

Memorandum

Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2019

To: Members of Council

From: Eric Chan, Manager, Transportation Engineering, Finance and Infrastructure Services

Subject: Bolton Downtown All-Day On-Street Parking Pilot

The purpose of this memo is to respond to the direction from the May 21, 2019 General Committee meeting, regarding the proposed one-year pilot of the all-day on-street parking on Queen Street between King Street and Mill Street in Bolton. Staff were requested to obtain feedback on the proposed pilot from the emergency services (i.e. Caledon Fire Services, Peel Paramedics Services, and Ontario Provincial Police), and the staff from Peel Region and Town of Caledon.

Feedback from Caledon Fire Services

On May 21, 2019, Fire Chief Darryl Bailey wrote:

“Any proposal that would result in increased traffic or congestion is reviewed from a Fire Services perspective due to the possibilities of increased response times for emergency calls. Upon review the area of Queen Street that is in question should have minimal impact to our emergency response capabilities through the Bolton downtown core as traffic control measures are in place to move vehicular traffic through the intersection during a response. Traffic controls are either activated automatically by the apparatus and manual control buttons within the Fire Station.”

Feedback from Peel Paramedics Services

On May 16, 2019, Paramedics Chief Peter Dundas wrote:

“Yes we were asked for input and responded on August 28, 2018. I believe I was asked to comment as it was part of a Public Works report.

Our response was as follows, any proposal that would result in increased traffic or congestion is a concern from a Paramedic Services perspective due to the possibilities of increased response times for emergency calls. That being said, we deal with traffic challenges in all areas of the Region of Peel. This short section of Queen Street shouldn't have that much of an impact as long as drivers yield to the emergency vehicle approaching when warning systems are activated. We may encounter longer travel times coming south from the new station in the north end of Bolton when moving for coverage reasons not emergency responses but we have other options to navigate around this area.”

Feedback from Ontario Provincial Police

On April 24, 2019, Inspector Ryan Carothers wrote:

“I am not convinced all day parking would assist. Due to the large volume of traffic during the morning and afternoon commute, I believe this would impede the regular flow of traffic, increase grid lock and increase aggressive driving behaviour. With lanes being reduced drivers will tend to cut in and become more aggressive trying to get to their destination because it's all about (ME).

This would also impede and restrict the movement of Emergency vehicles trying to get through. I believe the Region and Town Traffic staff would be best to have discussions with regarding the impact on implementing all day parking or perhaps other traffic calming measures. The problem is, this is a very heavily travelled road.”

Feedback from Peel Transportation Division of Public Works

A teleconference was held on May 22, 2019 with Peel Transportation Division staff. It was indicated that Peel staff could accommodate the decision from Peel Council with regards to implementation of the 1-year pilot of the all-day on-street parking program on Queen Street in downtown Bolton. Once the pilot was launched, it would be expected to see increased congestion initially before the traffic became stabilized. Potentially, Peel staff could monitor the intersection of Queen Street and King Street for any feasible adjustments to the signal timing. In addition, Peel staff could deploy variable message boards to advice of the change/delays, and encourage “through-Bolton” traffic to use Coleraine Drive / Emil Kolb Parkway.

Feedback from Caledon Transportation Engineering Division

Town staff continues to support the recommendations from the 2015 Bolton Transportation Master Plan (BTMP). As stated in the BTMP: “The preferred alternative is an agent for change in the downtown, helping to transition the downtown from a traffic conduit to a people-friendly place where customers and the general public want to be.”. The BTMP recommendations for the downtown Bolton include an interim solution of all-day on-street parking on Queen Street between King Street and Mill Street, which would then enable the ultimate solution of on-street parking, bike lanes, two-stage left-turn bike boxes, and other “complete street” design elements. This vision is consistent with the Caledon Transportation Master Plan and the Bolton Queen Street Corridor Study, and compatible with the Transit Feasibility Study and the Peel's and Town's cycling initiatives. Town staff share the same prediction as Regional staff that there could be an increase of congestion initially during the early-stage of the pilot, especially during peak hours at the Queen Street and King Street intersection, which could result in potential increase of by-pass traffic, with possible speeding, onto the adjacent local roads such as Willow Street. Before the traffic patterns become stabilized, it is expected that additional budget and resources may be required to mitigating this temporary impact on the local roads in the vicinity. These temporary mitigation solutions include conducting special traffic counts to monitor by-pass traffic, and purchasing and installation of speed cushions and signage.