

# Staff Report to Council

**Title:** Parking Limits on Queen Street

**Report Number:** Legislative Services-2024-15

**Director:** Corporate Services

**Manager:** Legislative Services

**Meeting Date:**

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

**Date to be considered by Council:**

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

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## Recommendation:

That Council direct Staff to proceed with public consultation on parking limits for Queen Street in Kincardine

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## Executive Summary:

Council passed a resolution directing Staff to bring back a report outlining the process for implementing a two hour parking limit in the downtown core of Kincardine. Staff have consulted with the BIA Board of Management and they have recommended the Municipality implement a 3-hour parking limit in downtown Kincardine everyday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Durham Market Square South to Durham Street. Staff are now looking for Council's direction to proceed with public consultation on parking limits

## Strategic Priorities:

D.16-Ensure the Municipality provides value for money and long-term sustainability

## Financial Considerations:

A parking limit would necessitate increased enforcement, signage in the affected area, increased legal costs to defend tickets for those who wish to fight them, and an education campaign to inform residents and visitors.

The cost of a parking ticket is \$50 (\$35 voluntary payable within 7 days) and these tickets would not offset the cost of enforcement or legal costs.

## Policy:

Traffic and Parking By-law No. 2019-165

The Municipal Act allows for a local municipality to pass a by-law relating to highways including parking and traffic on those highways.

Part 2, Section 15(1) of the Provincial Offences Act allows Municipal Law Enforcement Officers to issue parking infraction notices.

### **Context and Background Information:**

Council had previously directed Staff to investigate a 2-hour parking limit in the downtown core. As part of this process, staff consulted with the BIA Board of Management who recommended a three-hour parking limit on Queen Street from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily from Durham Market Square South to Durham Street. Their hope is to encourage users who will be there for long period of time (i.e. tenants, employees, business owners) to utilize the free parking lots or side streets in the downtown area or choose active transportation or carpooling options. This would leave the on-street parking for those utilizing the businesses for a short term.

This area of Queen Street currently has 82 on-street parking spaces with 7 being accessible parking spaces and one limited mobility space. The parking lots to the east and west of Queen Street can accommodate approximately 210 vehicles. A parking study of this area of Queen Street has not been completed since 2010, and there is no current analytical data to confirm the average occupancy rate of either Queen Street, the side streets or parking lots in the area. We also don't have data to confirm who is utilizing the spaces (tenants, employees, business owners, or residents and visitors utilizing the retail services).

In Bruce County, five (5) other Municipalities currently have parking limits in portions of their municipality. The majority have random enforcement (i.e. there is not an officer there checking daily) and two have full time seasonal (summer) enforcement.

Staff have consulted with our by-law enforcement officers regarding utilizing parking limits in the Municipality. To fully enforce a three-hour parking limit on Queen Street in Kincardine would require a dedicated officer separate from our current enforcement initiatives. The officer would be required to do regular patrols of the area to virtually chalk the tires utilizing the electronic ticketing program Ops-Com. Using this system, the officer would issue tickets for those over the limit and any other parking infractions. The system permits people to pay their infractions online.

The cost of enforcement of a parking limit system would not be offset by the tickets issued for infractions as the purpose of patrol and ticketing is to make a change in people's behaviour so that they will leave the parking space before the time limit is up. Parking enforcement is not intended to be punitive or generate revenue; instead it is intended to protect parking spaces and capacity for people who are respecting the time limits.

The best practice when implementing a restriction such as this is to have enforcement. With no enforcement or random enforcement, you will not see changes in current situation; continued issues with parking for businesses that rely on those spots, an increase in the number complaints to by-law enforcement and general abuse of the parking. If there was only random enforcement, there would be additional calls for by-law service regarding parking in this specific area, which would lead to longer wait times for other calls for service and may necessitate a reprioritization of citizen calls.

Before considering a parking limit, Staff would like to consult with the public and other stakeholders to determine if a parking limit is required for Queen Street and if there are other methods to achieve the same goal. Other methods might include additional signage directing people to off street parking and an education campaign to encourage people working and living in the area to utilize off street parking and a campaign to encourage active transportation.

### **Consultation Overview:**

Staff consulted with the BIA and the Chamber of Commerce regarding the possibility of parking limits on Queen Street. Staff also consulted with Municipal Support Services and other surrounding municipalities to determine their best practices.

### **Origin:**

Resolution #05/2/22-05 Requesting staff to investigate the implementation of a two-hour parking limit in the downtown core.

Resolution #2024-03-19-03 BIA Board of Management – That the Board recommends the Municipality of Kincardine implement a 3-hour parking limit in downtown Kincardine everyday between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Durham Market Square South to Durham Street.

### **Implementation Considerations:**

Any parking limit in the area would require an amendment to the Traffic and Parking By-law including the set fines. By-law enforcement would need to be contracted and signage would be required throughout this area. There would need to be a budget amendment for the items required if implemented in 2024 or a budget request for 2025.

### **Risk Analysis:**

As noted above, the risk to adding a parking limit in the suggested area of Queen Street would increase the need for By-law enforcement and if not enforced regularly, lead to increased calls for service and possibly a reprioritization of how by-law answers its calls.

The Municipality did review a time limit parking option in a 2015 report and quoted a Roger Brooks International 2014 article “Parking is not just for Lovers” as saying that many communities have two-hour parking limit to discourage employees from parking there but it ultimately punishes customers. In his studies, a pedestrian friendly or popular downtown, the average person will spend four hours, a three-hour parking could reduce spending and repeat visiting.

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### **Attachments:**

**Prepared by:** Jennifer Lawrie, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

**Submitted by:** Jennifer Lawrie, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk