Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of May 13, 2021

To:	Committee of the Whole	**Date:**	April 15, 2021
From:	Susanne Thompson, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer		
Subject:	Proposed Amendment to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw – Accessible Parking		

RECOMMENDATION

That Council instruct the City Solicitor to bring forward amendments to the *Streets and Traffic Bylaw* to provide on-street parking free of charge, with a four-hour time limit, on Sundays for vehicles displaying disabled decals.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019, the City introduced a program to provide free transit passes to youth in the municipality of Victoria. Part of the cost of the program was covered by introducing paid on-street parking on Sundays. This was accomplished through amendments to the *Streets and Traffic Bylaw* so that anyone parking at meters on the street would be required to pay $2 per hour for a maximum of four hours. Parkades remained free on Sundays as a no-cost option for parkers.

An unintended consequence of the introduction of the fee was that it may have removed the ability for some to choose the free option in the parkades due to a physical disability, which may require them to park closer to their destination. A person without such mobility restrictions could choose to park for free at parkades further away. This would be in direct conflict with the City's Accessibility Framework that strives to ensure that barriers are not created by new or changed City programs.

The City already provides some assistance to persons with disabilities in relation to parking. In addition to designated parking spaces, both in parkades and at on-street meters, the City provides one hour of free parking at meters for vehicles displaying disabled decal. This is a long-standing practice in recognition of the fact that persons with disabilities may require additional time to complete their activity and return to their vehicle. Having said that, a potential solution to the unintended consequence is to amend the *Streets and Traffic Bylaw* to provide for free parking at on-street meters for vehicles displaying disabled decals. Any impact to revenues is hard to estimate since the City does not track the number of vehicles with disability decals, but it is not anticipated to be significant.

Respectfully submitted,

Ismo Husu	Susanne Thompson
Manager of Parking Services	Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager