



**TOWN OF
TELLURIDE**
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Town of Telluride Diagonal Parking Pilot Frequently Asked Questions

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What is the Diagonal Parking Pilot?

The Town of Telluride is testing angled parking on West Colorado Avenue between Davis and Aspen Streets. The West Colorado Avenue Angled Parking Pilot represents a strategic, research-supported, and fiscally responsible initiative to:

- Expand downtown parking supply in a critical area;
- Improve safety and turnover rates;
- Reduce neighborhood parking pressures;
- Maintain emergency and winter operations standards;
- Prepare for and mitigate potential disruptions from upcoming 2025 construction projects.

Staff will continue engaging the public, monitoring outcomes, and providing transparent updates to ensure any permanent decisions are well-informed and community centered.

Why are we testing angled parking in this area?

This section of West Colorado Avenue is wide enough to fit angled parking while still allowing two-way traffic. It's close to schools, shops, and popular spots, so adding more parking here helps meet high demand—especially with summer 2025 construction that will remove some spaces elsewhere. Adding capacity here directly supports the goals of the Town's Parking Master Plan to mitigate localized parking pressures.

How many spaces were added?

Switching from parallel to angled parking added 14 new parking spaces between Davis and Aspen Streets.

Impacts & Considerations

Will traffic still move in both directions?

Yes. One lane in each direction is still open. The center lane wasn't a travel lane—it was used for snow storage. Angled parking makes the street feel narrower, which can help slow cars down and make things safer for people walking or biking.

Is emergency access impacted?

No. Fire trucks and emergency vehicles still have 34 feet of clear space, which is more than many other streets in town. Additional routes on the north-side alleyways offer a secondary response route if needed. Emergency services reviewed and approved the new layout.

Will the Main Street flower boxes be removed because of this new layout?

The flower boxes between Davis and Aspen Streets were removed back in 2019 and have not been replaced. The Town has no plans to reinstall them in that area.

How are deliveries being made?

Deliveries are still being made using alleys and curbside, just like on other streets downtown. This hasn't caused any problems so far.

What about snow removal?

Plows will continue to use the 17-foot-wide travel lanes for snow storage. Snow removal operations won't change, and overnight parking rules stay the same.

Safety of Diagonal Parking

Is angled parking safer?

Yes. National studies show that angled parking:

- Slows down traffic.
- Makes drivers easier to see when backing out due to reverse lights and camera technologies.
- Reduces crashes with pedestrians, cyclists, and other cars.

Benefit	Description	Supporting Source
Increased Awareness through Reverse Lights and Back-Up Cameras	Angled parking allows drivers to back out slowly, using reverse lights and backup cameras to alert nearby vehicles and pedestrians. In contrast, parallel parking typically involves unpredictable movement when entering or exiting a space.	National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), Urban Street Design Guide
Space Efficiency	Angled parking accommodates more vehicles per block than parallel parking, especially on wider streets.	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), On-Street Motor Vehicle Parking and the Bikeway Selection Process
Ease of Maneuvering	Angled spaces require a smaller turning radius and are generally easier for drivers—especially novice or older drivers—to enter and exit compared to parallel spaces.	Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), Parking Generation Manual
Improved Visibility for Drivers	When leaving an angled space, drivers face into the travel lane at a diagonal angle, providing better sightlines compared to exiting a parallel parking space.	NACTO, Urban Street Design Guide
Reduced Risk of Collisions	Angled parking reduces the likelihood of side-swipe accidents, "dooring" incidents involving cyclists, and abrupt vehicle entries into traffic lanes.	AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety; Journal of Transportation Engineering

Evaluation

How long will this pilot last?

The pilot runs through Fall 2025. The paint may wear off naturally by winter unless Council decides to extend or make it permanent.

How will this pilot be evaluated?

The Town will monitor:

- Occupancy rates on angled vs. parallel blocks.
- Traffic flow observations and incident reports.
- Emergency services feedback on access and response times.
- Public feedback gathered through the Town's survey portal: bit.ly/totparkingpilot
- Business community feedback on parking turnover and access.
- Winter operational performance related to snow management.

What is the timeline for evaluation?

Milestone	Target Date
Mid-season feedback review	Summer 2025
Full-season data summary	Fall 2025
Public feedback form closes	Fall 2025
Final staff report to Council	Fall 2025

What will happen after pilot completion and evaluation?

At the conclusion of the pilot, Council will consider:

- Permanently adopting angled parking in this area
- Reverting to parallel parking
- Modifying the design based on findings (e.g., back-in angled parking)

All decisions will be based on community feedback, staff observations, operational outcomes, and strategic alignment with Telluride’s broader transportation goals.

Who can I contact for more information?

For questions or assistance, contact the Public Works Department by calling (970) 728-5700 or email pw@telluride.gov.