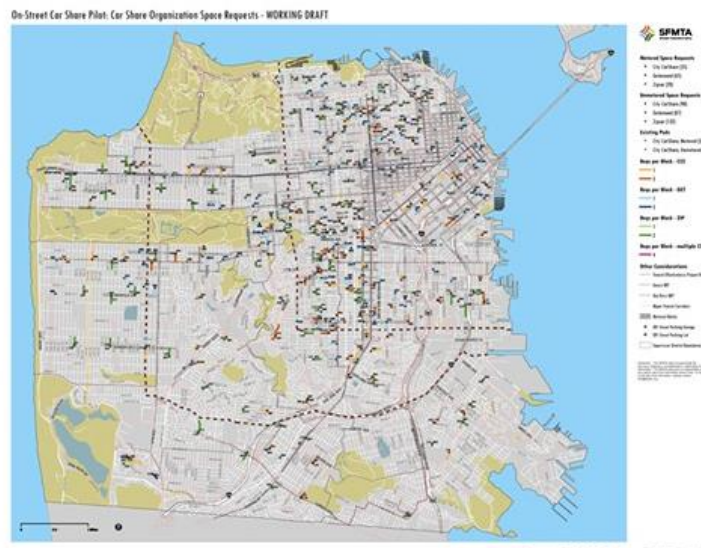


Hundreds of SF parking spots could be reserved for car-sharing companies

By Chris Roberts

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More than 400 parking spots along city streets and in publicly owned parking garages in neighborhoods across The City could be set aside for use by rental cars operated by car-sharing companies, under a city plan to promote alternatives to private automobiles.

Car-sharing companies ZipCar, City Car Share and Getaround, which rent vehicles out for short periods of time, have each asked for about 150 parking spaces to be reserved for their vehicles, according to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency. The spaces are currently in use by private automobiles.

Currently, car-sharing companies in The City have “pods,” or areas where cars can be found — marked by signs like “ZipCar lives here” — in privately owned lots and garages.

Opening up street parking and SFMTA-owned garages to ZipCar and its ilk could help The City reduce traffic congestion, said SFMTA Transportation Director Ed Reiskin, as well as promote “an alternative to car ownership.”

City policy encourages transportation modes alternative to private automobiles, which are “expensive assets that often sit idle 22 or 23 hours a day,” Reiskin added.

About 317 unmetered parking spaces and 120 metered spaces

have been earmarked for future car-share use, according to the SFMTA.

At least 30 percent of the spots are in outlying neighborhoods, including the Outer Sunset, Excelsior and Visitacion Valley.

Pending a public-approval process, the spaces would be set aside for car-sharing use for about two years.

Each space would need to be vetted by residents as well as the SFMTA board, agency spokesman Paul Rose said.

Each company could then get another 150 spaces each reserved next year.

Of the three local car-sharing companies, Getaround is the only one that allows owners of private cars to rent out their vehicles when unused, company founder Jessica Scorpio said.

Getaround hopes to sign up 50 users to its service today, she added.

The SFMTA will also collect rent of up to \$225 per month on the car-sharing spaces, plus a \$400 installation fee. There are 281,000 on-street parking spaces in The City.