

Date: July 3, 2024

To: **Mayor and Council**

Name and title: Eric Depenau, Director of Administrative Services

Subject: Modernizing Parking in Prince George

Attachment(s):

1. CPG Parking and Traffic Bylaw No. 6056
2. Map of Hospital Parking Zone

Recommendation(s):

THAT Council DIRECTS Staff to launch an Request for Proposal (RFP) process to retain consulting services to support the scope of work contained within the report dated July 3, 2024, from the Director of Administrative Services titled, “Modernizing Parking in Prince George.”

THAT Council DIRECTS Staff to implement parking measures in the Hospital Zone as described within the report dated July 3, 2024, from the Director of Administrative Services titled, “Modernizing Parking in Prince George.”

Purpose:

To provide options in response to motions made to modernize the downtown C1 Zone and address immediate parking concerns in the Hospital Zone.

Background:

On May 12, 2024, Council considered a Notice of Motion and directed staff to undertake a full review of the City of Prince George Parking Bylaw 6056 as it relates to the Downtown C1 Zone. Staff were also directed to recommend one or more options to alleviate pressures surrounding on-street parking at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia due to ongoing construction which has, and will for a prolonged period, impact parking for healthcare workers and patients.

C1 Modernization:

Modernizing parking downtown is a significant undertaking. This work will be most successful if integrated into larger conversations occurring on the Downtown (such as the Civic Core and OCP as example). Staff recommend that to modernize the parking strategy in downtown Prince George, and meet the notice of motion language, the following timeline and scope of work be undertaken:

1. The City of Prince George in Q3/4 2024 contracts the services of an experienced parking consultant to assess the existing strategy and provide guidance in developing options to

deliver better parking experiences for patrons and business owners in the future. Staff believe this review should include:

- a. Community engagement.
 - b. An evaluation of the business case for each City owned parkade.
 - c. Consideration of the size and layout of the C1 Zone with a view of expanding the zone for the purposes of parking regulation only (not expanding the actual C1 zoned area).
 - d. An inventory of the number of parking spaces provided downtown (both on and off-street) to help inform recommendations.
2. Bring a report to Council in Q2 of 2025 with recommendations on a new, modernized parking strategy for downtown Prince George.
 3. In Q2/3 of 2025 Council would consider any needed changes to the parking bylaw to allow for implementation of the parking strategy.
 4. In Q3 2025 (timeline given in the NOM) implementation would take place on recommendations able to be actioned in a short time frame.
 - a. Pending the breadth of recommendations, staff note that some recommendations may not be able to be developed, approved, and implemented within the roughly one-year time frame. If recommendations of this nature are brought forward a subsequent implementation plan will need to be drafted.

Alleviating Pressure in the Hospital Zone:

Administration recommends that to alleviate pressures surrounding on-street parking at the hospital the following actions take place:

1. That the area immediately surrounding medical services impacted by construction (*namely, UHNBC, the Northern Interior Health Unit, the John G. MacKenzie Family Practice, Kordyban Lodge, the Phoenix Medical Building, Simon Fraser Lodge, Iris House and the BC Cancer Agency*) remain as they are with two (2) hours of free parking. No option for extension is available. This includes Alward Street between 15th Avenue and 10th Avenue, Laurier Crescent between Edmonton Street and 10th Avenue, Lethbridge Street and 13th Avenue between Lethbridge Street and Winnipeg Street (See attached map. Area highlighted in green).
2. That the remaining streets in the Hospital Zone be made available for pay parking using the HotSpot application. In line with other areas of the City, the rate for the extension of time beyond two (2) free hours would be \$1.00/hour. The customer would also be able to park for the entire day for a cost of \$7.00 which is consistent with pricing elsewhere in the city. (See attached map. Area highlighted in red).

Implementing pay parking in the mentioned area is intended to help customers who want to park for the day while still leaving available spots for customers who are stopping for shorter lengths of time.

Customers will also be able to manage their parking from their smartphones using the HotSpot application.

Financial Considerations:

There will be significant costs associated with the modernization of the downtown parking strategy. The existing C1 Zone has been in place for decades and a comprehensive review is warranted. This project is proposed to include the cost of an external consultant(s), public consultation, as well as any new technology or infrastructure that is required for implementation (payment kiosks as example).

Respectfully submitted:

Eric Depeneau, Director of Administrative Services

Prepared by [Charlotte Peters, Manager of Bylaw Services]

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: [2024/07/08]