

Background:

At the March 18, 2019 Operations Committee Meeting, resolution OP2019-05 was passed, directing staff to bring forward a report to the Operations Committee to consider reducing the overnight parking prohibition to the hours of 2:00 am to 6:00 am from December 1st to March 31st.

The City's Traffic and Parking By-Law presently prohibits the parking of vehicles on any road from midnight to 7:00 am, from December 1st to March 31st. These restrictions are in place to help facilitate the efficient plowing and sanding / salting of City roads during the winter months. While the overnight parking ban applies to all roads within the City of Greater Sudbury it has the greatest implication to narrow residential roads (Class 4 – 6 roads, where on-street parking is typically permitted for up to 4 hours) as well as streets in the various downtown centres.

As a comparison, staff reviewed current policies in place in some other northern municipalities and a summary of the findings are below:

North Bay
Overnight parking ban - Nov. 1 st to Apr. 15 th Downtown Improvement Area, no parking - 3:00 am to 6:30 am On blocks containing cul-de-sacs and dead end roads, no parking - 3:00 am to 8:30 am On all other streets, no parking - 3:00 am to 7:30 am On any city street within 12 hours of posting snow removal signs and within 24 hours of a snowfall.
Timmins
Overnight parking ban - Nov. 1 st to Apr. 30 th Any road, no parking - 11:30 pm to 7:30 am
Sault Ste. Marie
Overnight parking ban - Nov. 1 st to Apr. 30 th Any road, no parking - midnight to 6:00 am
Thunder Bay

Overnight parking ban - Residential Streets - Nov. 15th to Mar. 31st, Priority routes -
Nov. 15th to Apr. 30th

Residential Streets, no parking - 9 am to 5 pm (alternating sides of the road by
odd/even days)

Priority routes, no parking 2 am to 7 am

*Priority routes: Routes used by service and emergency vehicles

Existing Snow Plow Practice:

The existing winter overnight parking ban coincides with the City's night shift for snow plow operators. Last winter, snow plow operators were utilized (as required) on 28 sand routes and 24 salt routes, from midnight to 8:00 am (night shift) and noon to 8:00 pm (day shift), five (5) days a week (Monday through Friday). Following the recently ratified collective bargaining agreement, the City will be utilizing (as required) snow plow operators on 6 routes within the South and SE sections from midnight to 8:00 am (night shift) and noon to 8:00 pm (day shift), for the two remaining weekdays (Saturday & Sunday).

The purpose of this model enhancement was in part to maximize the unobstructed street plowing time available for narrow residential streets. The success of the model is largely contingent on the existing overnight parking ban.

During the winter months, the night shift operators are often utilized to perform snow cleanup operations (or General Callout plowing operations) in busy / narrow areas such as the Downtown Sudbury, Old Hospital area, Donovan, Flour Mill, Westend, Minnow Lake (i.e. Hillside), Garson (i.e. Ravina Gardens), New Sudbury (i.e. Beatrice Cr.) etc.

Snow plow trucks have predefined routes for maintaining the City's road network during the winter months. Some narrow two-lane roads may become impassable for a snow plow when one or both sides of a street (with snow banks) allow on-street parking. It means that snow plow trucks may have to 'skip a street' and 'try again' at a later time to clear snow from these streets. During a General Callout, this may mean that a snow plow may not return to the 'skipped street' until after the 24 hour limit outlined in the City's winter maintenance standard for Class 4 – 6 roadways. This approach may expose the City to additional risk.

Depending on weather and the delayed time it takes to return to plow these streets, hardening of snow / ice may create ridges / unevenness in the snow-packed roadways, potentially leading to unsafe road conditions that may also expose the City to risk. Once hardening of snow and ice has occurred, the City may have to deploy

additional resources (such as graders that can apply downward pressure) to remedy the situation. This may result in additional cost being incurred by the City and moving resources away from other areas of the City's road network.

Another significant challenge if the overnight parking restrictions are modified would be our snow removal activity in the downtown centres. Currently, it takes the City approximately five (5) nights to complete snow clearing of the downtown core (Sudbury) during the night shift. Crews take advantage of the midnight to 7:00 am overnight parking ban to complete this operation in a timely fashion. The time and cost to clear the downtown will increase if the overnight parking ban is reduced from 7 hours (midnight to 7:00 am) to 4 hours (2:00 am to 6:00 am).