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CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE DOWNTOWN & HOSPITAL PARKING STRATEGY Q&A

Changes to the City of Prince George's downtown parking enforcement strategy have allowed the City of Prince George to deal more effectively with parking violations within the community while improving available customer parking in Downtown Prince George.

For example, prior to the Strategy's implementation in early September 2016, the City had 300 license plates which had received more than three parking tickets. This includes two license plates have received as many as 15 tickets.

The main thrust of these changes is to encourage drivers intending to spend over three hours downtown to park in off-street parking lots.

The recommended changes are consistent with Council's strategy to update and improve systems to ensure appropriate and valid customer service delivery and improve downtown parking.

And it's working!

The City of Prince George's Downtown and Hospital Parking Strategy has resulted in a marked reduction of the number of cars parked for extended periods on the street in front of businesses, and a corresponding increase in the number of motorists using off-street parking spaces.

Who will be enforcing the bylaws?

The City of Prince George's Bylaw Services and parking control officers enforce the parking bylaws.

What do downtown businesses think of these changes?

Since 2014, the City has been working with the Downtown Businesses to improve the enforcement of the timed zones in the downtown core via the use of License Plate Recognition.

The City of Prince George conducted extensive consultation including with both the Prince George Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Business Improvement Association (DBIA). During the process the DBIA have been very supportive of the initiative and continued support in moving this project forward.

What happens if I park downtown in the morning for a few minutes and then again in the afternoon? Am I at risk of getting a ticket?

This initiative is aimed at reducing the number of chronic offenders in timed zones, not to punish casual visitors and shoppers downtown.



A slight possibility exists that in the scenario above, you could be found to be in violation. However, we have a review process in place to efficiently adjudicate tickets that drivers wish to dispute. If you receive a ticket you feel was unwarranted, please contact the Service Centre.

When does this come into effect?

The amended bylaws and license plate recognition system were in effect and implemented by November 1, 2016. The two-hour hospital parking zone began to be covered by the LPR technology in mid-November 2016.

When am I at risk of getting a ticket?

The system is in effect Monday through Fridays (during regular business days) from 7:00am to 5:00pm. There is no charge for off-street and on-street parking stalls during all other hours and days of the week.

I work downtown and need to park. Where should I park?

If for any reason, including work, you intend to park downtown for more than three hours during the day on a regular business day, please park in the off-street lots (refer to the map). The charge for parks in these lots is one dollar per hour or six dollars per day. In addition, there are privately owned lots available for rent.

Where will the License Plate Recognition technology be utilized?

The bylaws will only affect the downtown area between Scotia Street to Winnipeg Street, First Avenue to 12th Avenue and including Patricia Boulevard.

Why is the City of Prince George doing this?

The changes will allow the City of Prince George to deal more effectively with parking violations within the community while improving available customer parking in Downtown Prince George.

For example, just this year, there are already more than 300 license plates which have received more than three parking tickets this year. This includes, two license plates have received as many as 15 tickets.

The recommended changes are consistent with Council's strategy to update and improve systems to ensure appropriate and valid customer service delivery and improve downtown parking.

How does this encourage people to come downtown to shop and use services?

This frees up parking spots for people who wish to visit the businesses and services provided downtown. This point is central to the purpose of the License Plate Recognition Software and the amended bylaws.

How does the new license plate recognition technology work?

VenTek International has been hired to provide the required equipment and technology to effectively implement the project, comprised of four parts:

1. The Mobile License Plate Recognition (MLPR) equipment and software that will allow for enforcement routes to be completed faster and more frequently. The equipment has the capacity to check every vehicle for compliance while recognizing several types of permits at once and reducing human error.
2. A new Permitting System that will reduce our administration time and costs. It will allow customers to search for and acquire permits on-line 24 hours a day. Corporate customers will have the ability to rent and manage their own stalls. Customers will receive electronic notification for billing and past due accounts, and will have the ability to put themselves on a waiting list for highly sought after locations.
3. Nine Pay by Plate pay-stations will replace the current Pay and Display pay-stations. The new pay stations are considered the most advanced method for paid parking. They will give customers the option of paying with coin or credit cards.
4. TicketManager™ is a new hand held enforcement tool that allows enforcement officers to view real time vehicle data in the palm of their hands. Payment status and vehicle history collected from other integrated parking systems including our MLPR and Pay by Plate pay stations will be provided so officers can create accurate citations.

How much does it cost to park in an off-street lot?

For daily parking, it costs six dollars per day, or one dollar per hour to park in an off-street lot. If you wish to pay by the month, rates range in price from approximately \$55 to \$140 per month. It should be noted that the parkade with the highest rate is fully occupied, with a significant waiting list.

How much will the fines cost if I violate the bylaw?

Most fines for violators will be \$50, which is an increase from the current \$25 fine for a first infraction. The \$50 fine is also consistent with fine amounts in our Off-Street Parking Bylaw. Fines related to violating the timed zones will escalate for those that are prolific offenders after two offences. Fines for the more serious safety issues like obstructing a fire hydrant or crosswalk will increase to \$75 and violations for parking in a disabled parking stall will increase to \$100.

How many off-street parking lots are in downtown Prince George?

The City of Prince George provides 10 off-street lots in downtown Prince George. A new and updated map of downtown off-street lots will be published in the near future.