



NOTICE OF MOTION

Date: May 12th, 2024
To: Mayor and Council
From: Councillor Kyle Sampson
Subject: On-Street Parking Revamp – Downtown C1 Zone, and Hospital Area

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council DIRECTS Administration to undergo a full review of the Downtown C1 zone, and Hospital area parking model within the Parking and Traffic Bylaw #6056, with the intent of modernizing it, and shifting to a mixed model of free/pay parking that will provide a better service for the customer, continue to encourage folks to visit downtown businesses, and make parking accessible. And, that Administration will return a report with the reviews recommendations to Council to revamp the parking bylaw with enough time to rollout the changes in Q3 2025. It is intended that the review include consultation with stakeholders.
2. That Council DIRECTS Administration to return to Council as soon as practicable with recommendations for amendment to alleviate pressures surrounding on-street parking at the hospital due to current and ongoing construction projects, which have impacted parking for healthcare providers, and patients. That these recommendations for Council's consideration are intended to provide immediate relief on these pressures, while the overall full review of the Parking and Traffic Bylaw #6056 is being undertaken.

DISCUSSION:

Parking in the C1 Zone area has been an area of interest among stakeholders, including the business community, and the public who visit the Downtown core. The current model offers parking free of charge for anyone in the C1 zone for a 3-hour limit, however, the positive of free parking is offset with the limitation that the 3-hour cap is not cumulative but is successive. This limits folks from visiting the downtown multiple times throughout the day outside of a 3-hour window.

It is past time the City of Prince George undertakes a full review of our on-street parking model to both modernize it, and to meet the needs of the stakeholders and users who utilize and rely on-street parking to both enjoy the downtown core, and to provide parking for their businesses.

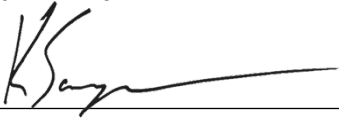
It is my intent that a full review be undertaken, which would include stakeholder consultation, to identify a mixed model that meets the needs of our residents, visitors, and business community. It is my intent that we continue to offer a limited window of free parking, to continue to incentivize folks to visit the downtown, but includes a paid model to allow folks to utilize on-street parking outside of a limited window without the fear of parking penalty that the current model limits.

Additionally, off-street parking is currently expanding at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia. In the interim, off-street parking is limited, which is causing unfortunate pressures and demand for on-street parking. The intent of the second recommendation is to help address these short-term pressures by potentially shifting to a hybrid model in the hospital area, which would utilize our digital paid parking solution in conjunction with a short-term free limit for hospital visitors, or by other methods as recommended by staff.

The current system in the C1 Downtown Zone, and in the Hospital area is not working as it was originally intended, and as the needs of user and stakeholders shift, so should how we offer on-street parking. In the current model, people are receiving tickets simply because of a lack of understanding how the parking system works, and not only is that unfair, but it is obviously not conducive to creating a positive customer experience.

It is intended that this motion be considered by Council at the June 12th Regular Council Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Sampson', written over a horizontal line.

Councillor Kyle Sampson