

Traffic Bylaw 7200 Amendments – Party Bicycle

ISSUE

This report reports on the successful completion of the 2021 Party Bicycle Pilot Project, and the recommendation to amend Bylaw No. 7200, The Traffic Bylaw to permit future operation of properly licenced party bicycles in the designated downtown area.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation recommend to City Council:

1. That Bylaw No. 7200, The Traffic Bylaw be amended to permit the operation of properly licenced party bicycles in the designated downtown area (Schedule 18); and
2. That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the appropriate bylaw amendments to Bylaw No. 7200, The Traffic Bylaw, effective April 1, 2022.

BACKGROUND

City Council, at its Regular Business Meeting held on June 28, 2021, considered a report on a party bicycle pilot program, and resolved:

- “1. That Option 1 - Party Bicycle Pilot Program be approved and that the City Solicitor be directed to prepare bylaw amendments as set out in this report and to work with Transportation Department to prepare a formal operating agreement to enable a party bicycle pilot program, as outlined in Option 1; and
2. That Option 2 – Research into Party Bicycle Regulations be approved, to allow for further research and reporting on bylaw amendments to allow for the operation of party bicycles following the pilot program in 2021.”

City Council, at its Regular Business Meeting held on June 28, 2021, considered a report on a party bicycle pilot program, and adopted Bylaw No. 9767, The Traffic Amendment Bylaw, 2021.

“The purpose of this Bylaw is to amend The Traffic Bylaw to prohibit the operation of party bicycles and unregulated vehicles on streets and sidewalks within the City.”

City Council, at its Regular Business Meeting held on June 28, 2021, considered a report on a party bicycle pilot program, and adopted Bylaw No. 9768, The Bicycle Amendment Bylaw, 2021.

“The purpose of this Bylaw is to amend The Bicycle Bylaw, 2020 to restrict the definition of “bicycle” to exclude party bicycles.”

A formal operating agreement was struck between an operator and the City of Saskatoon to enable the operation of a party bicycle pilot program in the summer of 2021.

Each party bicycle accommodated up to 17 people for the purposes of providing transportation between bars or pubs in the downtown area throughout the summer of 2021. The hours of operation were Monday to Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (weather permitting).

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Party Bicycle Pilot Program was completed in 2021 and no significant concerns were identified by the community or by the Administration. A review of other jurisdictions did not reveal any new information.

The Administration recommends Bylaw No. 7200, The Traffic Bylaw be amended to permit the use of a party bicycle on some streets and provide a map of permitted streets in the bylaw. A framework of the bylaw amendments is provided in Appendix 1. A suggested map outlining where the party bicycle can operate is provided in Appendix 2.

The pilot project included operating the party bicycle on specific streets in the downtown area, with changes to the allowed streets permitted via discussion with the Transportation Department. In every case, the requested change was due to a road closure for construction, maintenance, or special event. The Administration supports changing the approach to permitting the party bicycles on any street in the designated downtown area (Appendix 2). This will reduce administrative burden for both operators and the Administration. Of note, 25th Street, Idylwyld Drive, and two-lane streets as described in the proposed bylaw amendments are not included in the designated downtown area.

Currently the Province of Saskatchewan does not permit open liquor on party bicycles. The party bicycle operator from the summer of 2021 has discussed permitting open liquor with the Province.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications identified.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, social or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval by City Council, the City Solicitor be requested to prepare bylaw amendments to Bylaw No. 7200, The Traffic Bylaw, effective April 1, 2022.

APPENDICES

1. Proposed Framework of Bylaw Amendments
2. Schedule 18 Party Bicycle Downtown Streets

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Report Approval

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Reviewed by: Mark Wilson, Licensing and Permitting Manager
Derek Kowalski, City Solicitor's Office
Approved by: Terry Schmidt, General Manager, Transportation and Construction

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