



Report to: Development Services Committee

Report Date: May 22, 2012

SUBJECT: Bur Oak Avenue (Cornell) Parking Update

PREPARED BY: Rachel Prudhomme, Manager Special Projects, Ext. 2849
Alan Brown, Director of Engineering, Ext. 7507

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the staff report entitled "Bur Oak Avenue (Cornell) Parking Update", be received;
2. And that Schedule "D" of Amendment 2011-199 of Traffic By-law 2005-188, pertaining to "Parking for a Restricted Period" be further amended by deleting and / or adjusting subject portions of Bur Oak Avenue in Cornell, as per the attached by-law amendments, and summarized as follows:
 - a. That the one-hour parking restriction be increased to two hours along the section of Bur Oak between White's Hill and 16th Avenue;
 - b. That parking restrictions be completely removed along the section of Bur Oak between Cornell Park Avenue and Cornell Meadows Avenue;
3. And that Schedule "N" of Amendment 2011-199 of Traffic By-law 2005-188, pertaining to "Daytime Permit Parking" be amended to reflect changes made above by deleting subject portions of Bur Oak Avenue in Cornell, as per the attached by-law amendment;
4. And that the Operations Department be directed to remove and / or replace existing signs with amended signs in the appropriate subject locations, to be funded through the Operations Department account # 083-5399-8402-005;
5. And that the Operations Department be directed to maintain the signs at the subject locations;
6. And that the Parking Control Department be directed to continue enforcing the revised parking prohibition upon installation of the signs;
7. And that staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide Council with an update regarding parking restrictions placed in commercial areas along Bur Oak Avenue, as required in Item 8 of the Resolution Of Council Meeting No. 16 Dated October 4, 2011 (Report No. 51 – Development Services Committee) regarding Bur Oak Avenue (Cornell) Commercial Parking (5.12.4) and as per Amendment 2011-199 of Parking By-Law 2005-188; and
- Obtain Council approval to adjust the parking by-law program as required

BACKGROUND:

A staff report entitled “Bur Oak Avenue (Cornell) Commercial Parking”, presented to the Development Services Committee on September 27, 2011, resulted in a resolution of Council dated October 4, 2011 (Attachment “A”). The resolution directed staff to amend Parking By-Law 2005-188 to include one-hour parking restrictions, with special permits available for patrons requiring more than one hour of parking, along commercial sections of Bur Oak Avenue. The parking restrictions were recommended as a result of issues raised by the Cornell Ratepayers’ Association (CRPA) and a group of business owners along Bur Oak Avenue regarding a shortage of parking spaces which was felt to be limiting the success of businesses in that area.

As a result of the Council Resolution, By-Law Number 2011-199 to Amend Parking By-Law 2005-188 was enacted, enforcing the one-hour parking restriction along subject locations on Bur Oak Avenue. Item 8 of the Council Resolution contained in Attachment “A” required staff to monitor the parking on Bur Oak and to adjust the Parking By-Law as required.

RESULTS OF MONITORING:

Over the course of the monitoring period (from December 2011 to April 2012), several formal complaints were received from business owners and from patrons visiting the businesses to obtain services stating that the one-hour time frame was not sufficient. Numerous individuals also stated that obtaining permits and having to make additional trips to and from their vehicles to install and return the permits was causing additional hardship, especially in those cases where patrons were either elderly, or seeking services from physiotherapists and massage therapists that provide treatment for injuries that had affected the patrons’ mobility. In total, more than 40 complaints were received in the first three months of the program.

The original By-Law Amendment (2011-199) to Parking By-Law 2005-188 which was enacted by Council through its Resolution of October 4th, 2012, imposed a maximum one-hour parking restriction in three distinct locations along Bur Oak Avenue (shown in Attachment “B”):

1. From Riverlands Avenue to Church Street
2. From Cornell Park Avenue to Cornell Meadows Avenue
3. From White’s Hill Avenue to 16th Avenue

On March 22, 2012, the Ward Councillor, along with the Director of Engineering, the Manager of By-Law Enforcement and the Manager of Special Projects in Engineering met on Bur Oak Avenue to view the locations where parking restrictions were in place, to review the complaints that were received and to recommend adjustments to improve the overall effectiveness of the program. After viewing and evaluating the locations where parking restrictions had been imposed and upon comparing the review with the complaints received, several observations and recommendations were made, resulting in the proposed Amendment to By-Law Amendment 2011-199 of Parking By-Law 2005-188 to be recommended as in Attachment "C". A summary of the changes being proposed follows (as shown in Attachment "D"):

1. Bur Oak Avenue from Riverlands Avenue to Church Street:

It is recommended as a result of the site visit of March 22, 2012 that the location along Bur Oak Avenue between Riverlands Avenue and Church Street remain at a one-hour maximum time limit for parking due to the proximity of this location to the Markham Stouffville Hospital. It was felt that increasing allowable parking time in this location would result in more hospital visitors using the commercial parking spaces along this stretch of Bur Oak Avenue to avoid paying fees being levied in the hospital parking lot. It was noted that none of the complaints received were regarding this stretch of the road and that businesses abutting these parking spaces were not necessarily those offering services to injured parties or elderly patrons that would require more than one hour of parking.

2. Bur Oak Avenue from Cornell Park Avenue to Cornell Meadows Avenue:

It was observed during the site visit of March 22, 2012 that the location along Bur Oak Avenue between Cornell Park Avenue and Cornell Meadows Avenue is residential in nature and contains no apparent businesses. Some complaints had been received from residents questioning why a one-hour time restriction for commercial parking would be necessary when this location contained no businesses. It is therefore recommended that parking restrictions in this location along Bur Oak Avenue be completely removed.

3. Bur Oak Avenue from White's Hill Avenue to 16th Avenue:

This location was the target of most of the more than 40 complaints received. The site visit of March 22, 2012 revealed that many businesses in this area provide physiotherapy services, massage therapy and other services which generally require more than one hour of parking. It is therefore recommended that parking restrictions in this location along Bur Oak Avenue be increased to allow a two-hour time limit for parking.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The cost of installing the amended parking prohibition signs is \$1,000.00. The expense can be included in the Operations Department account # 83-5399-8402-005. On-going maintenance costs for this installation will be included in future Operations Department operating budgets.


ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

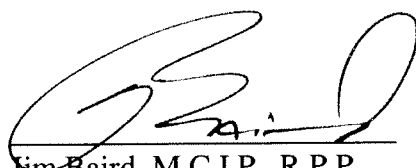
This report aligns with the community safety component of the transportation/transit strategic priority.

DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

The Traffic Operations and the By-Law Enforcement Departments have reviewed this report.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Alan Brown, C.E.T.
Director of Engineering

Jim Baird, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Commissioner, Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment "A" – Resolution of Council Meeting No. 16 Dated October 4, 2011, Report No. 51, Development Services Committee (Bur Oak Avenue (Cornell) Commercial Parking (5.12.4))

Attachment "B" – Location Map

Attachment "C" – Proposed Amendment to By-Law Amendment 2011-199 of Parking By-Law 2005-188

Attachment "D" – New Location Map