



Report to: General Committee

Date Report Authored: June 20, 2012

SUBJECT: Main Street Unionville Proposed Parking Prohibition

PREPARED BY: David Porretta, Traffic Operations Supervisor, ext. 2040
Paul Ingham, Director, Operations, ext. 4852

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the staff report entitled "Main Street Unionville Proposed Parking Prohibition", be received;
2. And that Schedule "C" of Parking By-law 2005-188, be amended by rescinding the existing parking prohibition on the west side of Main Street Unionville, between Carlton Road and a point 24 metres north of Fred Varley Drive, during the hours of 6:00pm to 6:00am, Monday to Friday, and any time Saturday, Sundays and Holidays, from April 1st to October 31st;
3. And that Schedule "C" of Parking By-law 2005-188, be amended by rescinding the existing parking prohibition on the west side of Main Street Unionville, between Station Lane and a point 23 metres north of Victoria Avenue, during the hours of 6:00pm to 6:00am, Monday to Friday, and any time Saturday, Sundays and Holidays, from April 1st to October 31st;
4. And that Schedule "C" of Parking By-law 2005-188, be amended by prohibiting parking on the west side of Main Street Unionville, between Carlton Road and a point 24 metres north of Fred Varley Drive at any time, except on the boulevard, between the hours of 6:00am – 9:00am, Monday to Friday (holidays excluded);
5. And that Schedule "C" of Parking By-law 2005-188, be amended by including the west side of Main Street Unionville, between Station Lane and a point 23 metres north of Victoria Avenue at any time, except on the boulevard, between the hours of 6:00am – 9:00am, Monday to Friday (holidays excluded);
6. And that the Operations Department be directed to install the appropriate signs at the subject locations, funded through the Operations Department account # 083-5399-8402-005;
7. And that the Operations Department be directed to maintain the signs at the subject locations;
8. And that the Parking Control Department be directed to enforce the parking prohibition upon approval of the By-law amendment and installation of the signs;
9. And that staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

This report recommends prohibiting parking on the west side of Main Street Unionville, between Station Lane and Carlton Road, to resolve safety concerns associated with the conflicting uses of the municipal boulevard.

BACKGROUND:

For the past several years, Operations Department has been receiving ongoing concerns about public safety with respect to parking on Main Street Unionville. Specifically, the parking on the west boulevard is having an adverse impact on the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

With an average daily traffic volume of 6,000 vehicles and direct access to Highway 7, Main Street Unionville is an important collector road heavily utilized by pedestrians, cyclists and motorists on a daily basis. With a relatively narrow 14-metre road allowance, maintaining safety for all users is an ongoing challenge.

DISCUSSION:

Traffic Operations staff conducted an assessment of safety hazards along the west side of Main Street Unionville, between Station Lane and Carlton Road. Through this assessment, it became evident that parking on the west boulevard is the primary contributor of several safety concerns.

Parked vehicles pose a hazard to pedestrians & cyclists

With a sidewalk width of 1.5 metres and a boulevard width of approximately 2.5 metres, there are physical constraints for pedestrians when vehicles are parked within the boulevard. This is of a particular concern during typical business hours and on weekends when there is a significant amount of both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. While this can create blockages as groups of people are forced to maneuver around each other, it often results in pedestrians walking in between parked vehicles or onto the roadway to avoid such conflicts, thereby exposing them to traffic. Further, the frequent opening of car doors is a significant safety hazard for pedestrians and cyclists traveling by parked vehicles. Cyclists may not have sufficient time to react, or may suddenly maneuver into vehicular traffic to avoid a collision.

Minimum sightline requirements at driveways are compromised

There are a number of private driveways on the west side of Main Street that provide access to properties and private parking. When vehicles exit these laneways, there are significant sightline visibility constraints when parked vehicles are present on the boulevard. This poses a safety concern for both pedestrians and vehicles, as a vehicle would need to be positioned in such a way that the driver can look for approaching traffic on Main Street. This would effectively result in the vehicle blocking the sidewalk and partially obstructing the roadway, thereby impeding traffic and possibly risking a collision.

Boulevard parking activity is causing damage to Town assets

Streetlights, waste receptacles, planters, bollards and other Town assets are installed within the boulevard throughout the length of Main Street. These assets are often damaged due to vehicle impacts, requiring servicing and/or replacement. Because these incidents often go unreported, the Town is unable to submit any claims to recoup costs associated with repairs and/or replacements of the damaged assets.

Modifications to the existing parking restrictions are recommended

On the west side of Main Street, parking is currently prohibited Monday to Friday between 6:00pm and 6:00am and anytime of the day on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays. While this restriction improves operational safety on weekday evenings and weekends, it does not apply to typical weekday business hours, when operational concerns are also prevalent.

To minimize these safety concerns, it is recommended that parking be permitted Monday to Friday only, during the hours of 6:00am – 9:00am. During this time, pedestrian and parking activity is low, as most businesses are closed. Starbucks and Timothy's are the only businesses open at this time and are dependent on temporary lay-by parking. Given these factors, parking can reasonably be accommodated on the boulevard. Outside of this specified time period, parking will be prohibited to ensure that operational safety is not compromised.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The cost of materials and installation of the proposed parking prohibition signs has been 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.

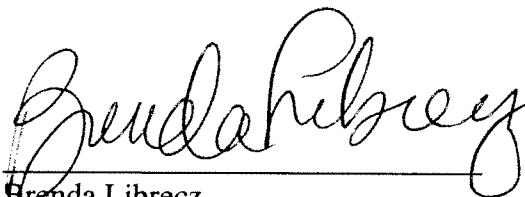
DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Paul Ingham,
Director, Operations



Brenda Librecz,
Commissioner, Community & Fire Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Proposed Parking Restriction Map

Attachment B – By-Law Amendment



— Existing Parking
Prohibition, Anytime

--- Proposed Parking
Prohibition, Anytime
Except from
6:00am – 9:00am,
Monday – Friday,
(holidays excluded)

Main St Unionville
(west side only)
Proposed Parking
Amendment



Traffic Operations
June 2012

ATTACHMENT A