

On-Street Parking Review - Parliament Street

Date: March 23, 2023

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 13, Toronto Centre

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Parliament Street, City Council approval of this report is required.

At its meeting on January 26, 2023, Toronto and East York Community Council requested Transportation Services to investigate the feasibility of providing free parking at several locations on Parliament Street for mosques. This report provides information that these requests are not supported at this time, but will be considered as part of a broader City-wide Parking Strategy study being undertaken by Transportation Services this year, with a final report coming to City Council in Q2 of 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

On January 26, 2023, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE2.65 - Changing Parking Regulations for Mosques in Toronto Centre, and requested Transportation Services to investigate the feasibility of providing free parking on Friday on various sections of Parliament Street, and report back to the April 12, 2023 meeting. The Community Council decision can be found at:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.TE2.65>

On April 6 and 7, 2022, City Council adopted Item IE28.8 - Developing a Parking Strategy for Toronto, and requested Transportation Services to include in the development of the Parking Strategy a review of the impact to City revenues when on-street parking spaces are displaced due to other uses, and to include a proposed approach to maximizing those revenues post-COVID recovery. The City Council decision can be found at:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.IE28.8>

COMMENTS

Existing Conditions

Parliament Street, between Shuter Street and Oak Street, is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a four-lane, north-south, minor arterial roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 13.7 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 9,400 vehicles
- The speed limit is 40 km/h
- Heavy trucks are prohibited from 7:00 p.m. of one day to 7:00 a.m. of the next following day
- There is TTC service provided by the 65 Parliament streetcar and 365 Parliament bus
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street

The parking regulations on Parliament Street, within the subject section are as follows:

East side

- No stopping, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday
- Parking machines, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, and from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday
- No parking anytime, between a point 50.3 metres south of Dundas Street East and a point 61 metres further south
- Three-hour time limit parking (statutory) is in effect at all other times

West side

- No stopping, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday
- Parking machines, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, and from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday
- No parking, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., between a point 97.5 metres north of Dundas Street East and a point 79.2 metres further north
- Three-hour time limit parking (statutory) is in effect at all other times

Requested Changes

The Ward Councillor, on behalf of residents of Toronto Centre, requested that Transportation Services investigate the feasibility of changing the existing on-street parking regulations on the following sections of Parliament Street, to ensure that parking is free for at least one hour on Fridays from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for those attending the neighbourhood mosques:

East side

- Between Shuter Street and St. David Street
- Between Dundas Street East and Oak Street

West side

- Between Shuter Street and Oak Street

This on-street parking proposal will have city-wide policy implications, and as such, will be considered during the development of the broader City-Wide Parking Strategy.

Furthermore, any exemptions proposed by staff will need to consider the needs of various faith groups in the city and weigh the exemptions against certain parking constraints that may make it unfeasible under certain circumstances.

While there may be merit in exploring parking exemptions in proximity to faith-based institutions during times of worship, a more thorough and equitable examination of the issue is required to understand the implications of such a proposal should it be considered on a city-wide basis. Given the novelty of the request, the inherent connection to the on-going development of the City-wide Parking Strategy and the desire to ensure that an appropriate Toronto-based solution is proposed to Council, additional time is required to conduct a detailed best practice and jurisdictional review and consult with key stakeholders to the matter, including but not limited to faith groups, the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Parking Authority.

A report on the City-wide Parking Strategy will be presented to City Council in the second quarter of 2024.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendation of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Roger Browne, M.A.Sc., P. Eng.
Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Requested Locations - Parliament Street

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