

Operational Services Briefing to

Infrastructure and Planning Committee
2023 June 07

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
IP2023-0652

Calgary Parking Policies Commercial Areas Update

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

The purpose of this briefing is to provide an update on the Calgary Parking Policies Commercial Areas Update, which a motion arising at the May 10, 2022 Combined Meeting of Council: “That Council direct Administration to bring back an update to the Calgary Parking Policies to streamline the process for changes to the paid parking zones and return to Council through the Infrastructure and Planning Committee no later than Q4 2022.” Furthermore, on January 11, 2023, *IP2023-0022 Postponed Report – Calgary Parking Policies Commercial Areas Update Report Due Q4 2022 to Q2 2023* was presented at Infrastructure and Planning Committee recommending postponement of the report to refine the policy amendments to the Calgary Parking Policy. The final report will be brought forward to Infrastructure Planning Committee in Q3 2023 to provide additional time for Administration to work with Business Improvement Areas regarding the proposed changes and provide an overview of a broader review of on-street policies to support business needs.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

As part of the ongoing Council Policy management program for the Calgary Parking Policies, several updates are desired to support operating commercial on-street parking. Details of the changes are provided in attachment 1. In summary, the primary proposed changes in the Calgary Parking Polices include:

- Streamlining processes to change/introduce parking management zone (paid parking areas) or time periods, whereby reports to Council are only needed for more significant changes such as locations requiring greater engagement, time periods beyond existing practices or a proposed location is isolated from existing pricing areas;
- Expanding the use of registration-required as a mechanism to help collect and review parking data prior to potential paid parking implementation;
- Providing greater flexibility for Administration to adjust pricing area boundaries to allow more consistent on-street parking pricing and better match areas of similar parking demand;
- Setting a minimum on-street parking fee of \$1.00/hour to standardize the customer experience, allow for more consistent messaging around payment, reduce the frequency of changes over time between paid/free parking and reduce operational costs (such as signage);
- Modernizing on-street rate calculation process where rates are adjusted on a quarterly basis (January 1, April 1, July 1 and August 1) instead of annually with the rate changes based on the occupancy of the respective quarter for the previous year and accounting for any seasonal changes in parking demand;
- Updating references recognizing the changing nature of curbside use such as seasonal patios, electric vehicle charging and minor housekeeping changes; and
- Setting an annual contribution approach to the parking reinvestment fund, using a ‘surcharge’ amount on on-street paid parking. Under the current Calgary Parking Policies, The City reinvested a portion of net returns above the budget amount from the sale of parking into the parking reinvestment fund. There hasn’t been any contributions into the parking reinvestment fund since 2019 and there are no forecasted contributions

prior to 2026 based on the current contribution model. This model will help provide more predictable fund availability for BIAs and CAs who may desire to opt into this surcharge model.

Furthermore, key supporting proposed bylaw changes include:

- Providing a means for Administration to authorize, oversee and manage the likely proliferation of on-street electric vehicle charging stations with a permitting system;
- Introducing a mechanism for Administration to educate and enforce users of time restricted spaces where users may be rolling vehicles within a block-face; Administration is intending to proceed with this change in the order of (1) identifying areas where there has been concerns or complaints raised (2) educating users about the proposed bylaw and (3) as a last resort utilizing enforcement;
- Stipulating that license plates are not obstructed to allow parking enforcement cameras to detect and read a license plates; similarly, education is the first tool followed by enforcement of reoccurrences;
- Updating explicit references to duration of loading zones, example 10 or 20 minutes, noted in the bylaw to “the time period allowed by the traffic control device” to allow administration better respond to an areas usage patterns; and
- Other minor housekeeping bylaw changes.

Project Status and Next Steps

Administration to date has developed draft updates to the Calgary Parking Policies in response to the noted Motion Arising, in addition to supporting bylaw updates which are both approximately 80 per cent complete and in review. The draft updates were presented at BIA standing meetings in February and April 2023. A survey was distributed to the BIAs following the February meeting. One-on-one BIA meetings are currently underway to discuss the survey results and proposed policy changes – approximately 25 per cent of these meetings have been held. Initial feedback to date have generally been supportive with minor changes to be incorporated or addressed as part of the final report; further discussions and scenarios are being presented to BIAs regarding the ‘surcharge’ annual contribution model to the parking reinvestment fund and may be brought to Council as part of this work. Administration requires additional time to finalize the policy amendments following recent engagement with interested parties consisting of BIAs and CAs that may be impacted. Following this engagement, Administration will refine the potential updates to the Calgary Parking Policies Commercial Area Update, along with supporting and housekeeping policy and bylaw updates related to parking in commercial areas with a final report to Infrastructure and Planning Committee in Q3 2023.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Summary of Proposed Changes