

# WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

Parking Breakfast Talks with Dave Hill

Chocolate Shop

February 26, 2010

## **? Is there an alternative to the current 2-hr free Saturday Parking?**

- Yes, a new promotion that is easier and measurable is needed
- A mix of on and off-street options would be great
- Paying a nominal amount for on-street parking Saturday gets people programmed so that paying is more palatable should rates increase significantly in the future
- Perhaps \$1 for 3hrs of on-street parking would be appropriate
- Offering free or cheap parking in parkades/lots (1<sup>st</sup> hour for free) is a great idea and would be used by those who are used to coming downtown, freeing up the streets for people who don't know their way around downtown
- Merchants could easily promote free parking in parkades to their customers
- Education system (big stickers) for changes to Saturday parking would be important
- Studies show that free parking does not bring any more customers or create and more sales
- Keep Sunday and holidays free

## **? What do you think of demand based on-street parking (i.e., less busy areas would have a lower rates and longer time limits and vice versa for more busy areas)?**

- This approach could be criticized for being too complicated, but it is better to be responsive (different tactics for different areas)
- Balancing individual needs against those of the whole community is a challenge
- Most cities use rate and time in some sort of combination
- High demand areas downtown are: Portage Ave corridor, Main Street (from City Hall to Broadway) and side streets between St. Mary's Ave and Ellice Ave
- Complaints are often from customers who can't find parking, so raising parking prices to create availability makes sense
- In the busy areas, we need to be moving people every 2hrs so customers can find parking
- On the Portage Ave corridor, there is currently more demand than supply (solutions would be to raise costs, keep at 2hr limit, and extend meter hours into the evening, around the MTS Centre)
- Lengthen meter stays off Portage Ave (shoulders) to 4hrs and keep current rates
- We need to train people to think on-street is for short stays only

- A few bucks for parking isn't too bad, compared to the cost of a ticket
- Focus on reducing tickets, so we aren't punishing people for coming downtown

**? Can time limits be extended on specific meters where clients, students, etc are getting tickets for staying longer than two hours?**

- Yes, meters can be changed to 3-4 hr time limit
- Meters are necessary because there is an obligation to the city to create 15% curbside availability downtown
- We all have different needs – the new pay station technology was brought in to allow for flexibility in various areas
- Identification cards could be given to clients on a temporary basis to notify parking patrols to not ticket in specific situations
- Surface lots nearby could provide validated parking programs for evenings and weekends to provide an area for longer parking