

Overnight Parking Restrictions in Business Improvement Districts

ISSUE

Overnight parking restrictions posted in Riversdale, Downtown and 33rd Street Business Improvement Districts have not been applicable, or enforced for street sweeping and snow clearing for a number of years.

BACKGROUND

City Council at its Regular Business Meeting held on August 13, 2018, considered the Update to Bylaw No. 8463, The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, 2005 which revised the requirement for owners or occupants to clear the sidewalk in front of their properties within 24 hours of a snowfall, and resolved, in part:

- “3. That the Administration report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation on the potential of parking enforcement in the Business Improvement Districts”

Parking restrictions are currently in place for certain streets within the Riversdale, Downtown, and 33rd Street Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). These restrictions prohibit vehicles from parking between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. three nights per week. Parking restrictions are for different nights on the streets than the avenues in the Riversdale and Downtown BIDs.

The restrictions were put in place a number of years ago in order to carry out road maintenance such as street sweeping and snow clearing during the restricted time. Some of the parking restriction signage is currently in poor condition due to its age.

CURRENT STATUS

The parking restrictions have not been used for road maintenance, or enforced by ticketing or towing for a number of years.

Street sweeping and snow removal are no longer scheduled only on the specific nights or times when the restrictions are in place. Street sweeping and snow clearing is undertaken as soon as resources allow rather than waiting until the parking restrictions are in place. To increase efficiency, the crews do street sweeping and snow removal on the streets and avenues on the same night, rather than on different nights.

Street sweeping and snow removal are completed at night when there is only a few parked vehicles. Crews work around the parked vehicles. Any areas not accessible due to parked vehicles are completed during the next monthly sweep or the next time it snows.

Concerns have been raised regarding the inconvenience the restrictions cause as they are in place several times a week, while street sweeping only occurs once a month and

snow clearing following a snowfall.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The main advantage of scheduling snow clearing and street sweeping only during the periods of parking restrictions and enforcing the parking restrictions is there would be no parked cars preventing a full curb-to-curb street sweep or snow clearing.

Disadvantages of scheduling snow clearing and street sweeping only during the periods of the parking restriction would:

- delay completion of the work
- require additional funding; and
- cause parking inconvenience for residents.

Delays to the completion of the work would occur as crews may be ready to undertake the work, but the parking restrictions are not in place until the next day or later in the week.

Additional funding would be required for multiple crew visits, and for ticketing and towing services for vehicles that did not follow the parking restrictions. Multiple crew visits would be needed to complete the work as the parking restrictions on the avenues and the streets are on different nights.

Parking inconvenience for residents and customers in the BIDs is expected to increase as vehicles would be towed due to enforcement of the parking restrictions. After a number of years of not enforcing parking restrictions at these locations, people are complacent and ignore the signs. Significant communication efforts would be required to increase public awareness if enforcement were to begin.

Scheduling snow clearing and street sweeping only during the periods of parking restriction cannot be undertaken without a change to the level of service for both street sweeping and snow clearing. This change would include delaying provision of services to deliver a curb-to-curb sweep or snow clearing at a higher cost.

Consultations

Removal of the parking restrictions was discussed with the Riversdale, Downtown, and 33rd Street BIDs with the following responses being provided:

- Downtown BID would like to see the parking restrictions removed as they have not been used and some of the signs are in poor condition.
- 33rd Street BID noted that the signs can be confusing for residents and did not have concerns with their removal since they are not being used.
- Riversdale BID would like the parking restrictions to remain. They would like to see snow clearing and street sweeping performed only during the restricted time so maintenance is completed curb to curb

Consultation with the general public did not take place.

IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost to remove the signs for the parking restrictions is approximately \$10,000. Existing budgets will cover the cost and no incremental funding is required.

There are no legal, social or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

Removal of the overnight parking restriction signage in the three BIDs will be completed in the winter of 2019/2020.

If the number of vehicles parked overnight in the Riversdale BID increases and is creating more problems for undertaking snow clearing and street sweeping, other ways of addressing the parked vehicles and how the work is being completed will be considered.

An increased level of service for street sweeping will be considered as part of the 2020/2021 Business Plan and Budget options to address concerns with missed locations due to parked vehicles. The increased level of service includes the addition of a small sweeper to maintain any spots not completed due to parked vehicles. Overnight parking restrictions would not be used with this increased level of service.

APPENDICES

1. Photo - Overnight Parking Restrictions in Business Improvement Districts

Report Approval

Written by: Tracy Danielson, Roadways Manager

Reviewed by: Jo-Anne Richter, Director of Community Standards
Goran Saric, Director of Roadways Fleet & Support
Jay Magus, Director of Transportation

Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services Department
Terry Schmidt, General Manager, Transportation & Construction Department