



Draft Press Release

PARKING IN DOWNTOWN DUNCAN IS NOW 100% CUSTOMER FRIENDLY

Duncan BC - Duncan City Council endorsed a plan today to fundamentally change the way parking is handled in the downtown core. From now on, parking signs in the downtown core will say "Customer Parking" and customers will no longer receive parking tickets.

"We consider customers to be people who are coming into the core for reasons of commerce and business - whether they are shopping, attending a meeting or appointment or dining with friends," explains Jenny Farkas, City Councillor and Chair of the Parking Advisory Committee.

Customers differ from business owners or employees, because the latter often need to store their car for the entire day while they are at work. On the other hand, customers want to easily and predictably find a convenient, free parking spot so that they can access the downtown's great shops, services, people and ambiance

Business owners and employees will benefit from this new plan, as it provides them with a wide variety of all-day parking options within a four-block radius of the downtown core. The options provide more free all-day parking and more dollar-a-day parking spots. In addition, the City will reinstate its popular monthly parking pass (\$19/month) that allows long-term parkers to use any dollar-a-day parking lot, and includes in-and-out privileges.

"It all comes down to the concept of 'highest or best use'. We want customers to use the parking spots nearest to the shops and services, and we want business owners and employees to have well-priced parking options for car storage, within a reasonable walking distance," continues Farkas.

The City will be launching a public education campaign in the coming weeks to promote the new parking plan. This campaign will be developed in partnership with the Downtown Business Improvement Association (DBIA), with the goal to get all business owners and employees on side. . "It is our hope that business owners and employees will embrace this new plan, recognizing that it is a win-win for the downtown core," explains DBIA Manager Chris Waddell.

The work of changing over from the old system to the new parking plan is expected to take several months. Customers who accidentally receive a parking ticket during the transition period are asked to phone City Hall at 746-6126. The helpful staff at the front desk will immediately cancel your ticket.

Other changes coming as a result of this new parking management plan include special parking areas for loading to assist businesses with deliveries, shorter parking spots for small fuel-efficient cars, a parking map that will outline the range of parking options so parkers can find the spot that best suits their needs, new signage to direct all-day parkers to the long-term spots, and a scaled-down system of enforcement that will focus on the all-day parkers who use the customer parking spots.

The City would like to thank the citizen-members of the Parking Advisory Committee for their help with the concept and development of this new parking plan. "The Parking Advisory Committee's commitment to resolving this long-standing problem has resulted in a very workable, extremely positive and customer-friendly approach to parking the downtown core," says Mayor Michael Coleman.

Details of the new plan will be posted on the City's website within the next week (www.duncan.ca).

For more information, contact:

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