



Tri-Cities Homelessness Initiative – Joint Council Study Session: Coordinator Question and Response Summary

12.13.23 6-9pm

--

The Tri-Cities Homeless Services Coordinator responded to questions from Councils during three sections of the meeting agenda: the conversation regarding the Safe Parking Pilot Program, the discussion of the expanded focus into affordable housing, and general discussion. Below is a summary of those questions. As a reminder, the questions regarding Safe Parking were intended to be collected from councils to inform feasibility work. Therefore, several questions were unanswered, but are listed here.

--

Safe Parking Pilot Program (Council Input and Questions)

Answered Questions:

Q: Give us an idea of the budget per site?

- A: for 3 sites, around \$250,000/year; for 1 site, around \$86,000/year

Q: Do vehicles have to be street legal? Insurance, License, Registration, etc?

- A: Service Provider staff can provide assistance with these items

Q: In other sites, is there a screening process for legal backgrounds?

- A: There are specific legal situations that would bar a person from accessing – not sure on specifics, but boundaries are present.

Q: What happens to other 55% of people who do not get placed into housing?

- A: Non-housing exits would likely be very individualized.

Q: Is there a timeline on how long they can use the parking spot?

- A: Could be continuous – likely a negotiable item regarding this item; Example from Summit County recommends a specific timeline.

Q: Vehicle size?

- A: Most vehicles would be appropriate, not sure that a camper/RV would be appropriate.

Q: Other sites available? Walmart?

- A: That's a question we would want to answer during a feasibility phase – is this still a need?

Q: Are we tracking how many people are currently living in vehicles in Tri-Cities?

- A: Best data point currently is the responses to CHHR survey (35 respondents slept in vehicles night before survey, 142 slept in vehicles at least once over previous two years). That's the most direct data set available, but is dated at this point (from 2019). Renewed data-collection could be worked into feasibility work.

Q: Best practices on educating surrounding area/community outreach?

- A: Undoubtedly one of the considerations for feasibility/planning.

Unanswered Questions for Feasibility Work:

- What are the crime statistics in existing lots? Who is providing security?
- Is the plan one lot for the whole region? Or multiple distributed lots?
- How can we use safe parking as a reinforcement strategy of other elements of Action Plan?
- How do we plan for trash/waste management at sites?
- How to gain input from community? Town hall meetings, etc.
- How to gain input from business community and faith community?
- How to gain input and potential partnership from other groups serving homeless populations? Movement5280, etc?
- Would like to see more clarity on supervision of sites and who is responsible for clean-up?

Affordable Housing Focus

Q: In the past three years, how many housing authority vouchers have been allocated to the homeless? Have there been housing vouchers provided to the homeless?

- A: Innovative Housing Concepts and South Metro Housing Options both have 37 families in their programming that were homeless at time of admission.

Q: Is Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy Group working with Denver?

- A: There has not been a formal partnership between Denver's current efforts – coordinator sits on weekly meeting to stay informed. Most robust effort in regional partnership, including Denver, is Built-for-Zero.

General Discussion

Q: Looking at finances, specifically discrepancies between different cities' contributions.

- A: For general Action Plan items, spending methodology of 45/45/10 percentage between Littleton, Englewood, and Sheridan respectively. Decisions made at council level regarding amount contributed to capital projects account for majority of discrepancy.