

FAQs: Reserved-Space Car-sharing Program

March 2017

Q: What is reserved-space car-sharing?

In a reserved-space car-share system, trips start and end in locations reserved exclusively for car-sharing. Currently, two reserved-space services are operating in Arlington, Zipcar and Enterprise Carshare, with some vehicles parking on-street and some in publicly-accessible garages. With the establishment of an official reserved-space car-sharing program, Arlington seeks to distribute reserved on-street spaces for car-sharing throughout the County to increase accessibility and convenience for residents.

Q: Why does the County support car-sharing?

Car-sharing has been shown to have positive transportation, environmental and economic impacts on communities. It improves access to public transportation, increases travel convenience and mobility, and reduces unnecessary personal motor vehicle travel and related environmental impacts, such as air pollution, congestion and/or hazardous traffic conditions in neighborhoods.

Q: How can I give feedback on the reserved-space car-share program?

A County webpage at <https://transportation.arlingtonva.us/carsharing/> provides residents with updates on car-share program developments. On this webpage, the public has the opportunity to suggest locations for reserved-space car-share parking spaces via an interactive map. In addition, residents will be able to comment on already proposed locations and provide additional feedback by filling out the interactive map comment survey. Residents may always reach out to County staff directly by sending an email to carsharing@arlingtonva.us.

Q: Is there a public feedback deadline?

County staff seeks to establish the initial reserved-space car-share network by summer 2017. However, there is no specific end date for public feedback. Even after the establishment of the initial reserved-space car-share network, residents can still provide feedback on the functionality of implemented spaces via the interactive map, facilitating optimization of the network in the long-term.

Q: What criteria are being considered when deciding on locations?

A variety of factors play a role in the decision-making process related to the placement of a reserved-space car-share location:

1. The street network, utilized in the interactive feedback map mentioned above, has undergone an initial staff evaluation of suitable (displayed in blue) and unsuitable (illustrated in pink) locations. Suitability factors include ownership rights, timeline of capital improvement projects, location of emergency and special event routes, as well as more general County operation aspects.
2. In addition, staff incorporates public feedback gathered at civic association meetings and through the interactive maps and email correspondences in the placement decision process.
3. Information including, but not limited to, population density, private vehicle ownership per household, distance to transit hubs, and general availability of mobility options will be evaluated to optimize the car-share network for resident members and visiting car-share members.
4. Car-share providers' preferences are also factored in during the procurement process.

Q: Will the on-street reserved-space car-share network change in the future?

While County staff promotes a stable car-share system to provide consistent car-sharing service to resident members, the program will be designed with a degree of flexibility.

This flexibility will allow the County to accommodate changes in the car-share market and resulting availability of providers, as well as decisions of County staff and car-share providers to relocate a specific car-share space or to extend/reduce availability of spaces based on demand or right-of-way conflicts.

Q: What is the difference between this and the free-floating car-share system?

In a free-floating system, trips start and end in any legal on-street parking space, so there is no need for reserved spaces. Since 2015, car2go has been providing free-floating car-share service in Arlington as part of a demonstration study. For additional information on free-floating car-sharing, visit <https://transportation.arlingtonva.us/carsharing/car2go/>.

Q: Is car-share the same as Uber or Lyft?

No, car-share is not the same as Uber or Lyft. Uber and Lyft are drivers-for-hire, a service most similar to taxis. Car-sharing doesn't employ drivers. Car-sharing is a variation on car rental, but it does a few important things to make it easier to integrate into a lifestyle with many transportation options:

1. It distributes the cars conveniently throughout the community, rather than just a few car rental locations, so it doesn't take a car to get to a car;
2. It charges by the minute or hour, so you only have to rent a car for precisely the time that you need one; and
3. It bundles all costs (gas, maintenance, insurance, parking, taxes, and more) into the rate, which allows drivers to see the costs clearly when they make each choice to drive, or weigh it against other travel options.