



Corporate Report

NO: R266

COUNCIL DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2006

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: December 13, 2006
FROM: General Manager, Engineering FILE: 5480-21
SUBJECT: Removal of Parking on the East Side of 152 Street between 17 and 20 Avenue to Improve Traffic Flow

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive the report as information; and
2. Authorize staff to consult with the owner of businesses that would be affected by the removal of parking on the east side of 152 Street, between 17 Avenue and 20 Avenue, and to report back to Council on the matter after that consultation is completed.

INTENT

To highlight the issues associated with the current parking along 152 Street between 17 Avenue and 20 Avenue and the importance of removing this parking to allow two northbound travel lanes.

BACKGROUND

Site Characteristics

Along 152 Street, from 17 to 20 Avenues, parking is permitted on both the east and west sides of 152 Street. The western (southbound) side of 152 Street has two travel lanes along with a separate parking lane. On the eastern (northbound) side, on-street parking is permitted within the curbside lane. Although this street parking is typically only partially occupied, this still results in 152 Street northbound effectively operating as a single lane. Parking throughout is limited to 2 hour maximum stay restrictions with parking meters on the east side between 17 and 18 Avenue and between 19 and 20 Avenue. The parking

currently provided is partly adjacent to a number of commercial properties with the remainder adjacent to undeveloped land as can be seen on the Figure in Appendix I. All the businesses have free off-street parking available and demand for the on-street parking is generally low.

DISCUSSION

Over the past few years a number of issues have arisen that prompted staff to consider the removal of the street parking on the east side of 152 Street between 16 Avenue and 20 Avenue. Discussions with the Semiahmoo Town Centre Community Advisory Committee and the White Rock/South Surrey Chamber of Commerce have indicated that there is support for two travel lanes northbound and the consequential removal of street parking.

The following sections highlight the issues with the current parking, transit, expected loss of parking meter revenue, and suggested next steps.

Fire Department

The Surrey Fire Department have officially raised concerns over the ability for Fire Trucks at Hall 13 (18 Avenue at 152 Street) to respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies due to the significant delays in traveling along 152 Street between 18 and 20 Avenue. Prior to the construction of the new library and police station, Fire trucks could visually assess whether there was congestion on 152 Street and choose an alternate route as necessary. However, since then, trucks have become stuck in traffic on 152 Street a number of times. As a result they have been using a local residential street as an alternative route. They suggested eliminating the parking on the east side of 152 Street to eliminate the congestion, which would allow them to again use 152 Street for emergency response. A copy of the Fire Department letter is attached as Appendix II.

Traffic Calming Program

As noted above, the Fire Department is currently using alternative routes when responding to emergencies. As two planned traffic calming projects would have a detrimental effect on Fire Department response time, they have had to oppose projects on 154 Street between 17 Avenue and 20 Avenue and on part of Southmere Crescent. Local residents on Southmere Crescent have been expressing disappointment and are eager for a solution to enable the traffic calming to proceed. Both these projects remain on the City's future traffic calming program for implementation when conditions permit when fire trucks start using 152 Street again.

Safety Improvements and Reductions in Delays

ICBC and the City retained a consultant to undertake a 152 Street corridor safety review between 16 Avenue and King George Highway. This corridor study makes several recommendations to improve safety along the route including the removal of the curb side parking on the east side (northbound) of 152 Street to provide two through lanes. They estimated that this would result in a 40% reduction in the number of rear end collisions.

This represents a reduction from an average of 19 collisions per year to approximately 11 per year between 16 Avenue and 20 Avenue.

At the same time as any changes to the on-street parking are undertaken, adjustments will be made to the signal timing plans to reflect a second northbound lane. These changes will improve vehicle progression along 152 Street and further contribute to a reduction in collisions along with reducing travel delays.

Transit

The curb lane between 16 Avenue and 17 Avenue currently serves as the South Surrey Transit Exchange and at the south end has a unique parking pullout for the adjacent strip mall. As a result, the City cannot currently achieve a second northbound lane in this section. This exchange actually has insufficient capacity for the existing bus service and with the imminent introduction of new and expanded bus service, Coast Mountain Bus Company are reviewing options with City staff that could include stops north of 17 Avenue on the east side.

Semiahmoo Town Centre Plan

Although still in process, the Semiahmoo Town Centre Land Use Study has evaluated future traffic volumes and transportation needs. The study recommends 2 travel lanes in each direction on 152 Street with allowance for the addition of parking pockets where it can be achieved through redevelopment.

As a result of this study, TransLink and the City are also working to relocate the on-street transit exchange and incorporate it into the future redevelopment of the Semiahmoo Mall lands. The timing of this is uncertain, however, this would be the appropriate time to develop the second northbound lane on 152 Street between 16 Avenue and 17 Avenue.

Financial Considerations

Sections of the parking recommended for removal are controlled by parking meters. By-law Enforcement staff has confirmed that these experience limited use and hence their removal would result in limited revenue loss. This is not unexpected given the availability of nearby convenient and free parking both on and off street.

ICBC has confirmed that it will be in a position to fund up to 75% of the cost of removing the on-street parking, the provision of new pavement markings to create two northbound lanes, the signal adjustments and signal coordination works as these changes all provide significant collision reduction. The total estimated cost of these works is expected to be \$30,000 to \$40,000 (City cost of up to \$10,000).

Next Steps

Staff met with the White Rock/South Surrey Chamber of Commerce who expressed strong support for the removal of parking to achieve a second northbound lane. As a

result, we believe the consultation process could be primarily limited to affected businesses. We are proposing the following steps, as required:

- Send a letter to each of the affected business owners and operators explaining the street parking removal and the rationale;
- Meet with individual business owners/operators, as needed, to try and resolve any concerns they may have;
- Meet with other stakeholders if requested;
- Report back to Council;
- Subject to Council's consideration, implement removal of parking and accompanying pavement marking and signal timing changes in 2007.

CONCLUSION

Parking along 152 Street, between 17 Avenue and 20 Avenue, eliminates a second northbound lane, resulting in congestion. Adding this second lane for traffic, together with signal timing changes, will improve the safe and efficient operation of 152 Street and allow the Fire Department to resume the use of this corridor for emergency response.

The successful re-use of 152 Street for emergency vehicles would allow two resident-requested traffic calming projects to be reintroduced into the construction program.

The benefit of a second northbound lane between 16 Avenue and 17 Avenue would be limited until the on-street transit exchange is relocated. Therefore, no changes to the special parking bay just north of 16 Avenue are proposed at this time.

Staff will contact merchants likely to be affected by the changes to parking and try to resolve any concerns they may have and then report back to Council.

Paul Ham, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

PH/PB/JB/VL/rdd/brb
Attachment



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June 13, 2005
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TO	BY	DATE
JB	PA	
ENGINEERING DEPT.		

Jaime Boan, P.Eng.
A/Traffic Operations Manager
City of Surrey
14245 - 56 Avenue
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Jaime,

Recent changes in traffic patterns in our City and increased traffic flows in general continue to present challenges to the Surrey Fire Service to maintain acceptable response times for those in need of emergency service. Major response routes are continually becoming more congested and the close working relationship between the Surrey Fire Service and Traffic Operations staff is invaluable and greatly appreciated when intersection planning and re-construction projects are considered.

I would like to draw your attention to one particular response route in South Surrey that is creating significant delays in our ability to move along 152 Street when travelling north from 18th Avenue. The recent construction of the library building at 18 Avenue and 152 Street eliminates any opportunity for Hall 13 to visually assess the traffic situation on 152 before they choose that route. Pumper 13 has become stuck in traffic several times after turning the corner and has no secondary option available due to the median on 152 Street between 18 Avenue and 20 Avenue, and the parked cars along the curb.

The only alternative to using 152 Street is to travel through residential neighbourhoods creating significant public safety concerns for all. A solution to this serious response problem would be to create a less obstructed route on 152 Street by opening the northbound curb lane that is currently used for parking for businesses that have very adequate customer parking available at the rear of their building.

Please advise me if you see another option or solution as this issue is of significant concern to us.

Gord Anderson
Assistant Chief
Surrey Fire Service
604-543-6707

GA/cp
c. Fire Chief

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