

LAND PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016

Subject: Residential On-Street Parking**APPROVALS:**

Dawny George, Director,
Robert Billard, Executive Director
Kevin Scoble, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Administrative Recommendations:

THAT the following be recommended for Council approval:

THAT the Residential On-Street Parking Study project completion date be extended until August 31, 2017 be approved;

THAT the scope of the project be revised to exclude those areas of neighbourhoods directly impacted by the wildfire; and

THAT a separate On-Street Parking Study be undertaken in neighbourhoods directly impacted by the 2016 wildfire, once the rebuild has been completed.

Summary:

The Residential On-Street Parking Study is a Council resolution that was carried out in November 2015. The aim of this resolution was to complete an in-depth parking study and develop an on-street parking strategy to ensure public safety on residential streets. In response to Council's resolution, Administration initiated the Residential On-Street Parking study in early 2016.

Prior to the wildfire in May 2016, substantial tasks of this Study were completed such as field data and parking supply collections, coordination with stakeholders and review of related documents. The project was put on hold due to the wildfire in May 2016. The Study due date for Council's consideration was scheduled on August 31, 2016. Although Municipal Staff officially resumed work on June 20th, after the wildfire evacuation, their focus was on urgent projects, especially those related to wildfire recovery projects. The On-Street Parking Study among other projects continued to be on hold. The successful completion of this project required the collection of Spring Parking Demand Data and Public Engagement. As these two remaining major tasks were not completed prior to the wildfire, Administration proposes a new plan moving forward in phases. Phase 1 is to exclude the fire-impacted areas and to be completed by August 31, 2017. Phase 2 is to include only the fire-impacted areas, which could ideally start after the rebuild has been completed.

Background:

The first stages of the Study were well underway prior to the wildfire in May. The On-Street Parking Study intended to produce a report with a practical action plan to implement. The final report relied on tasks such as data collection, analysis and recommendations. The below summary shows that some key tasks were either started or completed before the evacuation:

- Kick Off Meeting (100% complete)
- Background Document Review (25% complete)
- Project Update Meetings (50% complete)
- Field Data – Parking Supply Collection (100% complete)
- Field Data – Winter Parking Demand Data Collection (100% complete)
- Field Data – Spring Parking Demand Data Collection (0% complete)
- Parking Demand Assessment (0% complete)
- Data Analysis (0% complete)
- Options Development (0% complete)
- Stakeholder Engagement and Open House (0% complete)
- Mitigation Measures and Implementation Plan (0% complete)
- Council Presentation and Report Preparation (10% complete)

The most intensive activity of the project was the field data collection of the “supply” conditions documenting the location of driveways, fire hydrants, transit stops and other potential field conditions that may require the restriction of on-street parking in specific locations. This task was completed.

One task that could not be completed given the timing of the evacuation and the return of the residents was the Spring Parking Demand Data Collection. Another key task that was not completed was the Stakeholder Engagement and Open House. As some key tasks in the summary above were not completed, the Study status at this stage is incomplete.

The main challenge facing the current Study is the impact of the wildfire on fire-impacted residential neighborhoods such as, Waterways, Abasand, Beacon Hill, Wood Buffalo and part of Stone Creek. The houses lost in these neighborhoods have altered the supply and demand side of the residential on-street parking. Therefore, the data that has already been collected prior to the wildfire may no longer be applicable given the post fire impact on these subdivisions.

Alternatives:

Given the status of the fire-impacted subdivisions and the schedule of their rebuild, the study could be phased, with Phase 1 focusing only on areas that have not been directly impacted by the wildfire. Subsequently, Phase 2 would include those areas directly impacted by the fire and could begin after the rebuild has been completed. It is worth noting that once Phase 1 is implemented, the principles adopted in Phase 1 could be extended to Phase 2.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Some of the data collected prior to the wildfire is no longer relevant. Therefore, to complete the study there would be additional data collection required during Phase 2. This would approximately increase the budget by 25%, or \$40,000.

Rationale for Recommendation(s):

The completion of Spring Parking Demand Data Collection and the Stakeholder Engagement including Open House are essential to the completion of the project. Therefore, to successfully complete the project, Administration recommends that the study schedule completion date be extended until August 31, 2017, with the fire-impacted neighborhoods excluded from the current scope.

Strategic Plan Linkages:

Pillar 1 – Building Responsible Government
Pillar 2 – Building Balanced Regional Services
Pillar 4 – Building an Effective Land Strategy
Pillar 5 – Building a Reliable Transportation System