

## LoDo Parking Progress By Jim Theye

This article continues a series to raise awareness about the continued loss of available parking for LoDo's residents, workers, and visitors. The supply of readily available surface parking continues to be depleted by new infill developments, and competition for on-street metered parking intensifies as LoDo continues to grow and thrive as a vibrant mixed-use hub.

Nevertheless, there is good news to report on the LoDo parking scene. The City has initiated a Parking Demand Study to evaluate future downtown parking needs, as part of a comprehensive city-wide parking management program. Additionally, Councilwoman Judy Montero has hosted an initial meeting with members of the LoDo District, Denver Public Works, and the Downtown Denver Partnership to consider coordination of varying parking initiatives. It is great to see the parking situation gaining attention among the stakeholders – let's hope we can coordinate studies and avoid a duplication of efforts. As the process proceeds, Councilwoman Montero should be recognized for taking on the delicate issues of parking availability and parking management. Her initial meeting with the Department of Public Works and the Downtown Denver Partnership demonstrates her awareness of this significant issue and her commitment toward a broad consensus concerning parking throughout her district.

The great thing about this new initiative is that Denver is striving to enact a more holistic, city-wide policy on parking management. According to Fabby Hillyard, LoDo's Director of Policy and Strategic Partnerships, "it will take some time to put in place, but this may be the first time that Denver has really had an over-arching policy on parking management that incorporates individual neighborhood initiatives. The Downtown Denver strategy will be different from other neighborhoods. We anticipate the new City program will incorporate significant community input from individual local neighborhoods, including LoDo."

There is also progress on parking kiosks. The City is requesting proposals to install on-street kiosks throughout LoDo in early 2008. Denver has had recent experience with kiosks that do not work up to community expectations. The City is currently soliciting information and proposals that incorporate specific technology requirements. If the advanced technology kiosks are not currently available at a reasonable cost, they will likely hold off until the technology becomes more readily available.

There is reason for excitement about the new parking initiatives and the community awareness concerning reduced parking availability for LoDo residents, businesses and visitors. Hillyard comments that it will be "incumbent on the community to seize the opportunity and help the City evaluate the various initiatives and connect the dots to make this parking initiative the best that it can be for each neighborhood."

The LoDo District has two committees made up of interested volunteers to respond to each of these issues. Joe Dolan and LaRay Brown manage the Transportation Committee, and David Cole chairs the Government Relations Committee. Contact either of them at [info@lodo.org](mailto:info@lodo.org) or 303-628-5428 and watch for more detailed summaries on our website, and in the Downtown Denver News.