

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

Parking Breakfast Talks

March 12, 2010

? What do you think of the Easy Streets Blue Loonie Program?

- Blue loonies aren't working too well for validated parking, since the best value for the blue loonie is on the bus
- If the blue loonie covers the \$2.30 bus fare, then it should also cover \$2.30 of parking (instead of just a dollar)
- Maybe the Parking Authority should give blue loonies collected from the parking meters back to the Downtown BIZ (the BIZ could then give blue loonies to restaurants)
- A coupon based system is easier (such as a 2hr free parking coupon)
- If we pre-sell coupons, you can include from freebees

? How does validated parking work?

- Businesses need to know they can call parking operators to request validated parking (quite feasible to do during non-business hours)
- The Downtown BIZ needs to promote the option of validated parking to members
- A simple coupon with blanks could be produced – business fills in specific lot where validated parking has been set up for customers/employees
- There needs to be “after 3pm parking” arranged and promoted downtown, to deal with gap during the rush hour
- FNP Parking is offering validated parking for Globe, PTE and YMCA customers
- The Winnipeg Parking Authority gives back to the downtown through providing funding for the BIZ Clean Team and Watch as well as providing bike parking facilities

? How does a residential parking permit work?

- 70% of residents in the Assiniboine area requested parking meters to put in to create turn over on the street
- Residents can continue to park on the street if they purchase a \$25 residential parking permit (can register 3 vehicles on it and also call the Parking Authority to let them know if a guest will be parking)
- The Downtown BIZ needs to promote the residential parking permit on their website and at the Downtown Living event

? What do you think of parking rate and time zones?

- Demand parking is needed downtown
- Escalating rates work 70% of the time (but you can still defeat the system)
- Are parking rates too high in city parkades? Yes, \$2/half hour is too much – we need more desirable rates for the hourly parker
- FNP Parkade has tenant obligation to keep rates low
- We may want to consider paid on street parking (currently on street parking is free after 5:30pm) in high demand areas such as around the MTS Centre and in the Exchange District
- Differential pricing model on Portage Ave would clear up the issues
- There should be longer limits on Saturday as this is a leisurely day
- There should be lower rates and longer lengths of stay on evenings and weekends

? What are the problems with our current loading zones?

- There are too many loading zones (24 hr loading zones near One Night in Bangkok create a parking problem for customers)
- There are lots of reasons to remove loading zones (most cities only allow one of two loading spots per block)
- Those going to a restaurant don't want to pay to park at a lot (even if just \$2)
- Validated parking is an alternative in a nearby lot
- Could tweak the reserved signs (usually meant to business hours) to facilitate evening arrivals (there is a reverse impression that spots in surface lots are not available at night)
- The Downtown BIZ needs to promote the Parking Authority's new involvement as concerns changes to loading zones
- The Parking Authority would like to remove half downtown's loading zones and when needed, keep the loading zones to 2hrs only

? What is being done for security as relates to downtown parking?

- The WAG area is a concern for security (smash and grabs during events)
- Anywhere in the city where there is an event, there are issues (opportunistic people)
- We need to continue to educate people to not leave things in their cars

? What is a reasonable Saturday Parking promotion?

- Saturday parking enforcement is making people angry (not right to ticket for someone using too much of a free service)
- Issue is enforcing the 2-hr free time limit at meters
- Maybe parking could be free in parkades for 2 hrs but on street would be paid (as during the weekdays)

- For any on street promotion to work, parkers need to be issued a receipt with a start time
- The Downtown BIZ should have an awareness campaign around on street parking is for customers and not for businesses
- Passes for parkades should be given to downtown employees (owners should educate employees)
- Provide free Saturday parking for 1 hr and enforce (give customers a 4 hr leeway, but ticket employees who abuse the system)
- Charging for Saturday on street parking will create better accessibility
- Have businesses give customers coupons to place on their dash with “free Saturday parking” for their repeat visit (this takes away free parking from employees who abuse it and gives it to the best customers)
- The Downtown BIZ could provide these coupons to businesses and quantify
- These coupons should be portable, transferable, durable and a one year expiry date
- Coupons could be personalized: “Thank you for visiting_____ and hope to see you soon!”
- Should eliminate free Saturday parking entirely

? What is the future of parking in Downtown Winnipeg?

- Parking should be a non-issue
- We need to enforce less and target the bad guys (the 10% of abusers)
- Encourage what you want to happen and discourage what you don't want to happen
- The only way for parking to grow is through parking garages
- The natural long term parking theme is fees need to be charge for facilities to be built
- We need to shift the expectation of parking on street to off street
- Looking at key area for parking garages downtown (attractive, green & sustainable, does not detract from streetscape, has ground floor retail)
- Downtown Winnipeg parkades should be smaller, strategically place and well-functioning
- Five sites have been proposed (on Portage Ave corridor, in the heart of the Exchange, near the Convention Centre, etc) for new parkades and a financial package is in place
- The issue around parkades is that the footprints available are hard to work with
- Our long term vision should be charging for on street parking on Saturdays to create revenue to build parkades (and then offer free weekend parking in parkades)
- Rapid Transit is going to solve a lot of our parking issues in the future