



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 2, 2024

TO: Transportation and Mobility Commission members

FROM: Gabriel Montez, Parking District Manager, EPH

RE: **Parking Management Area Study and Downtown Parking Plan**

Introduction:

City of Vancouver Parking Staff recognizes a need to align Parking policy and practices with current City plans and initiatives, including the Climate Action Framework, the Transportation System Plan (TSP), equity priorities and affordable housing. Therefore, staff contracted with Walker Consultants to complete the Parking Management Area Study and Downtown Parking Plan (Study and Plan) Key elements of Study and Plan will be presented at the TMC meeting on April 2, and are outlined in the sections below.

During the April 2 TMC meeting the Parking staff and consultant team will present and seek input particularly about policy and program connections to the TSP, high-level existing conditions observations, and linking the objectives of the Parking Plan to the City's overall vision for improved downtown mobility and access.

The current Downtown Strategic Parking Plan was adopted in 2006. The City of Vancouver has undergone significant changes since adoption. The new Study and Plan is critical to support the strategic shift needed for Downtown Vancouver's transition from a suburban to urban environment.

Overview:

The Downtown Parking Study and Plan will be completed by approximately October 2024, and will include:

- 1) Updated objectives in alignment with City's Climate Action Framework, Transportation System Plan, and stated equity goals
- 2) Assessment of current parking and mobility options within Downtown Vancouver
- 3) Estimates of the expected demand for parking and mobility options due to new downtown development and population growth

- 4) Strategies for maximizing access and mobility to and within Downtown Vancouver, with a focus on increasing the availability and use of alternative transportation options
- 5) Recommendations for the best use of City assets, including downtown rights of way, to achieve the objectives of the plan
- 6) Recommendations for data collection and analysis to facilitate effective management of system after implementation
- 7) Engagement of public and private entities in the plan development and implementation

Current and Projected Growth and City Policy Priorities:

- Development activity downtown and on the waterfront has, and will, bring additional trip demand to the City Center
- Anticipated population growth will compound pressure on Downtown
- Need to align parking and mobility around City's commitment to climate action, equity, and affordable housing
- New downtown parking plan needed to update parking management approaches to community needs

Proposed Study and Plan Deliverables:

Walker has committed to delivering the following items, but not limited to:

- Recommendations for any proposed retention or revisions of the Study Area boundary
- Updated Study Area parking inventory
- Potential zoning changes in the Study Area to implement the Plan
- Specific technologies, including hardware and software to implement Plan actions, and a specific focus on a reporting dashboard platform
- Guidance on dynamic or variable pricing feasibility and implementation.
- Guidance on mobility hub opportunities and implementation actions
- Identifying best practices and strategies for Downtown in parking demand management and active mobility
- An implementation workplan for the City and partners
- A feasibility analysis and planning-level rough order of magnitude financial cost estimate for the recommendations, including prioritization
- Assessment of ADA compliance and any necessary actions to become compliant

Action:

Walker will engage with TMC twice during the Study and Plan, April 2, and September 3.

Topics covered may include, but are not limited to:

- Project overview, scope and connection to TSP
- Existing conditions- Data and Trend
- Vision and Goals for Parking Management Area
- Strategies and Initiatives- Parking and curb management best practices
- Draft Plan overview and discussion

Additional engagement and information can be provided by city staff as needed.

Timeline:

The project will run from January to approximately October 2024. The basic project schedule below is accurate as of the date of this memo:

1. Project Management – ongoing
2. Public Participation
 - a. PAC meetings – four throughout the project
 - b. TMC meetings – April 2 and September 3, 2024
 - c. CCRA meeting – June
 - d. City Council meetings – tentatively one or two memo updates in Spring 2024, one workshop in July, and one adoption hearing in September or October
 - e. Small Group Discussions – up to four throughout Spring and Summer 2024
 - f. Community Conversation public event – Summary 2024
 - g. Two community surveys – April and tentatively July or August
3. Existing Conditions
 - a. Parking Inventory and Utilization Analysis – March-April
 - b. Other existing conditions – February-May
4. Visioning and Goal Setting – March-April
5. Strategies and Recommendations – April-August
6. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan – August
7. Draft and Final Plan – July-October
8. Review and Adoption – September-October

Next Steps:

September 3, 2024, meeting attendance and discussion.