
TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC BY-LAW 80-138 UPDATES

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RECOMMENDED MOTION

Intersection Clearance

1. That By-law 80-138, Parking Prohibition, Section 4 (2) (b), relating to intersection clearance, which does not allow vehicles parking within 15 metres of an intersection where appropriate signs have been erected and are on display, be amended by:

Deleting the following:

"(b) Within 15 metres of any intersection or any through highway".

And by adding the following:

"(b) Within 30 metres of any intersection or any through highway".

Curve Clearance

2. That By-law 80-138, Parking Prohibition Section 4 (2) "In Specified Places Where Signs are on Display" be amended by adding the following:

"(f) 15 metres before the point of curve and 15 metres past the point of tangent for curves with a radius less than 50 metres".

3. That the following definition be added to By-Law 80-138, Interpretation, Section 1:

"(pp) "Curve" means changes in a roadway alignment which changes the road direction, within the plane of the road surface. The beginning point of this alignment is known as the point of curve, and the end point is known as the point of tangent. The size of the curve is defined by the radius".

Fines

4. That staff be authorized to make applications to the Ministry of the Attorney General for approval of fines for the following offences:
 - a) Early payment of \$20.00 and set fine of \$30.00 for the violation of "Park within 30 metres of an intersection prohibited by sign"; and
 - b) Early payment of \$20.00 and set fine of \$30.00 for the violation of "Park within 15 metres of a curve prohibited by sign".

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

5. The purpose of this Staff Report is to address the ongoing operational and safety concerns from residents regarding vehicles parking near intersections and around curves. The recommended motions would provide general provisions in By-law 80-138 to address these concerns to solve operational and safety issues related to on-street parking near intersections and around curves.
6. Staff Report ENG030-12 also establishes set fines for violations of the recommended motions which will permit Municipal Law Enforcement the ability to enforce these provisions.
7. Currently By-law 80-138, states the following:
 - a) Parking Prohibition, Section 4 (2) (b) currently does not allow vehicles to park within 15 metres of an intersection where appropriate signs have been erected and are on display.
 - b) Parking Prohibition, Section 4 (2) (e) currently does not allow vehicles to park within 30 metres of an intersection controlled by a traffic control signal where appropriate signs have been erected and are on display.
 - c) Parking Prohibition, Section 4 (2) currently does not identify parking prohibitions for vehicles parked through curves.
8. To have a set fine approved, staff need to make a request to the Ministry of the Attorney General. This process can take up to six (6) months to obtain approval. The Clerk's Office would process the application for the set fine request if the recommended motions are approved.

ANALYSIS

Intersection Clearance

9. The Engineering Department receives ongoing concerns from residents regarding vehicles parking too close to an intersection. This condition results in reduced sight lines for vehicles entering an intersection or manoeuvring from intersections.
10. Staff recommend that By-law 80-138, Parking Prohibition, Section 4 (2) (b), which does not allow vehicles to park within 15 metres of an intersection where appropriate signs have been erected and are on display, be amended to prevent vehicles from parking within 30 metres of an intersection.

11. This recommended increase in distance will provide sufficient throat clearance to increase the safety and operation of intersections. In addition, the parking prohibition will standardize parking for both intersections under stop control and traffic control signals. Currently By-law 80-138 prohibits parking within 30 metres of a traffic control signal and within 15 metres of an intersection. The recommended motion will prohibit parking within 30 metres of both intersections under stop control and traffic signal control when signed.

Curve Clearance

12. The Engineering Department receives ongoing concerns from residents regarding vehicles parking through the curves on roadways which reduce the sight lines for vehicles travelling through the curves causing operational and safety concerns.
13. Staff recommend By-law 80-138, Parking Prohibition Section 4 (2) be amended by requiring parking clearance from 15 metres before the point of curve to 15 metres past the point of tangent for curves with a radius less than 50 metres.
14. The definition of a curve must be defined in By-law 80-138 to be enforceable. Staff recommend the following definitions be added to By-Law 80-138, Interpretations, Section 1:

(pp) "Curve" means changes in a roadway alignment which changes the road direction, within the plane of the road surface. The beginning point of this alignment is known as the point of curve, and the end point is known as the point of tangent. The size of the curve is defined by the radius.
15. The proposed recommendations will provide improved sight lines for vehicles manoeuvring through the curves by prohibiting vehicles from parking directly along the curve which will improve the safety and operation of the roadway. The recommendation will also reduce requirements for staff to prepare Staff Reports to General Committee by allowing staff to implement the improvements administratively.

Fines

16. Currently, there is a fine of \$30.00 and an early payment of \$20.00 for the violation of "Park within 15 metres of an intersection prohibited by sign". Staff recommend that this be increased to 30 metres, therefore staff need to amend the fine accordingly. It is recommended that an early payment of \$20.00 and set fine of \$30.00 be implemented for the violation of "Park within 30 metres of an intersection prohibited by sign" and that staff be authorized to make application to the Ministry of the Attorney General for approval of the fines related to this offence.
17. It is recommended that an early payment of \$20.00 and set fine of \$30.00 be implemented for the violation of "Park within 15 metres of a curve prohibited by sign" and that staff be authorized to make application to the Ministry of the Attorney General for approval of the fines related to this offence.
18. The recommended motions would allow staff in the Engineering Department to expeditiously review and analyze safety and operational concerns when vehicles are parked too close to an intersection and through the curves on roadways. This would be achieved by allowing staff to directly implement parking restrictions where safety and operational concerns exist without having to prepare a Staff Report.
19. Barrie Police Service, Barrie Fire and Emergency Service and Municipal Law Enforcement do not oppose the recommended motion.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

20. There are no environmental matters related to the recommendations.

ALTERNATIVES

21. There are three Alternatives available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1

General Committee could decide not to change By-law 80-138, Parking Prohibition, Section 4 (2) (b) which does not allow vehicles to parking within 15 metres of an intersection where appropriate signs have been erected and are on display.

This Alternative is not recommended as the proposed increase from 15 to 30 metres provides improved throat clearance and improved sight lines, increasing the safety and operation of the intersection.

Alternative #2

General Committee could decide not to prohibit parking within 15 metres of a curve where appropriate signs have been erected and are on display.

This Alternative is not recommended as when vehicles are parked through curves on roadways sight lines are reduced causing operational and safety concerns.

Alternative #3

General Committee could decide not to make an application to the Ministry of the Attorney General for approval of the fines related to the proposed recommendations.

This Alternative is not recommended as Municipal Law Enforcement would not be able to enforce the proposed regulations without the abilities to impose set fines.

FINANCIAL

22. The curve clearance technical descriptions were made in consultation with Municipal Law Enforcement staff in an effort to minimize disputed tickets and ensure that the enforcement is defensible in the courts. Enforcement will be performed on a complaint basis.
23. The City receives approximately five (5) corner clearance concerns annually that result in the posting of traffic signage at an approximate cost of \$300.00 per corner clearance and funded from current Operating budgets. The recommendations in this Staff Report will not necessarily increase operational costs, however, it is anticipated that there will be work plan efficiencies by allowing staff to address these issues administratively. It is not anticipated that there will be a substantial change in the number of tickets issued, and therefore, not a substantial change in the fine revenue. The recommended motions are not expected to increase the number of complaints as the majority of complaints currently received are related to unsafe parking conditions observed by residents.

LINKAGE TO COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

24. The recommendations included in this Staff Report are not specifically related to the goals identified in the 2010-2014 City Council Strategic Plan.