

UPDATE ON PARKING POLICY INITIATIVES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report proposes a parking policy work program for the 2015-2018 period. Key parking policy items proposed include:

- Car-share parking policy
- Downtown parking strategy – parking ratio review (NM2014-30)
- Parking requirements in Corridors (in conjunction with Planning's Corridor project), TOD areas and Activity Centres
- Parking revenue allocation policy
- Review potential for cash-in-lieu or other solutions in BRZ areas
- A review of the residential parking permit program including pilot initiatives in residential parking areas
- Calgary Transit's Park and Ride strategy
- Green Infrastructure requirements for surface parking lots
- Taxi hydrant zone program enhancements

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the SPC on Transportation & Transit recommend that Council approve the proposed Timeline of Implementing Parking Initiatives (Attachment 5).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPC ON TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT, DATED 2014 JULY 18:

That Council consider Report TT2014-0339.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

There is no specific Council direction relative to this report, however implementing the proposed policies aligns with the current Transportation business plan, by continuing to implement Council priority 1M2.3 – “Implement the Council-approved Parking Policy Framework for Calgary”.

NM2014-30, approved at the 2014 June 23 Regular Meeting of Council, also acknowledges the creation of a report, and directs that Administration to “review and consider whether an adjustment to the Parking Ratio would be appropriate within the context of the number of employees per leasable square foot and the objectives set forth in the Policy Documents and to determine the impacts that any changes to the Parking Ratio would have on the cash-in-lieu policy, economic competitiveness, transportation capacity and mode splits, and other relevant issues” and to include said review as a work item for consideration in this report.

BACKGROUND

Council first approved “A Parking Policy Framework for Calgary” in 2011 June as one of the outcomes of the strategic review of the Calgary Parking Authority completed at that time. The policy, generally known as the “Parking Policy Framework”, was developed to be a living document, containing Council's policies around various aspects of on-street and off-street parking in Calgary. The policy currently contains:

- Roles and Responsibilities of Administration, Council and the CPA (2011)

Approval(s): Logan, Malcolm concurs with this report. Author: Blaschuk, Chris
City Clerks (C. Smillie)

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- Financial Returns from CPA to the City (2011)
- Downtown Parking Strategy (2011)
- Commercial On-Street Parking Policies (2013)

A number of activities were also identified as future work in 2011. Attachment 1 provides an update on their status.

Additionally, there are many new initiatives underway by a number of departments addressing current parking issues. Attachment 2 provides an overview of current projects underway.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The development and provision of parking policy rest in a number of areas at The City and also with the Calgary Parking Authority. General areas of responsibility are as follows, with continual cross-collaboration between areas to ensure general alignment of policies:

Division / Area	General Areas of Responsibility
Transportation Planning; Strategy Division (Parking Strategist)	Develop city and area-wide parking policies / strategies, coordinate cross-department parking initiatives, liaise with all stakeholders to ensure policies and practices are implementable and consistent with Council's long term policies (MDP/CTP, Centre City Plan, etc).
Roads; Traffic Division	Determine allocation of on-street curb space to parking and other uses, develop procedures to implement city-wide parking policies, establish Residential Parking Permit locations and manage related Traffic Bylaw amendments, issue special use permits
City Wide Policy & Integration; City Wide Planning Functions Division	Determine rates for the provision of off-street parking in developments for inclusion in the land use bylaw
Local Area Planning & Implementation	Depending on project, work with stakeholders to determine parking policies to be included in Area Redevelopment Plans or other area documents. Generally most focussed on the Centre City, Developed areas
Calgary Transit	Determine the requirements and management of Calgary Transit Park and Ride facilities
Calgary Parking Authority (CPA)	Implement Council policies with respect to parking, manage and implement the cash-in-lieu programs, manage RPP permit program, provide city-wide enforcement services.

Attachment 3 describes new major pieces of parking policy work that are being considered by Administration over the course of Action Plan 2015-2018 and beyond. Projects are identified through a variety of means:

- Administration identification of gaps in current policy

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- That cause operational challenges
 - That are needed to improve customer service
 - That are needed to achieve and implement the MDP and CTP
- External stakeholder and councillor requests for parking policy to address area challenges that Administration is aware of
- Policies and practices that have not been reviewed for a significant number of years

The list does not contain policy work that is ongoing (e.g. reports on establishment of new residential parking zones, implementation of the commercial on-street parking policies and analysis of potential new pricing areas in alignment with the policy, etc).

Where possible, Administration will seek to resolve parking issues using existing policies and procedures, while attempting to minimize “red tape”. However, policy can be beneficial for several reasons:

- It gives Administration clear direction on how to address sensitive parking matters in a consistent and confident manner
- It helps ensure that people and businesses are treated equitably with the provision of parking services
- It improves the transparency of decision making when decisions can be clearly linked to policy direction
- It reduces uncertainty, which allows businesses and residents to better understand their options when considering parking needs
- It helps to ensure that The City’s parking resources are used as efficiently as possible
- It increases the likelihood that operational decisions are aligned with the outcome of long-term plans
- It allows Council to have input on matters that have tradeoffs between groups of stakeholders.

In order to ensure that parking policy work is focused and productive, Administration has evaluated proposed pieces of work based on a number of factors, as indicated in Attachment 4. The criteria are broken down into two focus areas. The “Fit of Work” section looks at whether there is alignment with other initiatives, how recently the issue was reviewed and if any significant policy gaps would be closed. The “Degree of Impact” looks at how the policy work would improve service to citizens, achieve implementation of the MDP/CTP, deal with operational challenges, address concerns of external stakeholders and allow for innovation. It also provides an assessment of what the impact would be if the issue was not addressed over the next Action Plan. The criteria is provided to give Council a sense of the factors Administration is considering in prioritizing the work but there is no score or ranking produced.

Attachment 5 provides a work plan that considers the evaluation criteria as well as the capacity of Administration to complete work with current resources. While there are many different areas in Administration with varying levels of involvement on parking projects, the general intent is that most policy work is coordinated by the Parking Strategist in the Transportation Strategy division, with supporting departments contributing through implementation or advice. Many areas are continually challenged with day-to-day operational issues that need to be addressed to ensure

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citizens are well served. For the implementation of major parking policy initiatives to be successful, it is important to focus on a few key projects so that these initiatives can be seen through to implementation. Generally, the Parking Strategist has capacity to coordinate one major project and 1-2 minor projects at a time, in addition to working with operational groups to address ongoing day-to-day operational and policy implementation issues. The most time consuming aspects of this work include organizing and conducting engagement, developing policies, circulating policies for feedback and coordinating feedback and preparing policy amendments and Council reports.

Some initiatives could be undertaken without conducting policy work (e.g. just change the rules or put revised signage up in the case of pilot projects). The benefit of this approach is that change can be implemented more quickly and responsiveness is increased. However the drawbacks are that changes may not be consistent with the long-term plans (CTP/MDP, Parking Policy Framework, etc), changes may produce inequity, and decisions may be later questioned if engagement is insufficient.

The work plan has been approached distributing the work under current resource levels. Advancing some of the work may be possible should Council wish to support the required additional staff resources within Transportation and/or funding to engage consultants on some components of the work, or some combination of both. We anticipate difficulty finding City staff with the knowledge and experience needed to advance some of the work given the strategic nature of parking policy, particularly if the work is for a limited term.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

While Administration did not circulate the proposed work plan externally, the work plan incorporates feedback from ongoing engagement with external stakeholders. External stakeholders that have expressed an interest in specific work plan items (BRZs, development community, etc) were notified of the report in order to provide them an opportunity to address Council. NAIOP has submitted a letter regarding the work plan, which has been included as Attachment 6.

Strategic Alignment

This report aligns with Council priority 1M2.3 – “Implement the Council-approved Parking Policy Framework for Calgary”. Completing many of the items in the proposed work plan will help implement several aspects of the MDP and CTP.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

The collective initiatives have a potential to provide benefits under all three criteria. For example, improving the residential parking permit program may improve some of the social aspects of neighbourhoods. Green infrastructure in parking lots could help reduce the environmental impacts of surface parking. A policy on parking revenue allocation towards reinvestment in business areas could potentially increase the business vitality of those areas and achieve MDP/CTP objectives.

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Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

No impacts if the proposed allocation of work is completed by internal resources. If Council desires to increase the rate at which parking initiatives are addressed, there would be a need for additional resources (staff and/or consulting budget) to adequately resource more projects. There may be potential for CPA to provide some funding to advance projects in certain circumstances.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

The proposed work plan aligns with current resource levels.

Risk Assessment

If staff resources are not focused on a few key parking policy initiatives, there is an increased risk that Administration will only be able to make minimal progress on a wide variety of initiatives. This is a risk to The City's reputation, as stakeholders may be disappointed if significant progress is not made on initiatives they are interested in that The City has committed to work on. If changes are made in absence of policy they may generate inequity and not be aligned with The City's long term plans. An unfocussed approach will also have only minimal success at implementing the MDP and CTP.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

This report gives Council an opportunity to review the planned parking policy initiatives and provide input or direction if there is a specific focus or timing that Council would like to achieve over the course of Action Plan 2015-2018. This item would normally be heard at the 2014 September 08 meeting of Council. To allow Administration to get working on the initiatives over the summer, it is recommended that the report be considered at the 2014 July 28 meeting of Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Status of Previously Identified Parking Policy Initiatives
2. Current Parking Initiatives Underway
3. Description of Potential Parking Initiatives
4. Assessment of Potential Parking Initiatives
5. Timeline of Implementing Parking Initiatives
6. Letter from NAIOP