1) **What is the title for your project?**

2014 Stevenson Parking Analysis (SPA)

2) **Who is the client for this project? Please briefly describe the organization or community served by the project.**

The City of Stevenson, Washington is the project client and is working closely with the Stevenson Business Association as part of a downtown revitalization effort. The Stevenson community contains 1,515 people within its corporate limits and functions as the primary service center for Skamania County’s 11,300 residents, and countless transient visitors enjoying the scenery and activities of the Columbia River Gorge.

3) **What is the problem that your proposed project will attempt to solve? Please note that we are seeking “planning projects.” A “planning project” is problem-centered, has a specific geographic area of concern, requires the development and evaluation of alternatives, a product that includes a recommended course of action, and depends on direct community consultation and participation. Note that research projects, projects that don’t involve direct contact with and involvement of the public, or projects that don’t create choices for clients are generally not acceptable for workshop purposes.**

“Sally next door won’t park stop parking in front of my business, but complains to me if I ever park in front of hers.” [True.]

“You know, McMenamins was going to open a pub in the old Smith building but said no after they looked at the City’s parking requirements.” [Not true.]

“The tourists never stop in this town anymore, because the City removed all the parking when they put in the landscaped bump-outs.” [Potentially true?]

“These off-street parking requirements are archaic and based on some suburban ideal that bears no relation to our needs.” [Potentially true?]
Parking management is a problem all communities deal with and often times revisit many times over. Stevenson is no different, and the “Parking Dilemma” as characterized by Roger Brooks has become a point of community discussion during a recent downtown revitalization effort. However, the thrust of the discussion differs depending on who is grappling with the problem. Current business owners see a lack of an adequate parking supply as a deterrent to their enterprise. Land owners and potential developers see off-street parking requirements as a hindrance to their proposals’ highest and best uses. The City, as intermediary between these divergent groups, lacks adequate information to speak to either group with the appropriate authority.

4) **WHAT IS THE DESIRED PRODUCT, AND HOW WILL IT ADDRESS AN IDENTIFIED COMMUNITY NEED? WHO WILL USE THE PRODUCT?** PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PRODUCTS, THOUGH DEVELOPED FOR AND DELIVERED TO CLIENTS, ARE EXPECTED TO BE SHARED WITH THE PUBLIC ON THE TOULAN SCHOOL WEBSITE.

The graduate candidates undertaking this project would be expected to provide an assessment of the current parking supply and its usage, an evaluation of how that supply might accommodate a range of future demand/development scenarios, and suggestions on how deficiencies in the supply might be best overcome. These suggestions would likely involve regulatory changes to the Zoning Code, efficiency improvements in the existing parking supply, and appropriate additions to the public parking supply. A parking capital improvement plan to implement the PSU suggestions is welcomed but not expected. Providing these products will enable at least two key public involvement opportunities, once before or after assessing future demand scenarios, and once after developing suggestions for future action. The City, in conjunction with the Stevenson Business Association, will use these products to further revitalize downtown.

NOTE: In conceptualizing the desired product, the City has used John D. Edwards’ 1994 *The Parking Handbook for Small Communities* as its primary guide, but this should not be treated as an edict or the sole acceptable approach to overcoming our Parking Dilemma. We are turning to PSU to get help from the best young minds in the business and assume that new and better approaches are out there.

5) **WHAT RESOURCES (TIME, MONEY, INFORMATION/DATA, PRINTING, GAS MONEY/BUS PASSES, MEETING SUPPLIES AND REFRESHMENTS, ETC.) CAN YOU PROVIDE, IF ANY, TO HELP SUPPORT THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT?**

The proposed City budget for 2014 contains a line item for $8,000 for Planning Professional Assistance. This amount is anticipated to be used for numerous projects, but approximately $2,000 could be allocated for the SPA to offset PSU travel, printing expenses, and meeting hospitality. The City also understands how crucial project management is to the success of any endeavor, and staff time to work with students will not be in short supply during the project.
6) **PLEASE PROVIDE THE CONTACT DETAILS (NAME, ROLE IN THE CLIENT ORGANIZATION, TELEPHONE NUMBER, E-MAIL ADDRESS) FOR THE PERSON SUBMITTING THE REQUEST ON BEHALF OF THE CLIENT ORGANIZATION, AND WHO WILL BE REGULARLY AND CONSISTENTLY AVAILABLE DURING THE WINTER AND SPRING TERMS TO INTERACT DIRECTLY WITH THE STUDENT GROUP.**

Ben Shumaker, Planning Director for the City of Stevenson prepared this proposal and would serve as the primary liaison between the City and the University. Julie Mayfield, City Councilmember, and Bonnie Heemeier, business owner/Stevenson Business Association member, could also be made available for key meetings. Their contact information is

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- Bonnie Heemeier: (509) 427-4444—[bonnie@bloomsburyshop.com](mailto:bonnie@bloomsburyshop.com)