DOWNTOWN PARKING STRATEGY UPDATE - DEFERRAL REQUEST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To help balance the amount of meeting items at the 2017 March SPC meeting and provide an opportunity for a wholesome discussion of the report, Administration is recommending deferral of the Downtown Parking Strategy Update report to the 2017 May SPC meeting.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION

That the SPC on Transportation and Transit recommend that Council defer the Downtown Parking Strategy Update report to no later than 2017 May SPC on Transportation and Transit.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPC ON TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT, DATED 2017 MARCH 15:

That the Administration Recommendation contained in Report TT2017-0177 be approved.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2016 June 20, Council approved report TT2016-0204 on the Integrated Downtown-TOD Parking Strategy. This included the approval of recommendation 1 "Approve the Downtown Parking Strategy Principles in Attachment 3", as well as the follow up implementation work in recommendation 2, which "direct[ed] Administration to undertake the implementation actions in Attachment 4."

The actions that are to be addressed in the forthcoming report from Attachment 4 include:

- Amending Section 6.1 in "A Parking Policy Framework for Calgary" to reflect the approved policy principles.
- Determine the per stall fee for the parking relaxation approach
- Review Heritage parking policies in the Downtown
- Review Short-stay parking policies in the Downtown

This work would complete the Council Policy components. Subsequently, land use bylaw and ARP amendments (as needed) would be completed for Q1 2018.

BACKGROUND

Report TT2016-0204 proposed several changes to the existing downtown parking strategy as part of the work on the Integrated Downtown / TOD Parking strategy. The main changes to the strategy were to:

- Conclude the existing cash-in-lieu program, which would allow office developments to build 100 per cent of the required office parking onsite in new developments.
- Allow for relaxations up to 50 per cent below the requirement, so long as a financial contribution is made for each stall not provided onsite. The contributions would be used to fund both transportation capital projects in the downtown, as well as parking at LRT stations.

The office parking requirement rate of 1 stall per 140 square-metres of gross usable floor area was unchanged as part of the review.

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INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Administration has largely completed the draft policy update and stakeholders have been circulated the proposed changes for comment. While the report could have been ready for the March meeting, given the number of items on the agenda and to allow for sufficient opportunity for committee to have a wholesome conversation about the recommendations, Administration is recommending a two-month deferral. This will also give Administration additional time to make improvements and refinements to the policy and report. It is not expected that this delay will impact the ability to bring forward supporting land use amendments for the Q1 2018 timeframe.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Industry stakeholders and the Calgary Downtown Association have been advised of the deferral and did not have any concerns.

Strategic Alignment

The strategic alignment of the Downtown Parking Strategy changes was detailed in report TT2016-0204.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

The triple bottom line benefits of the Downtown Parking Strategy changes were detailed in report TT2016-0204.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

None from this deferral request.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

None from this deferral request.

Risk Assessment

Given the current market conditions and the ability to complete the subsequent land use changes within the originally proposed time frame, it is not expected that this delay will affect any potential development applications.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Deferral of the Downtown Parking Strategy Update report will help balance the March committee agenda and allow for a more wholesome discussion of the recommendations at the May committee meeting.

Attachment

None