

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Paid parking will address street parking demand near Nanaimo Hospital**

*New HotSpot Parking app provides convenient and accessible payment option*

#### **Summary**

The City of Nanaimo is bringing in pay parking and introducing web-based, mobile HotSpot Parking to the street parking areas around Nanaimo Regional General Hospital. This responds to the growing street parking challenges faced by residents and visitors to the hospital and businesses and surrounding areas.

Drivers can pay by scanning the HotSpot QR code signage with their smartphone or by downloading the HotSpot Parking app. Parking will be by licence plate number. For convenience, the payment process accommodates all major credit cards, Google Pay, Apple Pay and Visa Debit. Signage will be put up in affected areas to help with the transition to the new parking system. There will be traditional parking kiosks on Boundary Avenue and Dufferin Crescent as well.

Parking rates will be consistent with Downtown rates at \$1.25 per hour. Pay parking will be in effect Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. Free weekends and evenings.

Revenues from parking fees will maintain, enforce and repair current parking infrastructure, including upkeep and operation of meters. Pay parking revenue supports parking-related projects including development, replacement or refurbishing of City assets related to parking infrastructure.

Prior to the pandemic, the Hospital Area Parking Strategy laid out an approach to help with parking demand on the surrounding streets. With parking patterns returning to normal, it is timely to roll out on-street pay parking.

*Strategic Link: N/A*

#### **Key Points**

- HotSpot Parking aligns with the City's commitment to efficient urban planning, addressing the challenges posed by population growth and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents.
- The fees collected from paid parking in the hospital area will fund operation of the parking service (meter enforcement, repair and maintenance, meter operation) as well as future parking projects.
- The City acknowledges the diverse needs of the community by accepting cash payments (quarters, loonies and twoonies) at ticket kiosks and providing unpaid parking options on side streets, ensuring accessibility for all residents and visitors.
- Parking payment service will be activated Apr. 1, 2024, with full enforcement starting Apr. 8, 2024.

#### **Quotes**

"As our city grows, so will the demands on our infrastructure. The addition of HotSpot Parking is consistent with our mission to deliver efficient services and improve the overall quality of life for Nanaimo residents."

Leonard Krog  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

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