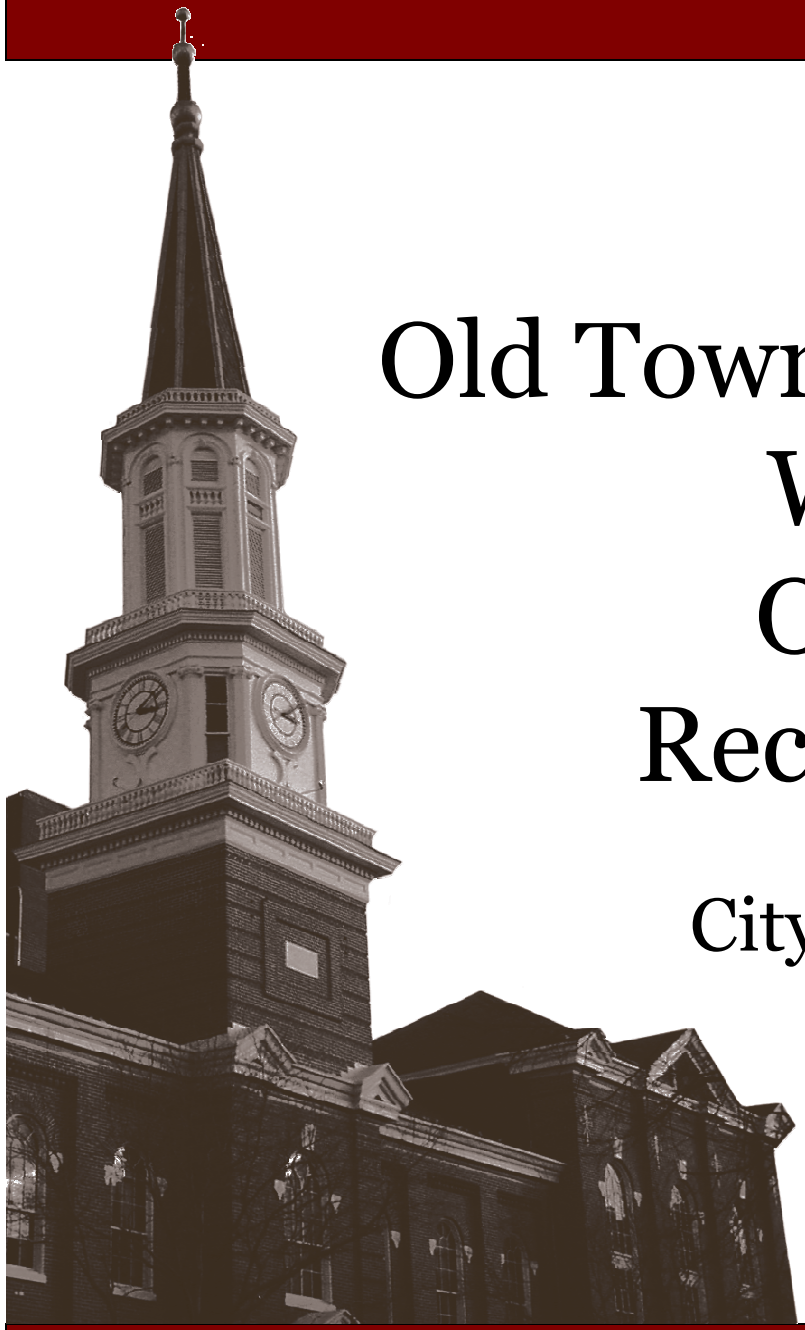
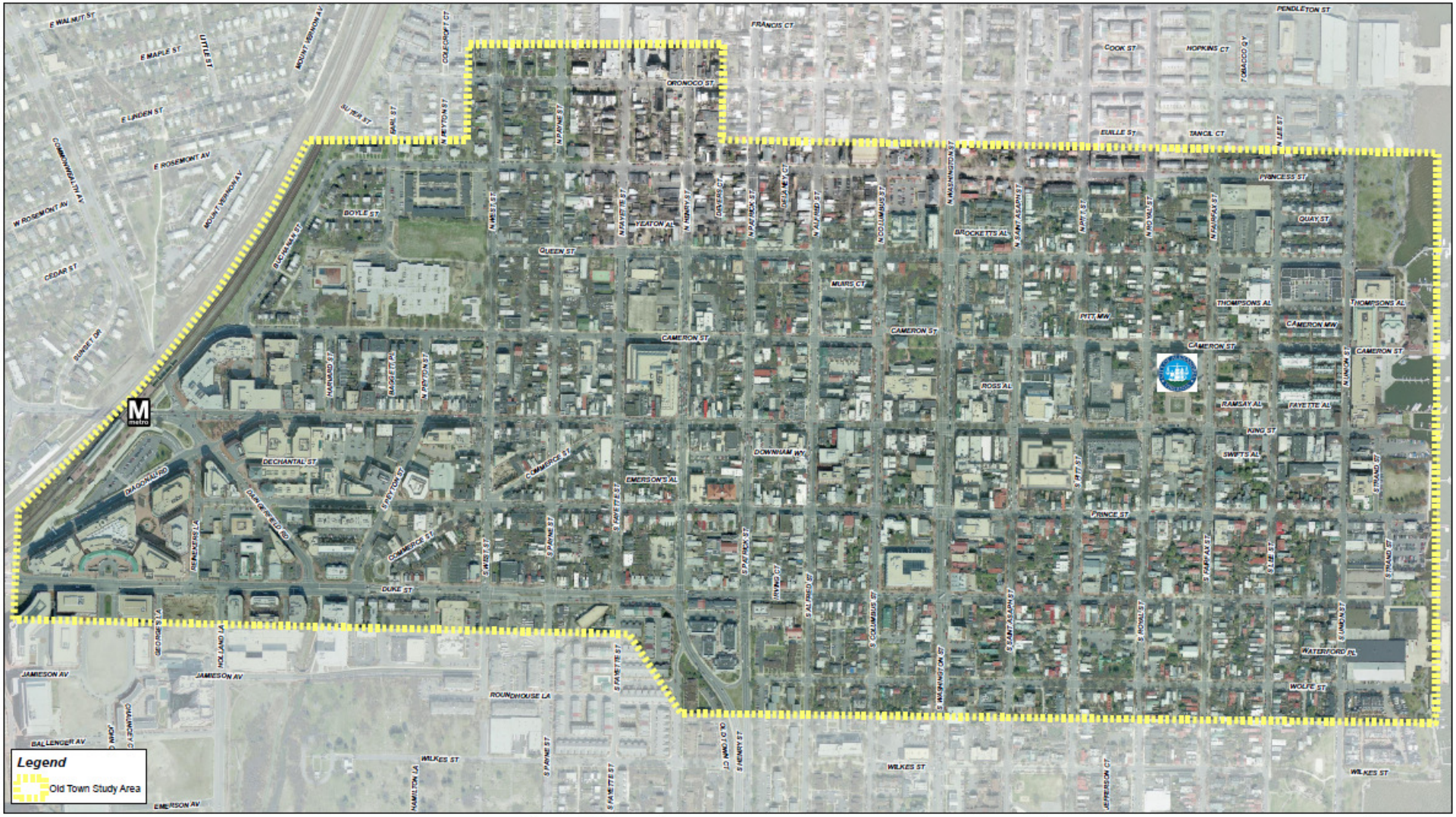


Old Town Area Parking Study Work Group: Overview and Recommendations

City Council Work Session

October 12, 2010

Old Town Area Parking Study Boundaries



OLD TOWN Parking Study

Figure 1-1:
Old Town Parking Study Area

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

0 100 200 400 600 800 1,000 Feet

FIGURE
1-1

Old Town Area Parking Study Work Group Members

- Transportation & Environmental Services
- Planning & Zoning
- Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities
- Old Town Business and Professional Association
- Chamber of Commerce
- Citizens/Civic Associations
- USPTO
- Real Estate
- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Parking Garages
- Retail

Old Town Area Parking Study Work Group

Purpose:

- Improve parking management in the Old Town area through implementation of recommendations set forth in the Old Town Area Parking Study.

Goals:

- Discuss selected recommendations from the Old Town Area Parking Study
- Establish plan for implementation of selected recommendations

Old Town Area Parking Study Work Group

Recommendations topics to discuss:

- Short-term
  - Variable meter parking durations
  - Extension of on-street parking meter hours
  - Addition of new multispace meters in the Old Town area
  - Disabled pay to park policy
- Long-term
  - Parking time restrictions in residential permit areas
  - Use of parking garages

Parking in Residential Areas Work Group Recommendations

Addition of Meters for Non-Permit Holders

- Do not add meters in residential areas.
  - Adding meters will create a “domino” effect, pushing parkers further into the residential area
  - Adding hardware to residential streets affects aesthetics

Parking in Residential Areas Work Group Recommendations

Time Restrictions for Non-Permit Holders

- Do not decrease time limits for non-permit holders in residential areas.
  - Visitor permits are difficult for residents to obtain
  - Research implementation of permit only parking during evening hours in residential areas

Meters in Commercial Areas Work Group Recommendations

Meter Operational Hours

- Extend operational hours until 10 pm.
  - Continues turnover into evening hours
  - Reduces use of on-street parking for evening employees
  - Georgetown and Bethesda meters operate until 10pm

Meters in Commercial Areas Work Group Recommendations

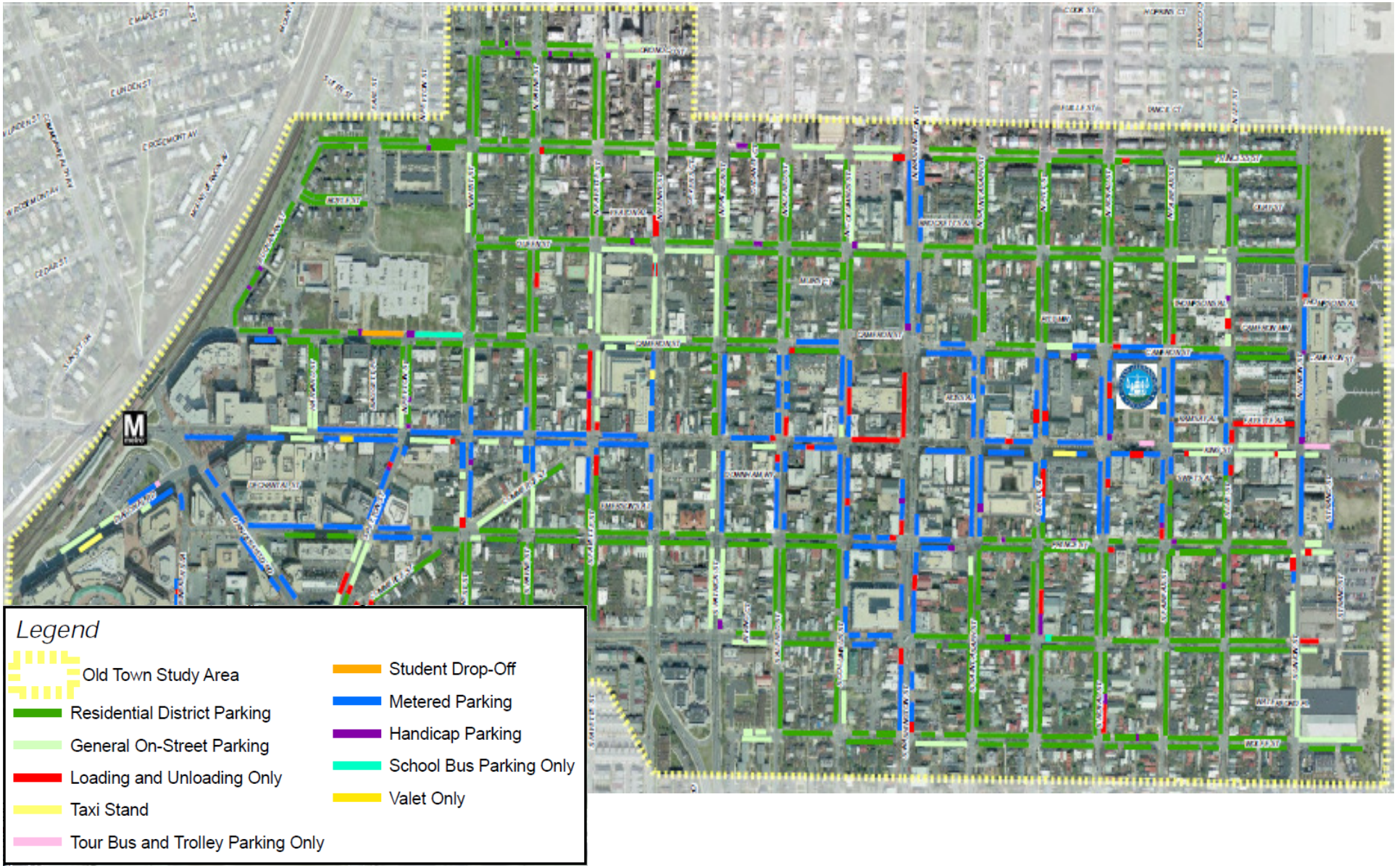
- Do not install meters with 30- or 60-minute time limits.
  - May cause confusion in users
  - Requires additional signs
  - Location cannot be tied to land use
  - Proper parking management aims for 1 or 2 available spaces per block
- Do not implement variable parking rates.
  - May cause confusion to users/visitors
  - May be used in the future

Meters in Commercial Areas Work Group Recommendations

Meters Fronting Commercial Uses

- Add meters in non-metered blocks that are fully commercial.
- Add meters in combination (residential/ commercial) blocks that are high activity/ utilization.
- Consider proximity and price of off-street parking facilities when placing new meters.

Existing Meters in Old Town Area



New Technologies
Work Group Recommendations

- Implement pay-by-phone technology at metered spaces.
- Install multispace pay-and-display meters for additional meter installations.
- Replace existing single space individual meter heads with multispace meters.*

* Recommendation has been approved and implementation is in progress.

"All May Park, All Must Pay" Work Group Recommendations

Concern:

- Number and location of disabled spaces

ADA Guideline for off-street lots:

- 2% for 1000 spaces

Work Group Recommendation:

- Designate 2% of metered spaces as disabled and monitor spaces for occupancy to ensure that appropriate number of spaces are provided.

Note: 2% is not a maximum

"All May Park, All Must Pay" Work Group Recommendations

Concerns:

- Multispace pay-and-display meters are difficult for the mobility impaired.
- Disabled persons need longer than 2 hour parking at meters.

Work Group Recommendations:

- Install a 4 hour single space meter at each designated handicapped space.
- Work with vendors to allow 4 hours of parking for disabled at other spaces.

"All May Park, All Must Pay" Work Group Recommendations

Concern:

Single space meters need too many coins.

Work Group Recommendations:

- Offer multiple payment options at designated disabled spaces.
- Explore in-vehicle payment devices.
- Explore use of pay-by-phone.

Note: Pay-by-phone vendors charge a usage fee (normally 35 cents) to the user.

“All May Park, All Must Pay” Work Group Recommendations

Concern:

Meter fees are prohibitive for some disabled persons.

Work Group Recommendation:

Issue waivers based on income for low income disabled residents.

Notes:

- Able bodied persons have ability to walk from “free” parking areas.
- ACVA has free parking program for visitors.

"All May Park, All Must Pay" Work Group Recommendations

Concern:

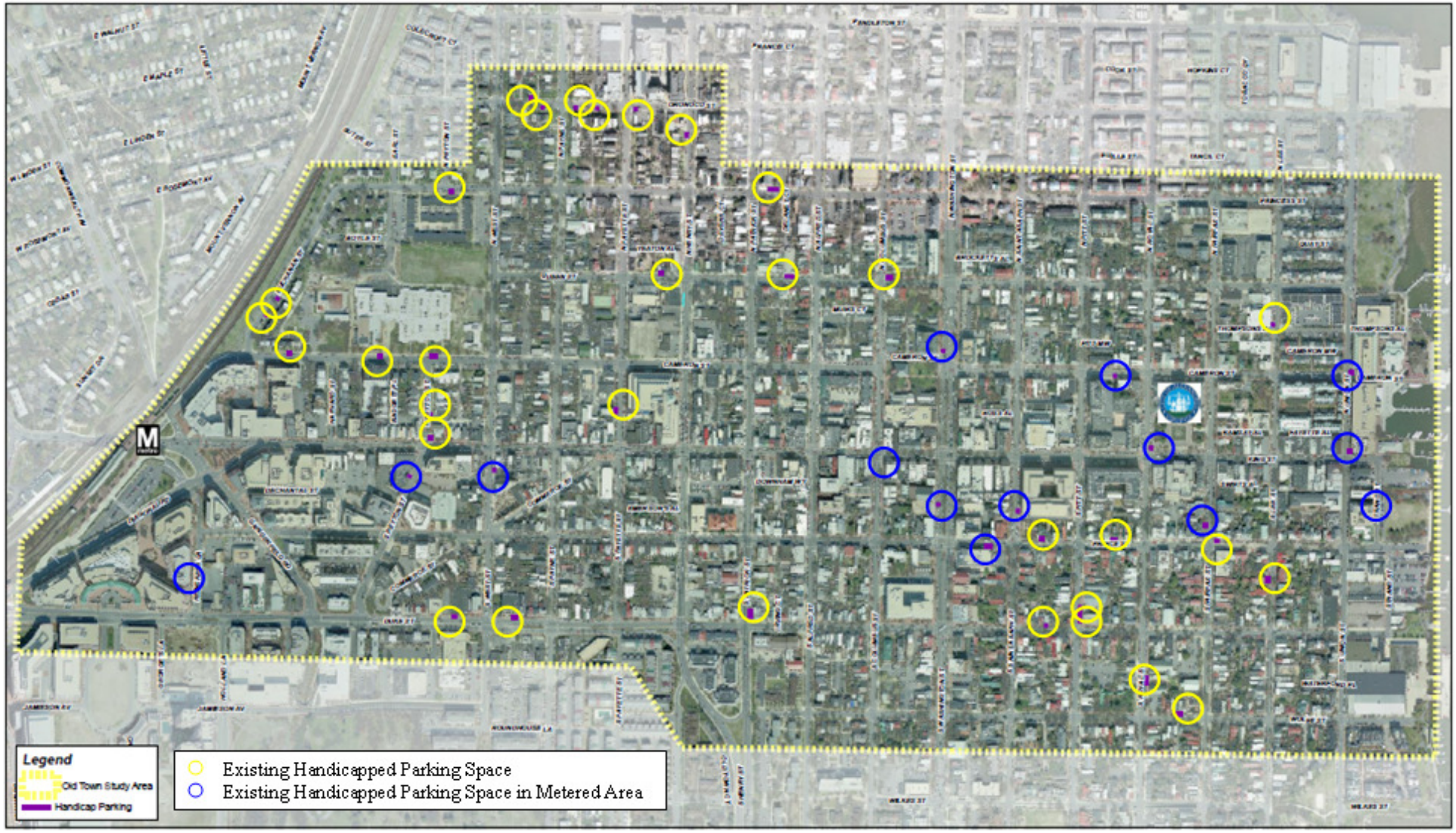
Policy will have negative impact on the disabled community.

Work Group Recommendation:

Implement policy only after proper meter infrastructure is in place.

Note: Enforcement is key.

Designated Handicapped Spaces in the Old Town Area



Off-Street Parking Facilities Work Group Recommendations

- Improve City-owned facilities.
- Develop brochure for users in partnership with ACVA, Chamber of Commerce, etc.
- Improve parking information on City website.
- Work with private garages to extend hours.
- Use City-owned facilities for valet parking.

Staff Recommendations

- Do not make changes in residential area until further data collection is complete.
- Do not extend meter hours until 10pm.
- Implement “All May Park, All Must Pay” once appropriate technologies are in place.

Staff Recommendations

- Implement pay-by-phone technology.
- Add meters in fully commercial blocks.
- Add meters in high occupancy residential/commercial blocks.
- Improve parking information for users.
- Continue to work with garage owners.

Parking Study Recommendations and the Waterfront Concept Plan

- Wayfinding to direct parkers to appropriate facilities
- Publicly accessible parking garages to meet current demand
- Valet parking to maximize capacity
- Parking management to reduce "cruising" congestion
- Private garage capacity to answer future demand

Next Steps & Schedule

- Replacement of single space meters with multispace meters (completed April ’11)
- Installation of parking wayfinding signs (completed April ’11)
- Data collection in residential Old Town areas (est. completion Spring ’11)
- Implementation of Council supported recommendations (ongoing)

Thank you!

Questions?