

Update on On-Street Pay Parking Time Zone Change

ISSUE

This report provides feedback related to the increase from two- to three-hour pay parking zones in Downtown Saskatoon, Broadway and Sutherland.

BACKGROUND

At its May 9, 2016 meeting, the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (Committee) received a report entitled “Comprehensive Downtown Parking Strategy”. In response to the recommendation for three-hour parking time zones, the Committee requested Administration consult further with the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and provide an update at the next Committee meeting.

At its June 13, 2016 meeting, Committee received the report entitled “On-Street Paid Parking Time Zone Change”. The report outlined support from the Executive Directors of the Downtown Saskatoon, Broadway and Sutherland BIDs for a change to three-hour parking. It also noted the preference from the Riversdale BID to maintain the current parking time zones, including a ninety-minute time zone on 20th Street West and two-hour time zones on avenues between 19th Street and 21st Street West as a means of achieving a balance of available parking for customers.

The Committee recommended to City Council a three-hour parking limit be implemented in the Downtown, Broadway and Sutherland Business Improvement Districts, with a report back from Administration in one year which was subsequently approved by Council at their June 27, 2016 meeting. This change was brought into effect on September 2, 2016.

It should be noted that, previously, there was some limited provision for parking longer than two hours, such as the block directly in front of the movie theatre providing three-hour parking and some off-street city-owned parking lots which provides for nine-hour parking. The parking time limits in these areas did not change.

CURRENT STATUS

Administration met with Executive Directors of the Downtown Saskatoon, Riversdale, Broadway (by email), and Sutherland BIDs on December 20, 2017, to obtain feedback on the success of the three-hour on-street pay parking time zone change within some of the districts, however a follow-up report was delayed due to other pressing matters. This report is provided to address the resolution to report back on the increase to the time zones. In preparing the report, Executive Directors of the BIDs were again consulted for any further feedback and all reported continued support for the time limits implemented in 2016.

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Discussions and further feedback are summarized as follows:

1. The Downtown BID noted overwhelming support for the change to three hours. The extension provided sufficient time for people to attend appointments, shop, or dine, while ensuring turnover of spaces. The BID remains content with the current time allotment and are comfortable with maintaining status quo.
2. The Riversdale BID continued to be supportive of ninety-minute time zones on 20th Street West and two-hour time zones on avenues between 19th Street and 21st Street as a means of achieving a balance of available parking for customers. They remain supportive of and have not had complaints about the time zones within their district and what is in place is properly managed. The Downtown Parking Strategy accurately reflects the viewpoints of the Riversdale BID.
3. The Sutherland BID noted that the change to three hours has been received positively and is working so far.
4. The Broadway BID reported no concerns were raised regarding the increase to three-hour parking. The three-hour time limit continues to work well.

Overall, the change to three hours has been very positive for the BIDs where parking zone times were increased. City staff who oversee River Landing also expressed support of the three-hour time limit.

DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS

To further assess results of this change, data on daily time purchases was compared before and after the parking time limit increase to determine if there were indications of longer stays. The analysis of customer daily parking purchases indicate:

1. A 5 % increase in the number of daily time purchases of over two hours up to three hours, when comparing transactions for the seven month period before and the seven month period after the time zone increase;
2. An increase of between 4% and 6% in the annual daily time purchased for over two hours for each of 2017, 2018, and 2019 when compared to 2016, with the increase stabilizing at 6%, and
3. A drop of 6% from 2016 for daily time purchases for less than one hour, which in 2019 comprised just over 50% of all daily time purchases made.

In summary, results indicate that people are taking advantage of the increase in parking time limits in pay parking areas and that this change in behaviour is stabilizing. Most importantly, current time limits in these high demand parking areas are effective in providing a balance that encourages longer stays in business districts while maintaining parking availability for a significant amount of short-term parking needs.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial, privacy, legal, social, or environmental implications identified.

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NEXT STEPS

There are no actions or follow up required. Should a request be brought forward in the future to increase maximum parking limits in areas that were not changed, such requests will be given consideration at that time.

REPORT APPROVAL

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