



SIGN INSTALLATION POLICY

“No Parking” signs



The Municipality of Anchorage has adopted parking regulations that are located at A.M.C. 9.30.

Four principles are used for guidance by the Traffic Engineer with respect to the installation of signs in residential neighborhoods.

First: Traffic control devices should be used to least extent necessary. Over-signage, particularly in neighborhoods results in a diminishment in the effectiveness of the message of those signs that convey critically-needed information for the health, safety and welfare of the community – both residents and those travelling through the neighborhood to other destinations. This includes pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

Second: Signs can become a distraction. Drivers’ attention needs to be on activities occurring in and near the road. Even a moment’s distraction can result in an incident.

Third: Signage should be used sparingly to supplement – but not substitute – an obligation to be aware of the rules of the road. A working knowledge of Alaska State Statutes and Municipal Codes is an obligation of every motorist when they travel on the roadway system.

Fourth: The installation of every traffic control device has both an intended consequence - and an adverse consequence that most residents may not be aware of, but which staff have to be mindful of to ensure that the proper solution is applied to a particular problem. A traffic signalization system will provide an orderly assignment of right-of-way at high-volume intersections and reduce the frequency of some types of crashes. However, there will frequently be an increase in the number of rear-end crashes – so, an intersection that is already experiencing a pattern of rear-end crashes should typically not be ‘solved’ by installation of a traffic signal system. A marked crosswalk on high-volume/high-speed roads may provide some guidance to motorists and pedestrians about crossings, however, installation of a marked crosswalk can lead to an increase in the number of rear-end collisions.

An unneeded parking restriction may move the demand for on-street parking to another location within the neighborhood – even if residents comply with the restriction, or perceive that enforcement will follow.

On-street parking, unless restricted for a persistent traffic safety issue (parking on a sidewalk, parking too close to an intersection and impairing the ability to see around a corner, overflow parking from an institutional use in a residential neighborhood, etc.), is open to all users of the public roadway system. The ‘space’ on the street in front of a home – for instance – doesn’t “belong” to that resident. Any legal parking space – away from mailboxes, driveways, hydrants – is available to be used by any member of the driving public, or, for local deliveries by commercial users.

For these reasons, the Municipality of Anchorage will typically not install “No Parking” signs along residential streets unless there is a persistent problem that has resisted correction after targeted enforcement by the Anchorage Police Department. “No Parking” signs will also not be installed in response to neighbor-to-neighbor disputes about activities such as parking in front of mailboxes, dumpsters or driveways.

Municipal Code was re-written several years ago (with respect to the date of this policy document, in 2016) to provide authority to the Anchorage Police Department to cite vehicle owners for parking violations – without the need for a sign or signs to be installed. For instance, Municipal Code states that parking is prohibited within 20 feet of a typical intersection – and a sign is not required. Parking is prohibited within 10 feet either side of a mailbox – and, again, no signs are needed. Parking is not permitted within 15 feet either side of a fire hydrant – and, again, signs are not required to enforce that restriction.

In general, without a documentable safety condition: crash history, recommendations from the Anchorage Police Department, Street Maintenance, or the Anchorage School District (based upon a potential hazard along an identified school walking route¹, or, recurring spill-over parking from a commercial/institutional use into a residential neighborhood, the Municipality of Anchorage will not install “No Parking” signs.

In the event that a private party requests that parking be prohibited along an entire block face, the proposed restriction will not be approved without

- a resolution in support from the Community Council
- written concurrence from at least 75% of the homeowners along both sides of the roadway

A diagram of the most frequently-occurring conditions covered by Municipal Code (i.e. those locations where “No Parking” signs will typically not be installed) follows.

Appendix “A” to this Policy summarizes the most frequently needed sections of Anchorage Municipal Code Title 9.

Because the question arises from time-to-time, the Municipality of Anchorage does not paint curbs to identify parking limitations outside of the Anchorage Central Business District. The Downtown Partnership provides special funding for installation and maintenance of the painted curbs (loading zones, ADA parking, standard parking spaces) that allows that work to be done each year.

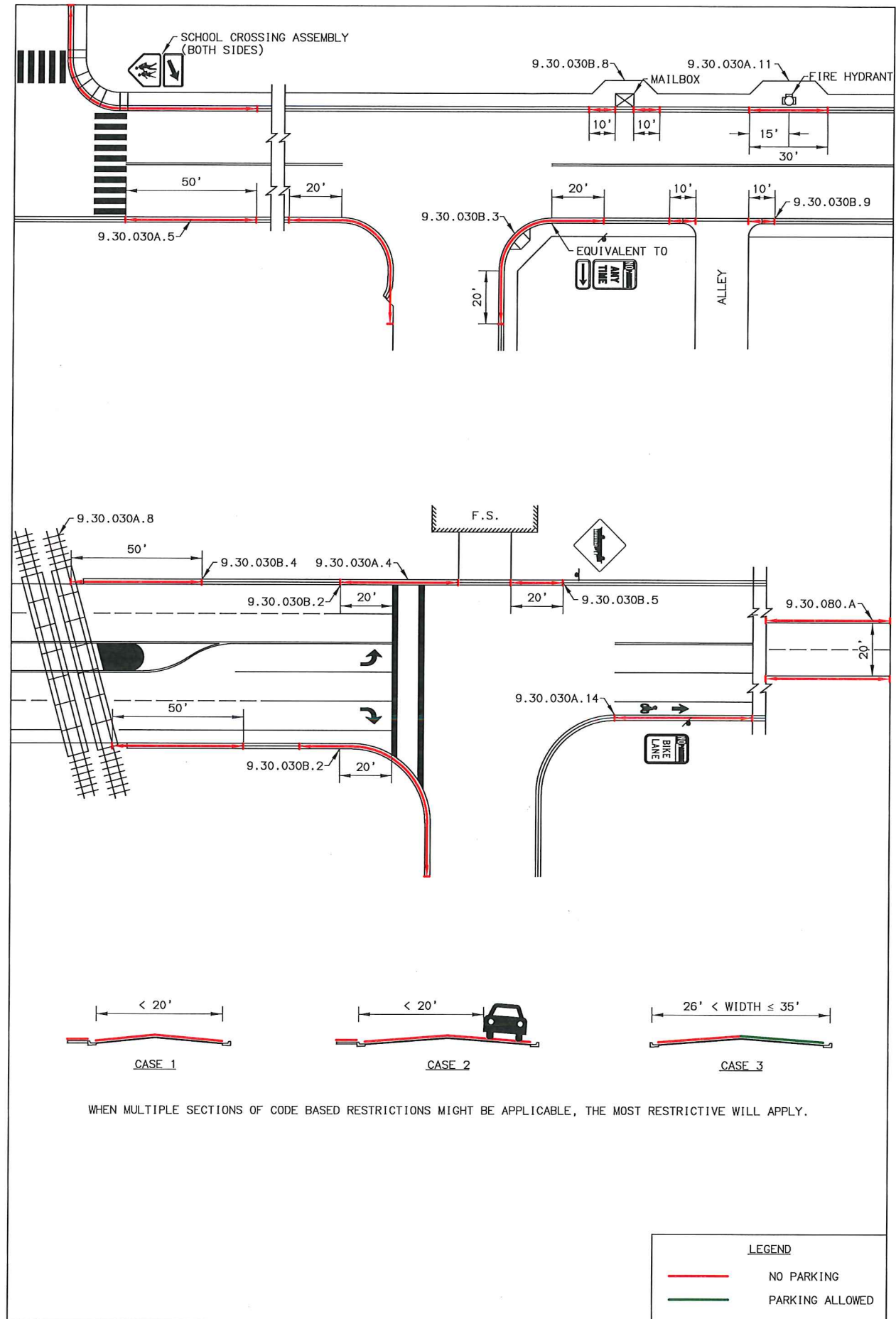
Although there is Code (AMC 9.65) that authorizes the implementation of permit parking in residential neighborhoods, that program is not administered by the Muni’s Traffic Department.

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¹ See current Safe Routes to School Manual

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FIGURE 1



Appendix “A”

Excerpts from Anchorage Municipal Code Title 9

- **9.30.030 - Stopping, standing or parking prohibited in specified places.**

Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with law or the directions of a police officer or official traffic control device, no person shall:

A. Stop, stand or park a vehicle:

1. On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street.
2. On a sidewalk.
3. Within an intersection.
4. On a crosswalk.
5. Within 50 feet of a marked crosswalk in a designated school zone.
6. Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic.
7. Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a street.
8. On any railroad tracks.
9. At any place where official signs prohibit stopping.
10. At any place immediately adjacent to a red painted curb except municipal transit buses and municipal transit support vehicles at designed municipal transit bus stops.
11. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant or within 15 feet of a fire safety sprinkler, standpipe or other fire protection system control valve, whether such valve is mounted on a building or the ground.
12. Within a fire lane designated as such by posted signs.
13. In the middle of a cul-de-sac.
14. in a designated bicycle lane.

B. Park a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading merchandise or passengers:

1. In front of a public or private driveway.
2. Within 20 feet of a marked crosswalk not located within a designated school zone.
3. Within 20 feet from the point of tangent of curb return at any intersection.
4. Within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing.
5. Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station.
6. At any place where official signs prohibit parking, with the exception of fire lanes and handicapped parking areas.
7. At any place immediately adjacent to a yellow painted curb.
8. Within ten feet of a curbside mail box.
9. Within ten feet of an alley entrance.

- C. No person may move a vehicle not lawfully under the person's control into any such prohibited area or away from a curb such distance as is unlawful.
- D. No person may park a vehicle on public property in a place not marked, designated or otherwise provided for parking, nor shall a vehicle be parked in a manner contrary to the indicated or conventional parking usage or mode in those areas where parking is permitted.

(CAC 9.30.030; AO No. 78-72; AO No. 78-146; AO No. 80-4; AO No. 87-142; AO No. 89-52; AO No. 94-68(S), § 14, 8-11-94; AO No. 98-171(S), § 3, 1-12-99; AO No. 2011-113(S), § 67, 11-22-11, eff. 12-22-11)

- **9.30.040 - Parking not to obstruct traffic.**

No person shall park any vehicle upon a street other than an alley in such manner or under such conditions as to leave available less than 20 feet of roadway available for free movement of vehicular traffic.

(CAC 9.30.040; AO No. 78-72; AO No. 80-4; AO No. 2011-113(S), § 68, 11-22-11, eff. 12-22-11)

- **9.30.050 - Parking in alleys.**

- A. No person shall park a vehicle within an alley in the central business traffic district except for active loading or unloading of freight or materials.
- B. No person shall park a vehicle within an alley in such manner or under such conditions as to leave available less than ten feet of the width of the alley for the free movement of vehicular traffic.
- C. No person may stop, stand or park a vehicle within an alley in such position as to block the driveway entrance to any abutting property.

(CAC 9.30.050; AO No. 78-72; AO No. 2011-113(S), § 69, 11-22-11, eff. 12-22-11)

- **9.30.080 - Parking on narrow streets.**

- A. The municipal traffic engineer is authorized to erect signs indicating no parking upon any street, when the width of the roadway does not exceed 26 feet, or upon one side of a street as indicated by such signs when the width of the roadway does not exceed 35 feet.
- B. When official signs prohibiting parking are erected upon narrow streets as authorized in this section, no person may park a vehicle upon any such street in violation of any such sign.

(CAC 9.30.080; AO No. 78-72)

- **9.30.130 - Parking during street cleaning and snow removal.**

- A. The traffic engineer is authorized to determine and designate by proper sign places in which stopping, standing or parking of vehicles would be prohibited during certain hours of the day for the purpose of removal of snow, ice, rocks, gravel, dirt, debris, litter or other accumulation upon public streets, alleys, sidewalks, places, municipal parking lot or other place where the municipality by law or written agreement has a legal duty to make such a removal.

B. When official signs prohibiting parking during certain hours of the day are erected as authorized in this section, no person may stop, stand or park a vehicle in such a designated place.

(CAC 9.30.130; AO No. 78-72; AO No. 80-4)

- **9.30.140 - Parking time limits.**

A. The traffic engineer is authorized to determine places in which there is public demand or necessity for short-time parking and to designate such places by proper signs indicating the time limit for parking.

B. When official signs are erected indicating time limit parking in places as authorized in this section:

1. Except as provided in subsection B.2 of this section, no person may stop, stand or park a vehicle in such designated place for a time longer than indicated on such signs.

2. No person may stop, stand or park a vehicle that displays a valid handicapped parking permit issued or approved by the traffic engineer in such designated place for a time longer than 1.5 times the maximum time indicated on such signs.

(CAC 9.30.140; AO No. 78-72; AO No. 95-6, § 3, 5-16-95)

- **9.30.150 - Parking for longer than 24 hours.**

No person may park a vehicle on any street, vehicular way or area, or municipally owned parking lot for a period of time longer than 24 hours, except from Friday noon until Monday noon.

(CAC 9.30.150; AO No. 78-72; AO No. 80-4; AO No. 2011-113(S), § 71, 11-22-11, eff. 12-22-11)