



SUBJECT: Downtown parking occupancy sensors

TO: Community Planning, Regulation & Mobility Cttee.

FROM: Transportation Services Department

Report Number: TS-09-21

Wards Affected: 2

File Numbers: 745-01

Date to Committee: July 6, 2021

Date to Council: July 13, 2021

Recommendation:

Direct the Director of Transportation Services to proceed with the installation of occupancy sensors in all Municipally owned off-street parking facilities in downtown Burlington for a total cost of \$165,000 to be funded from the Downtown Parking District Reserve Fund.

PURPOSE:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Improve integrated city mobility
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Background and Discussion:

The collection of accurate parking data for Downtown Burlington is critical not only for the day to day operation of the parking supply but also important for planning where and when future parking is to be built. In 2016, staff brought forward report TS-16-16, which recommended the installation of parking occupancy sensors at all on-street parking spaces as well as the entry/exits points of parking lots in Downtown Burlington to accurately capture and display parking usage and availability. Council approved a budget of \$525,000.00 to implement the technology and devices and in 2017 the parking sensors were installed.

Strategy/process

Overall, the sensors have proven to be very reliable and staff have used the on-street occupancy data to make informed decisions of where parking should be and have been able to report on parking initiatives and parking supply. However, the types of sensors that were installed in the downtown parking lots, unfortunately did not meet the City of Burlington's expectations.

Staff considered and tested a number of alternatives with the sensor technology for the parking lot entrances and after careful examination concluded that the devices used for the on-street parking application are most appropriate for the off street lots. The cost associated with the supply and installation of 750 parking sensors in all of the downtown parking lots is \$165,000.

Burlington's city owned downtown lots have been without accurate monitoring for some time. In order to present a complete picture of the parking supply to downtown visitors, the lots must be incorporated into the system. Given the favourable weather conditions and the fact that parking lots are not yet at full capacity, installation in the summer months this year is preferred.

Staff anticipate that installation will be undertaken by the existing vendor as a single source given that the sensors must work with the present communication system in place. With approval of this report, staff can move forward with award and implementation this summer.

Options Considered

The parking lot sensor technology originally selected was considered the most economical at that time, however, over time, a number of operational challenges have emerged. Staff and the vendor worked on a number of alternative technologies and concluded that the sensors used for the on-street parking spaces were the most appropriate way forward.

Financial Matters:

Total Financial Impact

The cost for the parking sensors and associated installation costs of approximately \$165,000 will be funded through the Downtown Parking District Reserve Fund.

Source of Funding

Downtown Parking District Reserve Fund

Other Resource Impacts

Not applicable

Climate Implications

The parking sensors integrate with the digital wayfinding signage that is strategically installed throughout the downtown to inform residents and visitors where available parking is located. With accurate real time information readily available to visitors of the downtown, unnecessary circulation will be minimized that will contribute to a reduction in vehicle emissions.

Engagement Matters:

Staff have consulted with the Downtown Parking Committee and the committee is supportive of proceeding with the recommendation indicated in this report.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, staff believe implementing the recommended parking sensors will provide accurate parking availability information to visitors and residents of downtown Burlington, which will make their parking experience more enjoyable. In addition, staff will be able to accurately capture parking data to make data driven decisions going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Vito Tolone

Director of Transportation Services

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.