

# Report to Council



**Date:** March 23, 2020  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** Temporary Changes to Parking Operations  
**Department:** Parking Services Branch (Real Estate)

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Parking Services, dated March 23, 2020, with respect to temporary changes to parking operations;

AND THAT Council directs staff, until May 31, 2020, to permit any vehicle parking in an on-street pay parking stall within the Downtown or South Pandosy Urban Centres to do so without being required to make the payment as indicated in Traffic Bylaw No. 8120;

AND THAT Council directs staff to offer a one-month deferral of monthly permit fees, for April 2020 or May 2020, at the request of any existing monthly permit holder not using their permit due to self-isolation, quarantine or working remotely and to waive the 30-day notice requirement for cancellation;

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorizes the Department Manager, Real Estate or Manager, Parking Services to make time sensitive or emergent parking modifications, until May 31, 2020, as/if required to support the pandemic response.

## **Purpose:**

To provide Council with a recommendation on temporary changes to parking operations to alleviate concerns expressed by local businesses and to support the pandemic response.

## **Background:**

On street parking demand has declined significantly over the past week due to COVID-19 related temporary closures of some businesses, restrictions placed on others, and an increase in staff working remotely. To support businesses that remain open, the Downtown Kelowna Association has requested temporary parking fee concessions in the downtown area.

To limit transmission of COVID-19, the Provincial Health Officer has ordered restrictions on mass gatherings and on operations of bars and clubs. Late last week, all restaurants and cafes were further directed to operate only in a take-out format.

## **Discussion:**

Pay parking and time restrictions are tools used to regulate parking spaces and to ensure adequate turnover is maintained. In some of the busiest areas where experience demonstrated that time restrictions alone do not create adequate turnover, pay parking is also in effect.

Based on currently available data, COVID-19 and the associated contagion prevention measures have reduced Downtown and South Pandosy on-street parking demand in the range of 60-70%, while parkade occupancy levels have experienced a drop to below 50% of normal. It is anticipated that demand will continue to decline as additional businesses pause their operations and as more employees' transition to remote working.

## **Conclusion:**

Considering the significantly reduced parking demand in the Downtown and South Pandosy business areas, and to support restaurants moving to a take-out/delivery operating model, staff recommends the following immediate, temporary operational changes to remain in effect until May 31, 2020:

- *Any vehicle parking in an on-street pay parking stall within the Downtown or South Pandosy Urban Centre may do so without being required to make payment.*
- *Monthly permit customers not utilizing their pass due to self-isolation, quarantine or working remotely may request a one-month deferral of parking fees for the month of April 2020 or May 2020 and may cancel their permit without the required 30-day notice and be added to the wait list.*
- *Existing time restrictions will remain in effect to ensure on-street parking remains open for short-term/customer use and is not being used for long-term parking.*
- *Council authorization for Staff to make changes to parking restrictions and facility use as required to support emerging issues and operational challenges in support of the pandemic response. This request is to supplement the existing limited authority currently delegated to the Engineer (Public Works Manager/Traffic Operations Supervisor), Fire Chief and Chief of Police under Sections 5.1.14 and 5.1.16 of Traffic Bylaw No. 8120.*

Staff feels these interim measures are appropriate in supporting local businesses. All other rates, policies and time restrictions will remain unchanged as a disincentive for people to park for extended periods of time. These changes will be further reviewed before May 31, 2020.

Similar measures eliminating short-term on-street parking fees have been implemented by other jurisdictions, and Staff believe that the outcome of implementing these changes is in line with the current best practices articulated by the Provincial Health Officer.

Should Council endorse Staff's recommendations, implementation of the same would be effective at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

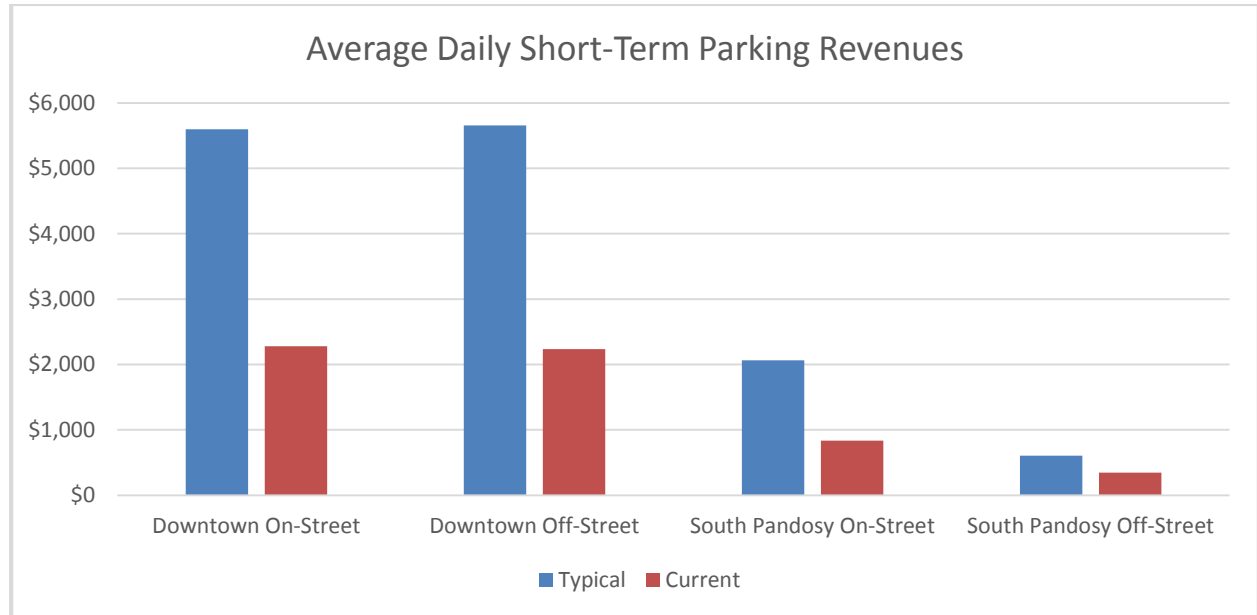
## **Legal/Statutory Authority:**

BC Motor Vehicle Act, Section 124  
Traffic Bylaw No. 8120

### Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Parking is a self-funded function and revenue supports parking operations, maintenance and future infrastructure. In 2019, parking operating expenses represented approximately 42% of total revenue, with the balance directed to the Downtown Parking Reserve, South Pandosy Parking Reserve and Park Development Reserve to fund debt repayment, major infrastructure maintenance and future capital projects.

Parking revenues over the past week have been significantly below historical norms:



### Communications Comments

Staff will coordinate with key stakeholders (including the Downtown Kelowna Association) to ensure the details of the recommended changes are appropriately communicated to the public.

### Considerations not applicable to this report:

- Internal Circulation
- Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements
- Existing Policy
- External Agency/Public Comments

**Submitted by:** D. Duncan, Manager, Parking Services

**Approved for inclusion:** J. Säufferer, Department Manager, Real Estate

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