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**TO:** GENERAL COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT:** FERNDALE DRIVE PARKING INVESTIGATION

**WARD:** 6 AND 7

**PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT:** J. MACDONALD, C.E.T., SENIOR TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TECHNOLOGIST , EXT. 5178

**SUBMITTED BY:** D. FRIARY, DIRECTOR OF ROADS, PARK, AND FLEET

**GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL:** A. BOURRIE, RPP, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL:** M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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### **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

1. That Traffic By-law 80-138 Schedule "A" "No Parking Any Time" be amended by deleting the following:  

<u>"Ferndale Drive</u>	Both sides from Dunlop Street to a point 170 metres north of Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive."
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2. That Traffic By-law 80-138 Schedule "A" "No Parking Any Time" be amended by adding the following:  

<u>"Ferndale Drive North</u>	Both sides from Dunlop Street to Tiffin Street."
<u>"Ferndale Drive South</u>	Both sides from Tiffin Street to Essa Road"

### **PURPOSE & BACKGROUND**

3. In 2003 council adopted Motion 03-A-427 regarding on-street parking and bicycle lanes on Ferndale Drive between Edgehill Drive southerly to Ardagh Road which stated:
  - a) A 1.0 m wide bicycle lane is to be constructed on each side of Ferndale Drive North from Edgehill Drive to Tiffin Street;
  - b) A 2.0 m wide bicycle lane is to be constructed on each side of Ferndale Drive South from Tiffin Street through the wetland to Bishop Drive/Summerset Drive;
  - c) No bicycle lane be constructed on Ferndale Drive from Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive southerly to Ardagh Road; and
  - d) On-street parking is permitted on Ferndale Drive South from Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive southerly to Ardagh Road in compliance with By-law 80-138 until the traffic volumes and/or level of service warrant four lanes.

4. Ferndale Drive is a four (4) lane arterial roadway with approximately 14,500 vehicles per day and is a transit route with sidewalks along both sides within the study area and a posted speed limit of 50km/h. Ferndale Park, and Ferndale Woods Elementary School are located along the west side between Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive and Gore Drive/Cuthbert Street. Please refer to Appendix "A".
5. Ferndale Drive/Veteran's Drive provides the longest north/south connection throughout the City outside of the Highway 400 corridor.
6. Currently, there is a Community Safety Zone and variable time flashing 40km/h posted speed limit zone along Ferndale Drive South adjacent to Ferndale Woods Elementary School.
7. Ferndale Drive South between Tiffin Street and Essa Road is not a permissive truck route.
8. In 2017 staff implemented "No Parking Anytime" along Ferndale Drive between Dunlop Street to a point 170 metres north of Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive to prohibit vehicles from parking within the bicycle lanes. This was implemented to address the operational and safety concerns regarding vehicles parking and impeding the operation and safety of the bicycle lane.

#### **ANALYSIS**

9. The City has been actively monitoring the traffic volumes along Ferndale Drive South between Ardagh Road and Bishop Drive/Summerset Drive. The results of these studies have shown a steady increase of traffic volume since 2005. The traffic volume in 2018 was recorded at approximately 14,500 vehicles per day compared to 4,600 vehicles per day in 2005.
10. A letter was mailed to fifty six (56) property owners along Ferndale Drive South between Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive and Ardagh Road to gain feedback regarding the proposed "No Parking Anytime" parking prohibition. Staff received feedback from fourteen (14) area residents regarding the proposed parking prohibition and all residents expressed concerns regarding removing on-street parking due to the speed of motorists. They expressed the on-street parking acts as a traffic calming measure to reduce the overall speed of Ferndale Drive between Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive and Ardagh Road.
11. Staff completed a vehicle speed study and determined the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed to be 63km/h. The 85% percentile speed is defined as the speed at which vehicles travel at or below.
12. Staff have requested the Barrie Police Services conduct speed enforcement along Ferndale Drive South between Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive and Ardagh Road.
13. Staff have implemented a form of traffic calming along Ferndale Drive South in the past to help reduce the overall operating speed of the roadway. This measure was a radar speed board which provides a visual queue to notify drivers of their speed and reduce their operating speed. This form of traffic calming measure typically results in a decrease in vehicle operating speed of 3-5km/h.
14. Currently, Ferndale Drive South between James Street and Gore Street/Cuthbert Street is a variable time flashing 40 km/h posted speed zone as Ferndale Wood Elementary School has direct frontage along this segment of roadway. This was implemented in accordance with the council policy which states a reduced speed limit can be implemented on all arterial roadways which have direct frontage to an elementary school and a daily traffic volume greater than 5,000 vehicles per day. The purpose of the reduced speed limit is to decrease the operating speed near elementary schools where vulnerable pedestrians are present.

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15. Currently, there is a Community Safety Zone along Ferndale Drive South from a point 25 metres south of Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive to a point 65 metres north of Ardagh Road as Ferndale Wood Elementary School has direct frontage along this segment. A Community Safety Zone doubles all traffic fines which helps deter traffic violations.
  16. Residents expressed concerns regarding commercial and heavy trucks using Ferndale Drive South between Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive and Ardagh Road as it is not a designated truck route. Currently, the City operates a permissive truck route which outlines where commercial and heavy vehicles are permitted to travel, however vehicles may detour from these routes to complete a delivery.
  17. The current permissive truck routes on Ferndale Drive are Ferndale Drive North from Tiffin Street north and Ferndale Drive South from Essa Road south, as well as along Ardagh Road from Morrow Road east.
  18. Signs have been installed at the intersections of Ferndale Drive South and Essa Road, Ferndale Drive North and Tiffin Street, Ardagh Road and Morrow Road to notify operators that commercial and heavy vehicles are not permitted. Please refer to Appendix "B".
  19. Staff have completed a classification study of commercial and heavy trucks and determined approximately 2% or 375 vehicles per day out of approximately 14,500 vehicles per day are commercial and heavy trucks. Although, Ferndale Drive South between Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive is not a permissive truck route commercial and heavy vehicles are permitted to deviate from the permissive route to make deliveries via the shortest distance from the permitted route.
  20. Staff have requested that Barrie Police Services conduct enforcement of the permissive truck route along Ferndale Drive South between Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive and Ardagh Road to help deter commercial and heavy vehicles from using this segment as a short cut.
  21. Residents also expressed concerns regarding the need for on-street parking to permit parking for visitors. There would still be parking permitted along the adjacent side streets or nearby City parking lots such as Ferndale Park parking lot to accommodate visitor parking.
  22. Staff have completed field observations and noted there are vehicles consistently parking along Ferndale Drive South between Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive and Ardagh Road creating operational and safety concerns due to vehicles having to weave around parked cars and reducing the capacity of the roadway. As well as vehicles having difficulty entering and existing residential driveways due to vehicles obstructing the motorists line of sight.
  23. Staff reviewed the last three (3) years of collision history for Ferndale Drive South and found three (3) collisions directly related to on-street parking.
  24. Staff also found nine (9) collisions related to vehicles exiting residential driveways colliding with motorists. Although, these collisions did not indicate direct involvement due to on-street parking staff noted during field observations that on-street parking obstructed sight lines as vehicles were entering onto Ferndale Drive South.
  25. Concerns were raised regarding how the proposed parking prohibition along Ferndale Drive South would affect drop off and pick up at Ferndale Woods Elementary School. The proposed parking prohibition would still permit vehicles to actively stop adjacent to the curb along the west side of Ferndale Drive to actively load/unload. This is a similar practise that the City implements at elementary schools where parking is prohibited in front of the school to prevent vehicles from parking for long duration causing operational and safety concerns regarding unattended vehicles impeding traffic and reducing sight lines of pedestrians.

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26. Staff issued a comment sheet to the Simcoe County District School Board to solicit their feedback regarding the proposed parking prohibition, staff did not receive any comments or concerns.
27. Residents suggested implementing “No Parking 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, Excluding Statutory Holidays”. Staff reviewed this suggested and do not recommend this as permitting parking during evenings and weekends would not remove the current operational and safety concerns regarding vehicles and City buses weaving, impeding residential driveways, and the required capacity requirements.
28. Staff reviewed extending the proposed parking prohibition along Ferndale Drive South between Ardagh Road and Essa Road, as this segment of roadway also has a traffic volume of approximately 14,500 vehicles as well and requires the use of all four (4) lanes to provide a sufficient level of service and capacity requirements.
29. Staff have completed field observations and did not note any on-street parking along Ferndale Drive South between Ardagh Road and Essa Road. Although staff did not note any vehicles parking, staff are recommending prohibiting parking along this segment of Ferndale Drive as well to achieve the desired level of service and capacity requirements.
30. The proposed “No Parking Anytime” along Ferndale Drive South between Ardagh Road and Essa Road will not negatively impact any residential properties as there are no direct frontage homes, all residential house are either rear facing or are accessed by a service road.
31. The proposed parking prohibition is also consistent with previous parking restrictions implemented along similar four (4) lane arterial roadways, such as Livingstone Street, Georgian Drive, Cundles Road, Ferndale Drive North, Hurst Drive, and Big Bay Point Road.
32. Based on both the operational and safety concerns staff recommend that Traffic By-law 80-138 Schedule “A” “No Parking Any Time” be amended by deleting the following:
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|---------------------------|---|
| “ <u>Ferndale Drive</u> ” | Both sides from Dunlop Street to a point 170 metres north of Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive.” |
|---------------------------|---|
- And adding the following:
- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| “ <u>Ferndale Drive North</u> ” | Both sides from Dunlop Street to Tiffin Street.” |
| “ <u>Ferndale Drive South</u> ” | Both sides from Tiffin Street to Essa Road”      |
33. Barrie Police Service, Barrie Fire and Emergency Service and Municipal Law & Prosecution Services do not oppose the recommended motion.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

34. There are no environmental matters related to the recommendation.

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## **ALTERNATIVES**

35. There are (2) alternatives available for consideration by General Committee:

**Alternative #1**

General Committee could decide to maintain the existing prohibit parking on both sides of Ferndale Drive North between Dunlop Street to a point 170 metres north of Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive, and not extend the prohibition southerly to Essa Road.

This alternative is not recommended as vehicles currently park on-street along Ferndale Drive North which creates operational and safety concerns due to vehicles weaving around park cars, reducing the capacity of the roadway, and collision history.

**Alternative #2**

General Committee could decide to implement “No Parking 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory Holidays” along Ferndale Drive South between Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive to Essa Road.

This alternative is not recommended as vehicles consistently park along this segment of Ferndale Drive South and impede the operation of the roadway and create operational and safety concerns.

## **FINANCIAL**

36. The cost to implement the No Parking Anytime signage on Ferndale Drive North between Dunlop Street and Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive would cost approximately \$4,000 which can be accommodated in the 2019 business plan.

## **LINKAGE TO 2018-20122 STRATEGIC PLAN**

37. The recommendation included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan:
- a) Improving the ability to get around Barrie.
38. The recommended motion will improve the level of service for Ferndale Drive South between Summerset Drive/Bishop Drive and Essa Road as well as improve the operation and safety for motorists by removing the current operational and safety concerns regarding vehicles weaving around parked vehicles, impeding residential driveways, and collision history.

Appendix A



Appendix B

