

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Council approves Changes to Parking Management Strategy for Downtown Nanaimo**

*New Parking Plan will promote more on-street parking for the public*

#### **Summary**

The City of Nanaimo is proceeding with a plan to install pay parking areas in the downtown and Old City Quarter over the next two years. Resident only parking will be increased to include such areas as Nob Hill and the upper streets of the Old City Quarter.

Parking rates will also be increased both on-street at meters and off street in the lots and parkades. The changes are intended to cover expenses associated with future maintenance and operational costs.

Nanaimo's downtown on-street parking rates were last increased in 2004.

*Strategic Link:* The new Traffic Management Plan will promote turnover of vehicles parked on city streets, reduce congestion in residential areas adjacent to the downtown and increase revenue to cover present and future costs of operating the parking system in Nanaimo.

#### **Key Points**

- By eliminating free parking areas in the downtown and providing low cost off-street parking in parkades, the City will promote a consistent turnover of vehicles leading to more convenient parking for users.
- The City of Nanaimo will be offering free parking in the Bastion Parkade on weekends and over 1300 free parking spaces each evening.

#### **Quotes**

"These changes will ensure there's a consistent turnover of vehicles downtown and in the Old City Quarter, while providing alternative off-street parking facilities at a reasonable cost. In addition, by adjusting our parking rates the City can better maintain and repair our off-street parkades without using funds from General Revenue."

Rod Davidson  
Manager of Parking Services  
City of Nanaimo

#### **Quick Facts**

- In addition to promoting a constant turnover of vehicles in the downtown and a reduction of congestion in the surrounding residential neighbourhoods, an anticipated revenue increase of \$872,500.00 annually is anticipated when the parking plan is fully implemented in 2016.

**Contact:**

Rod Davidson  
Manager of Parking Services.  
City of Nanaimo  
rod.davidson@nanaimo.ca  
250-755-4466



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