

Residential Parking Program Update

ISSUE

A review of the Residential Parking Program (RPP) has been completed. This report provides information in response to a City Council Notice of Motion and a resolution from the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation.

BACKGROUND

Funding was approved in 2019 to facilitate a review of the RPP. The review considered a Notice of Motion from City Council and a resolution from the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation, along with concerns, suggestions and questions raised by the public and Administration.

The following Notice of Motion was approved by City Council, December 12, 2016:

“That the Administration prepare a report on using City Park as a test neighbourhood for the Residential Parking Permit Program in 2017 and/or 2018. This report should highlight:

- that City Park is the only neighbourhood that meets the requirements for full neighbourhood RPP implementation at this time
- should also reference the utilization of current IT potential that is not being realized
- the potential for decreased administration costs
- new strategies that may include address/property tax location tied to licence plate recognition
- review of the permitting process
- possibility of annual online renewal
- best practices/lessons learned in other municipalities
- potential to tie the licence plate recognition software for this pilot to City of Saskatoon outstanding fines/warrants
- plus any other recommendations from the administration.”

At its meeting on September 11, 2017, the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation received a report from the Administration and resolved:

“That the Administration report back on the possibility of including multi-unit dwellings in the Residential Parking Permit program, specifically, in cases where those dwellings are similar to single family homes, such as in the case of street-facings townhouse condos.”

CURRENT STATUS

The RPP review identified 14 recommended areas of program improvement. A report confirming the process for the RPP review was accepted by the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation on February 11, 2019. Then the full list of recommended

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program modifications was approved by City Council on May 25, 2020. Information in this report contains responses and next steps related to the above Notice of Motion and Transportation Committee resolution and highlights the relevant information.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The RPP review and report identified ways to improve the program and addressed many aspects of the Notice of Motion and Resolution. Items not fully addressed in the RPP report will be responded to in upcoming reports on parking technology.

The following tables provide the responses to each component of the Notice of Motion and Resolution:

December 12, 2016 Notice of Motion	Update
That the Administration prepare a report on using City Park as a test neighborhood for the Residential Parking Permit Program in 2017 and/or 2018. This report should highlight:	RPP technology enhancements are being considered as part of a larger review of parking technologies. Additional reports specific to parking technology enhancements will consider implementation options. This will include test neighborhoods, trials, contingency plans and other options.
That City Park is the only neighborhood that meets the requirements for full neighborhood RPP implementation at this time	During the RPP review a number of people expressed concerns with the block by block designation process, noting this seems to push the parking pressure to the next block. These concerns were most prevalent in the larger zones such as City Park and Varsity View. The designation process has been amended to address this concern to allow the City to play a more active role in identifying boundaries for zones and it is anticipated remaining streets in City Park will be proposed for designation along with additional areas in Varsity View and Nutana. These expansions will likely result in RPP zones which encompass full neighbourhoods in the future.
Should also reference the utilization of current IT potential that is not being realized	Currently, licence plate recognition vehicles are not able to access data to identify if a vehicle has an active RPP permit. Additionally, the system does not identify different zones and is not able to differentiate between RPP zones or areas where a permit would be valid. The RPP review recommends pursuing technology to focus on digital recognition of permitted vehicles and online permit sales. This will be further considered in the review of parking technology.

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December 12, 2016 Notice of Motion	Update
The potential for decreased administration costs	The RPP review considered the current program costs based on the current process requirements. The report recommended pursuing technology focused on online services such as permit sales and digital recognition of permitted vehicles. Further review of administrative costs is proposed after these technologies are implemented and resulting efficiencies, including potential for reduced draw on staffing resources, can be measured.
New strategies that may include address/property tax location tied to licence plate recognition	New strategies for licence plate recognition and permit automation will be reviewed while considering parking technology. These strategies will consider ways to automate residency confirmation and permit recognition tied to license plates.
Review of permitting process	The Residential Parking Program underwent a comprehensive review in 2019/2020 and a report was approved by City Council on May 25, 2020, with 14 areas of program improvements. The permitting process was considered as part of the review.
Possibility of annual online renewal	The RPP review recommends pursuing technology to focus on online services such as permit sales and digital recognition of permitted vehicles. These enhancements will be considered as part of the review of parking technologies.
Best practices/lessons learned in other municipalities	<p>The RPP review included the best practices from over 30 Municipalities regarding technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 of the cities reviewed have no online services or access to online maps; • 2 cities provide online access to static maps; • 5 cities provide online interactive maps or eligibility confirmation systems based on street address (a resident can type in their address to receive confirmation program eligibility); • 11 cities provide online forms for permits (.pdf) but require the application to be submitted in hard copy format (either by mail, in person or email); • 5 cities have an online applications process but issue permits manually; and • 1 city has both electronic applications and permits. <p>In addition, a Request for Information (RFI) was conducted in 2019 on Smart City Parking Technology and information learned will be presented in the initial parking technology report.</p>

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December 12, 2016 Notice of Motion	Update
Potential to tie the license plate recognition software for this pilot to the City of Saskatoon outstanding fines/warrants	The License Plate Recognition vehicles used in the City of Saskatoon (City) currently monitor for scofflaw offenses (unpaid parking tickets) in addition to unpaid parking and parking for longer than permitted. As new technologies or capabilities are optimized, we will collaborate with Saskatoon Police Services to monitor for additional contraventions.
Plus any other recommendations from the Administration.	The RPP review recommendations were provided in the May 25, 2020 Report. Additional parking technology recommendations will be provided in future reports with the initial report anticipated to be brought forward in the second quarter of 2021.

September 11, 2017 Resolution	Update
That the Administration report back on the possibility of including multi-unit dwellings in the Residential Parking Permit program, specifically, in cases where those dwellings are similar to single family homes, such as in the case of street-facing townhouse condos.	The RPP report approved May 25, 2020, provided a recommendation to “Accommodate Exemptions in Unique Circumstances” by adding a provision to the Bylaw to allow the General Manager to approve an exemption. This provision could be used to consider situations such as these unique property configurations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this time. It is expected there will be requirements for additional resources related to acquiring, modifying and implementing new technology. These resources will be detailed in future reports specific to parking technology.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

As there are several projects currently underway regarding enhanced information technology for the City, it is important to ensure these efforts are integrated and coordinated. These corporate projects will impact the timing of new parking technology reporting and implementation, including consideration for available resources and potential project integration opportunities.

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NEXT STEPS

Regarding Notice of Motion dated December 12, 2016, additional information will be provided as part of a review of parking technology.

The Request for Information component of the review of parking technology opportunities has been completed and review of information received from respondents is underway. An initial report is anticipated in the second quarter of 2021. However, this timeframe is dependent upon the availability of resources. At this time, staff who were working on this review have been re-deployed to work on the implementation of Fusion and the delivery of internal processes related to COVID-19.

The initial parking technology report is expected to provide an evaluation of the potential to leverage systems being created/adopted by the City for land management/Fusion systems and proposed next steps (i.e. pursuing use of the systems being adopted in other areas or pursuing other suitable options).

With respect to resolution dated September 11, 2017, the City Solicitor will bring forward an updated Residential Parking Permit Bylaw, anticipated for January 2021, for consideration by City Council, with new/ updated bylaw provisions taking effect upon approval.

REPORT APPROVAL

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