



STATE OF VERMONT

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the General Assembly

From: Michael Obuchowski, Commissioner of Buildings and General Services;
Janet Miller, Deputy Director, Operations, Legislative Council; and
Francis Brooks, Sergeant at Arms

Date: October 12, 2012

Subject: Interim Study of and Proposed Plan for Legislative Parking; 2012 Acts
and Resolves No. 103, Sec. 7

I. Introduction

This memorandum is in response to the legislative parking study we were required to perform and the proposed plan we were required to create as directed by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 103 (H.503), Sec. 7. The act required us to evaluate parking spaces within and around the Capitol Complex, particularly the spaces available for members of the General Assembly; survey members regarding whether there should be assigned parking spaces; and consider whether it is feasible to reserve 180 parking spaces for the exclusive use of members.

II. Capitol Complex

The Capitol Complex is generally defined in 29 V.S.A. § 182(1) as encompassing all of the property within a boundary beginning at the intersection of Taylor Street and the Winooski River; then proceeding northerly, crossing State Street, and continuing along Governor Davis Avenue to the intersection of Court Street; then running along the back boundary line of the State House to the intersection of Mather Terrace and Terrace Street;

then westerly along the southern side of Terrace Street to the intersection of Bailey Avenue; then southerly along Bailey Avenue and crossing State Street to the Winooski River; then easterly along the river to the point of beginning. The available legislative parking we assessed within the Capitol Complex also includes those legislative parking spaces within what is colloquially referred to as “the Pit,” which is the parking lot to the east of Governor Davis Avenue.

III. Background

Overall, there are 942 parking spaces as of October 12, 2012 within the Capitol Complex and approximately 1,423 state employees and legislative employees working at the Complex on any given day. The parking within the Capitol Complex has become even more strained due to the fact that Tropical Storm Irene has brought approximately 100 more state employees to work in buildings within the Complex. Also, construction is planned for 133 State Street and there will be a renovation of the heat plant behind 120 State Street, both of which will further reduce the number of parking spaces available in the Complex.

Parking within the Capitol Complex is limited during legislative adjournment and even more so during the legislative session. The issue with parking specifically around the State House is that during session, 180 members and the approximately 89 legislative staff persons who support them descend upon the Complex. This is a total of approximately 269 people that potentially need parking spaces. However, we have identified only 240 spaces that are available to members and staff in the parking lots closest to the State House in the Capitol Complex. This is an increase from the 208 spaces that are currently reserved for legislative parking; we recommend the additional

32 spaces pursuant to 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 104 (H.785; the Capital Bill), Sec. 26 (parking in the Capitol Complex).

IV. Survey

The survey we sent to members in July 2012 was informative. Out of 180 legislators, we received 133 responses. The overwhelming majority of those who responded indicated that there should be parking spaces reserved exclusively for use by members of the General Assembly. While the results were mixed on whether these reserved spaces should be assigned to individual legislators, a majority of those responding indicated that there should *not* be specific parking assignments. When asked whether certain people should have parking spaces near the State House that are reserved exclusively for their use, the overwhelming majority indicated that members with an illness or disabling condition should. “Members of leadership” also received support for exclusively reserved parking spaces near the State House, with some members explaining they thought the Speaker of the House and President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate specifically should get these close spots. Moreover, a large majority of members responding answered that legislative staff should have parking spaces reserved exclusively for their use.

V. Proposed Plan

Based on the available parking spaces for members and staff and the responses in the survey, we have created the following proposed plan for legislative session parking that we intend to implement for the upcoming legislative session and thereafter, with leadership approval. Please see the map in Attachment A for reference.

Two hundred forty parking spaces will be reserved exclusively for legislators and staff during session. Specifically, 180 spaces will be reserved exclusively for legislators,

with the remaining 60 spaces for staff. Parking credentials — such as a color-coded parking tag — will be issued by the Sergeant at Arms and Legislative Council and will be required of members and legislative staff in order for them to occupy these reserved spaces. The number of credentials issued will equal the number of spaces reserved.

A. Plan Implementation

The Sergeant at Arms will have the discretion to make specific parking assignments as follows. Of the 180 spaces for members, his plan is to exclusively assign a certain number of spaces for members with a medically-documented disabling condition. Moreover, of the 180, he will assign spaces for the exclusive use of certain members based upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House and the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate. All other legislator parking spaces will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Of the 60 staff parking spaces, the Sergeant at Arms will assign spaces for the exclusive use of any staff person who has a medically-documented disabling condition. He will also assign two spaces for the exclusive use of the House Clerk and the Senate Secretary, and three spaces for the exclusive use of the three Capitol Police officers. The remaining balance of staff parking credentials will be provided by Legislative Council to staff in a fair and equitable way, and those spaces will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

B. Enforcement

As is currently done, employees of Buildings and General Services (BGS) will enforce this proposed parking arrangement. BGS employees will do so by ensuring that the vehicles in parking spaces reserved for members and staff contain the required credentials that are provided to members and staff by the Sergeant at Arms and

Legislative Council. This plan will require the cooperation of the legislators and staff, as well as a stronger enforcement attitude on behalf of BGS.

C. Awareness

We recognize that this parking arrangement means that there will be legislative staff who will not be able to obtain a parking space within the 240 parking spaces allotted. To try to alleviate this parking shortage, after the session begins, the Sergeant at Arms will conduct an assessment of members who carpool or who do not park at the State House on certain days during session. Based on this assessment, the Sergeant at Arms may be able to coordinate with BGS employees to allow staff parking in legislative parking spaces if the Sergeant at Arms is certain that not all 180 members will need parking spaces on particular days. We encourage legislators and staff to carpool, rideshare, and make use of public transportation in order to help address this parking shortage.

D. Overflow

Moreover, we are aware of approximately 10 parking spaces that may be available to members and staff at the overflow parking lot at Redstone on Terrace Street. There is also the potential for members and staff to park within the 120 additional parking spaces at the “Carr Lot” on Taylor Street, which is behind the Capitol Plaza. Additionally, there are spaces available at the Department of Liquor Control and the Department of Labor lots, which are served by the shuttle.

E. Mondays

This parking plan would be effective January through the end of the session, Tuesday through Friday, unless the legislature is in session on a Monday. Overall, we have tried to address the need for adequate parking for legislators and staff that is near to the State

House amid a general parking shortage within the Capitol Complex. We hope that this proposed plan will work well for legislative members and the staff who support them.

VI. Incentives

Finally, it is recommended that legislative leadership consider some type of incentive to encourage members and staff to make use of public transportation, carpooling, and walking to work.

We thank Speaker of the House Shapleigh Smith; Senate President *Pro Tempore* John Campbell; Chief of Capitol Police Les Dimick; BGS Safety & Security Program Manager Keith Grochowik; BGS Principal Assistant Wanda Minoli; Chief Legislative Counsel Luke Martland; and Legislative Counsel BetsyAnn Wrask for their help and input for this study.

Michael J Obuchowski 10/15/2012

Michael Obuchowski, Commissioner of Buildings and General Services

Janet Miller

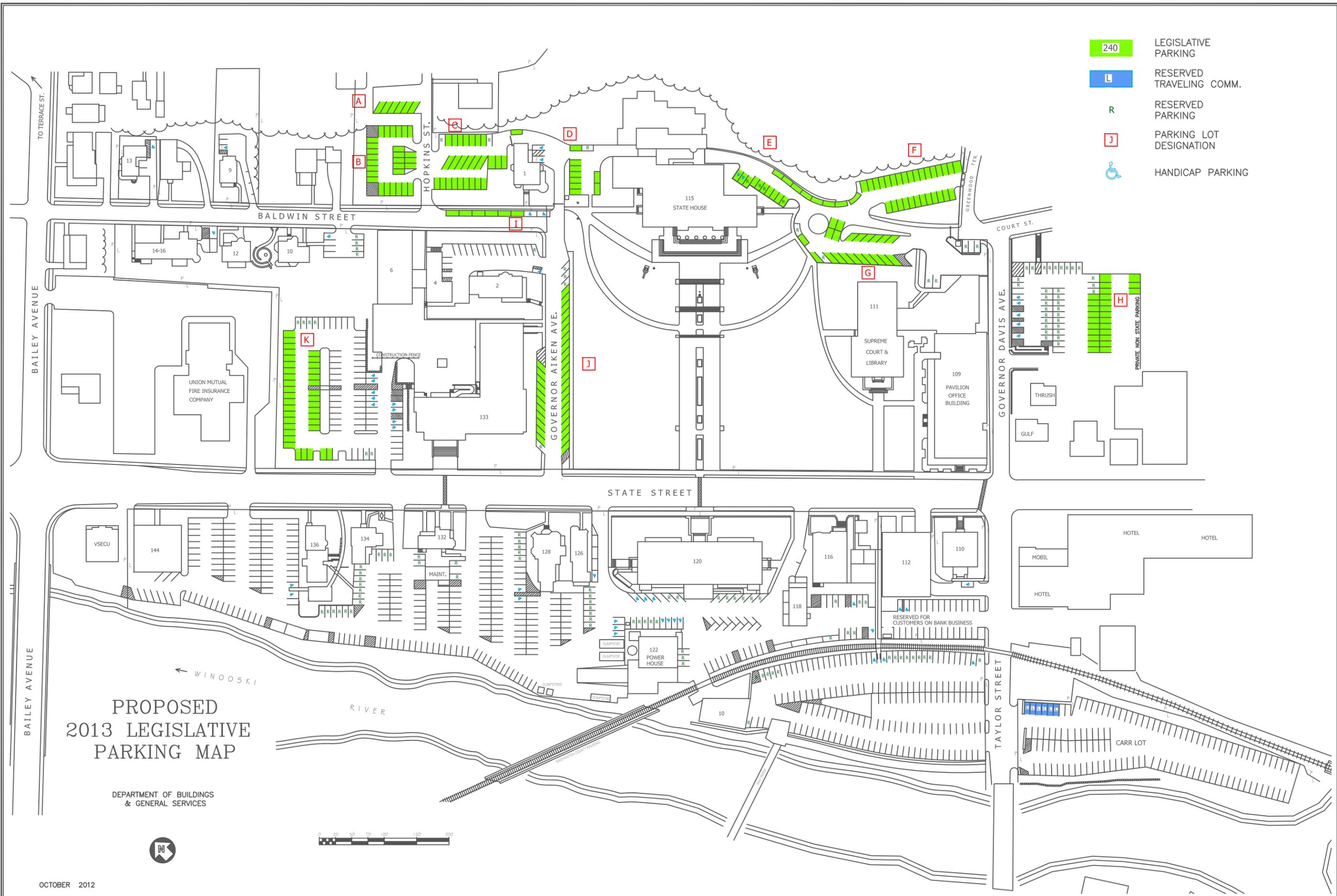
Janet Miller, Deputy Director, Operations, Legislative Council

Francis L. Brooks

Francis Brooks, Sergeant at Arms

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Proposed plan map



- 240 LEGISLATIVE PARKING
- L RESERVED TRAVELING COMM.
- R RESERVED PARKING
- J PARKING LOT DESIGNATION
- HANDICAP PARKING

**PROPOSED
2013 LEGISLATIVE
PARKING MAP**

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS
& GENERAL SERVICES



OCTOBER 2012



STATE OF VERMONT
Department of Buildings
and General Services
Agency of Administration
Montpelier, Vermont



MONTPELIER COMPLEX
2013 LEGISLATIVE PARKING
SITE PLAN

REVISIONS	
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE	DATE: OCTOBER 2012
	DRAWN BY: S.K. Janawicz
	APPR. BY:
MONTPELIER COMPLEX 2013 LEGISLATIVE PARKING MAP	
SITE PLAN	
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