



User Pay Parking Facts

OVERVIEW

The City of North Vancouver is an urban municipality. While the City's extraordinary physical setting has drawn a broad range of residents, it has also resulted in the development of equally diverse housing opportunities. The City's commercial environment ranges from specialty shops to full service businesses, to institutions, corporate headquarters, government offices, significant and light industry as well as tourist attractions. The City is also a gateway to world-renowned recreational sites.

There is increasing pressure on existing transportation resources such as parking, particularly in the City's Lonsdale area. This is further amplified by the fact that the anticipated growth for the City is in the Central and Lower Lonsdale areas. The planned strategy to enhance the vibrancy of the City's core, through densification and new business, creates a demand for on-street parking.

Parking is one component of transportation that affects the future vision for the City as described in the Official Community Plan. In 2002, the City sought to develop an overall City-wide parking plan that would serve as a framework from which to plan for growth. This plan has been reviewed on an ongoing basis to include various on and off street parking options to address an increase in traffic impacting parking opportunities.

Various parking solutions have been discussed by the City for several years, and User Pay Parking is one option that has been reviewed in the past and in the fall of 2009, has been reintroduced for consideration. The proposed, integrated parking management program can improve motorist convenience and prevent future parking challenges.

This program includes:

- ✓ Improved user information about parking options, including improved signage and maps to guide motorists to the most appropriate parking space for their use (short-term spaces for quick errands, long-term spaces for longer stays).
- ✓ Improved regulations and pricing of the most convenient spaces to increase turnover and favor short-term uses (delivery, customers and errands over employees).
- ✓ Commuter trip reduction programs and other incentives to encourage use of alternative modes.
- ✓ Streetscape improvements to make the downtown area more attractive and improve walkability.

WHY NOW?

User Pay Parking is part of an integrated program to improve user convenience, increase transport system efficiency, prevent future parking problems and generate revenue from new city improvement programs.

In September 2009, User Pay Parking was re-introduced to Council specifically as it related to the Shipyard's Heritage Precinct, as the City of North Vancouver will assume control of the street network in this area. Additionally, it was identified that User Pay Parking could solve vehicle turnover issues in the Central and Lower Lonsdale areas.

The City, like other municipalities continually faces fiscal challenges, economic uncertainty and must strategically plan for its future.

By instituting User Pay Parking, the costs of providing parking are then borne more equitably by the user (driver). Currently, funds such as these are accumulated from all tax payers through municipal revenues that come from property taxes.

In reality, all residents and businesses pay for parking through municipal taxes or rent, and there is no choice for those who do not use the service.

MUNICIPALITIES HAVE TWO FUNDING OPTIONS:

Direct – Charge direct user fee, or
Indirectly – Increase property taxes

User Pay Parking is one of the ways municipalities can raise funds. It is a solution that provides residents and businesses with many valuable benefits. In fact, User Pay Parking has been successfully implemented in surrounding municipalities including Vancouver, Victoria, Whistler, Richmond, New Westminster, White Rock, Surrey, Burnaby and Coquitlam.

The City of North Vancouver's User Pay Parking will:

1. Improve driver convenience by increasing turnover and ensuring that parking spaces are available when needed
2. Help reduce the tax burden for all residents
3. Improve the downtown shopping experience for everyone
4. Provide better access to local businesses
5. Inspire people to use sustainable forms of transportation
6. Help support community services and business improvement programs

THE BENEFITS

The City of North Vancouver's User Pay Parking will benefit residents and businesses alike.

- ✓ **Reducing the Tax Burden**
Revenue will be obtained from those people who park on the streets.
 - Parking fees provide additional revenue however, if the revenues are used to reduce taxes – or to prevent further tax increases – this could be a net benefit for individuals and businesses.
- ✓ **Improved City Services**
User Pay Parking is a sustainable form of revenue to support City Services.
- ✓ **Improving the Shopping Experience**
There is opportunity for more flexibility for activities that typically exceed an hour such as medical appointments, dining out or beauty treatments.
 - Free parking creates inefficiency in available spaces, and prime parking spaces tend to be taken by employees, leaving less convenient spots for customers.
 - Assigning a price to the time used in a space ensures a greater turnover during the day, allowing more customers to access the businesses and services they need when they need them.
- ✓ **Offering Better Access to Local Businesses**
Increased turnover of vehicles on the street will provide more parking availability to customers.
 - Businesses benefit from improved turnover as customers have greater access to parking close to their destination.
- ✓ **Promoting Sustainable Forms of Transportation**
User Pay Parking encourages people to walk, bike or take public transit.
 - A community that provides incentives for more sustainable transportation choices as well as incentives for automobile use is proactively establishing a more livable community.
 - User Pay Parking also helps to increase one's own awareness of vehicle use and reflects a personal commitment to green house gas reduction.
- ✓ **Funding for Community Services and Business Programs**
A portion of the revenue generated from User Pay Parking will support community services and business improvement programs.
 - In 2001, the City conducted a community survey where one third of the 386 surveys returned suggested that funds from on-street parking should be placed back into the City's street system for uses ranging from road to sidewalk improvements to beautification, street furniture and bicycle racks.

✓ **Ample Long Term Parking Options**

The needs of long term parking users are readily met by a variety of existing parking lots located throughout the Lower Lonsdale area. While at present, not widely known, these conveniently located parking lots will be able to service long term parking customers as well as those who are unable to obtain on-street parking.

HOW IT WORKS

City Staff have proposed implementation of User Pay Parking in approximately 1,200 on-street parking spaces in Central and Lower Lonsdale and the Shipyard's Heritage Precinct.

Several User Pay Parking options are available for consideration, including:

- Individual meter heads
- Pay and display meters
- Pay by license plate
- In-vehicle meters
- Pay by phone

A combination of some or all of these options may provide the City with the most effective and efficient system. Pricing will encourage short term parkers, and offer flexibility for longer term parking.

If pay and display equipment is used, the rates in the City could be set at \$1.00 for the first hour and \$2.00 for the second hour with a maximum stay of two hours. (Rates in the Metro Vancouver region range from \$.75 per hour to a max of \$4.00 per hour with rates of \$1.00 per hour for areas where the focus is vehicle turnover not revenue. The average rate is approximately \$1.50 per hour in the GVRD.

User Pay Parking in the City of North Vancouver is recommended by City Staff to be in effect from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The City of North Vancouver will host an Open House at 6:00 p.m. and a Committee Meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. about the User Pay Parking proposal on January 7, 2010 at City Hall, 141 West 14th Street, North Vancouver.

The public is invited to participate and provide comments about the proposed parking meter usage in the City's business district.

Additionally, information about the proposal is available on the City's website at www.cnv.org/UserPayParking.