

Designated Electric Vehicle Parking Spaces

Purpose

This report seeks Council approval to designate parking spaces in public and private lots for the exclusive use of charging electric vehicles. At the April 9, 2019 City Council Meeting, resolution CC2019-119 was passed, directing staff to prepare a report with recommendations to include the provisions for the designation of parking spaces for electric vehicles.

Overview/Executive Summary

In response to the growing use of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, Transportation and Innovation Services staff has been asked to review designating parking spaces in public and private lots for the exclusive use of charging electric vehicles. With other municipalities already having by-laws in place to mitigate unwanted users at electric vehicle charging stations, this report will recommend the City of Greater Sudbury adopt similar by-laws governing the use of parking spaces at electric vehicle parking spaces as a proactive measure to their growing popularity and demand.

Background

With the rise in popularity of electric powered vehicles, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations on both public and private property have become more common. Currently, there is no by-law in the City of Greater Sudbury which restricts the use of parking spaces with EV charging stations to electric vehicles only or limits the amount of time an electric vehicle can be parked in these spaces.

Analysis

Other municipalities such as Burlington, London and Ottawa have all adopted these types of by-laws in recent years.

The two common issues these by-laws try to resolve are gasoline powered vehicles parking in these spaces and electric vehicles continuing to park in these spaces all day, long after the vehicle has finished charging or parking in the space and not charging at all.

The approach other municipalities have taken to correct this problem has been to designate the parking spaces in front of EV charging stations to only allow electric vehicles to park in the space. They also have placed a 4-hour time restriction on electric vehicles parked in the spaces and require the electric vehicle to be actively connected to the charger while in the parking space.

While the City of Greater Sudbury does not have any EV charging stations on City property, EV charging stations which are open to the public have been installed in

various private parking lots and in private/public spaces throughout the City. These include shopping centers, hotels, gas stations and at Science North. As vehicle propulsion trends towards electric power, more of these charging stations will be constructed in coming years and having a by-law in place to regulate these spaces will be critical.

Next Steps

To ensure that electric vehicle charging stations are available for use by drivers who need to charge their electric vehicles, it is staff's recommendation to revise the current Traffic and Parking By-Law 2010-1 as follows:

- Designate parking spaces at EV charging stations for use only by electric vehicles. These spaces will be identified by a specific sign which staff will work to develop. This also gives owners of private parking lots (such as office buildings) the ability to opt out of the restriction by simply not installing the designated sign.
- Place a 4-hour time limit for electric vehicles in these parking spaces and require the electric vehicle to be actively connected to the EV charger while in the parking space.
- Implement a fine of \$25 for any vehicle found in contravention to the by-law. This fine is consistent with the fine for vehicles parked at an expired parking meter within the City.

Resources Cited

City of Greater Sudbury, *Council Meeting - Motion M-4*, April 9, 2019

Accessed online:

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&lang=en&id=1321#agendaitem16614>