



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 23rd, 2024.

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** May 17, 2024
From: Councillor Matt Dell and Councillor Dave Thompson
Subject: Parking outside of the Downtown Neighbourhood

BACKGROUND:

The City of Victoria and our regional partners are in the process of implementing a variety of policies and plans to transform and modernise our transportation system, in response to the climate emergency, housing crisis, and growing downtown core. Policies that inform this transition include:

- City of Victoria Climate Leadership Plan
- City of Victoria Sustainable Mobility Strategy
- City of Victoria Official Community Plan
- Victoria Regional RapidBus Implementation Strategy
- Capital Regional District Regional Transportation Plan

This motion aims to improve the quality of life for residents in the downtown neighbourhood, reduce traffic congestion and air pollution in the downtown, allow transit to operate more effectively, and improve safety for pedestrians and people using transit, bicycles, mobility scooters, micro-mobility devices and private vehicles.

In order to support a transition towards having fewer personal vehicles in the historic downtown core, it's essential that policies and plans are in place to encourage vehicle storage to take place outside of the core of the city. The practice of building parkades outside of urban cores is commonplace, which helps create quieter and safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists, mobility device users and the broader community. The extraordinary growth of diverse micro-mobility modes creates the opportunity for last-mile solutions that enable moving parking further from final destinations.

This practice of encouraging parkades outside city limits also prioritises road capacity in the downtown core for higher priority vehicles, such as delivery trucks, shoppers, local residents and tourists. Individuals wanting to store vehicles for longer periods (e.g. all day, or for multiple days), can benefit from lower rates and more availability at parkades outside of the core.

At the May 16, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting, in response to Council member questions, staff advised Council that:

- They could consider changes aimed at moving some parking stalls outside of the downtown neighbourhood into a parkade to the north; and,
- This consideration would best be brought about by a Council member motion directing them to do so.

The development of new parking north of downtown could be funded in whole or in part by the sale and/or redevelopment to higher and better uses of existing parkades, such as the Centennial Square parkade.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council direct staff to report back on:

- Reducing private vehicle movements and parking in the downtown neighbourhood by exploring the potential of creating a new parkade, or increased public parking capacity, on the north side of the downtown core.
- Including in the OCP related objectives and metrics, such as:
 - reducing vehicle movements and vehicle km travelled in the downtown;
 - shifting numbers of parking stalls from the downtown to peripheral areas; and,
 - providing last-mile solutions (including transit, micro-mobility and bike share) available at any major parking locations in the periphery in order to help people move quickly from parking to final destinations.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Dell



Councillor Thompson