camping.

This service is currently open for proposals through the formal Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Interested parties may submit proposals by June 26, 2025, and any written questions must be submitted no later than June 18, 2025.

### **Program Purpose and Goals**

The purpose of the Designated Overnight Parking Program is to provide a structured, service-connected alternative to unsanctioned vehicle camping. The program has three primary goals:

- Provide a clean, safe, and legal place for individuals living in vehicles to park overnight.
- Reduce the impacts of unmanaged camping on neighborhoods, public rights-of-way, and businesses.
- Connect participants to housing, behavioral health, and employment services to support long-term stability.

### **Public Safety and Site Management**

Sites will operate nightly from 6:00 PM to 8:00 AM during the summer season (July 1 to September 30). Only individuals with an approved permit will be allowed to access the site, and participants must meet eligibility requirements, including having a valid driver's license, insurance, and vehicle registration.

Designated parking improves public safety by reducing unauthorized camping throughout the city. Equally important, the program enhances safety for individuals sleeping in their vehicles by offering well-lit, staffed locations with restroom access, clear rules, and consistent monitoring during operational hours.

### **Location and Capacity**

No final site has been selected at this time. The Municipality is evaluating a range of possible locations based on safety, accessibility, and service proximity. In addition to municipal rights-of-way, qualified bidders may propose eligible private or nonprofit-owned properties as part of their proposal submissions. All proposed sites will be reviewed for zoning compliance and operational feasibility. Each site will be limited to 25 vehicles under Anchorage Municipal Code, with increases to 50 allowed only by written approval from the Anchorage Health Department (AHD).



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### **Addressing Community Concerns**

Community feedback is essential to the success of this initiative. The Municipality is committed to selecting locations that balance the needs of unhoused residents with the concerns of neighborhoods and local businesses. Business outreach is underway for any sites under consideration, and concerns about safety, sanitation, and enforcement were incorporated into site design and operations. Contractors will be required to implement a Good Neighbor Policy, respond to complaints, and maintain site cleanliness and order.

### **Program Oversight and Reporting**

The Municipality will provide oversight and require detailed reporting from the service provider, including nightly rosters, incident tracking, and participant progress. Contractors must also report all emergencies and community complaints to the Anchorage Health Department. Data will be used to improve services and ensure transparency with the public.

### **Community Questions & Answers**

- What are the permit requirements?

Individuals must complete an application that includes proof of insurance, vehicle registration, and a valid driver's license. If all documentation is complete, permits are issued within 24 hours. Permits must be visibly displayed when requested and are valid only at approved sites during operational hours.

- How will you minimize community impact?

Contractors are required to implement a Good Neighbor Policy, which includes clear site rules, regular security patrols, daily sanitation, and a responsive complaint process. Sites will be staffed throughout operational hours and designed to avoid disruption to nearby homes and businesses.

- Is the service meant to serve everyone?

The program is designed specifically for individuals who are experiencing homelessness and are residing in operable vehicles. Only individuals who complete an intake and are approved for a permit will be eligible to access the site.

- Is tent camping allowed?

No. Tent camping or any form of sleeping outside of a vehicle is not permitted at designated parking sites. These sites are specifically established to provide overnight parking for individuals living in operable vehicles, in compliance with Anchorage Municipal Code 16.20.050, which defines designated parking. This helps maintain safety and site cleanliness.



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- Who will manage the contractor?

The Anchorage Health Department (AHD) will oversee contract performance, including compliance with municipal code, program standards, and reporting requirements.

- How many people are allowed per vehicle?

Each permitted vehicle may accommodate all occupants who are listed on the application and have been approved during intake. Overcrowding is not allowed and is subject to review.

- Can people afford to have insurance and registration?

Eligibility requires valid registration, insurance, and a driver's license. Case management referrals will help participants navigate options to meet these requirements, including support through partner agencies when possible.

- Are drugs and alcohol allowed?

No. The use of drugs or alcohol on-site is strictly prohibited and considered a program violation. Random vehicle checks may be conducted to maintain safety.

- Can minors use the location?

Minors may be present only as part of a family unit. All adults in the vehicle must be screened and approved during the intake process.