

NO: R087

COUNCIL DATE: June 5, 2023

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **June 1, 2023**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture**

FILE **5460-90 (Gen)**
XC: **5480-01**

SUBJECT: **Crescent Beach Parking and Traffic Update**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering and Parks, Recreation & Culture Departments recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Direct staff to evaluate traffic calming warrant analysis on four local roads in Crescent Beach;
3. Direct staff to explore increasing on-street parking spaces through enforcement of City bylaws regarding illegal encroachments in public road allowance; and
4. Direct staff not to implement 'Resident-Only' parking permits in Crescent Beach.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to provide Mayor and Council with information on traffic and parking in Crescent Beach and seek direction on opportunities for improvement.

BACKGROUND

Since 2020, following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant increase in Surrey residents visiting Crescent Beach for recreational use. This has resulted in an increase in traffic volumes, an increased demand for parking management options and a corresponding increase in service requests from the local residents within the Crescent Beach community.

DISCUSSION

Throughout 2021 and 2022, staff met with representatives the Crescent Beach Property Owners Association on multiple occasions to discuss their concerns regarding traffic volumes, parking (on-street and off-street) and bylaw enforcement. Following these meetings, staff analyzed transportation dynamics in the community and park ambassadors completed community outreach.

Transportation

Traffic Calming

Crescent Beach residents have long been concerned about traffic in their neighbourhood, and the City has completed multiple traffic calming analysis over the past ten years. Traffic speeds measured by

staff have consistently been up to 36 km/h, indicating motorists are broadly compliant with the speed limit, and not meeting the City's threshold to install speed humps. In spite of this, the City installed speed humps on eight of the 12 local roads in the area. Staff have recently received a resident petition for additional traffic calming, which will be evaluated, following the City's standard processes, to determine if measures at key intersections are warranted. More information on traffic calming in Crescent Beach is provided in Appendix "I".

On-Street and Park Parking Supply and Demand

In 2022, staff conducted an extensive analysis of parking availability in Crescent Beach and found that all but nine of 374 properties have sufficient parking in their lots/driveways. Collectively, there are 1,550 public parking spaces, including 300 at Blackie Spit Park.

A parking demand assessment was conducted in May and August 2022, as provided in Appendix "II". Neighbourhood-wide on-street parking occupancy was 23% on visits in May and 35% in August, with some individual streets experiencing over 80% occupancy during an August weekend; however, local residents expressed concerns with lack of local resident parking in front of their homes.

The review also found that 10% of residential properties have illegal fencing and landscaping encroachments in the road allowance. The removal of these encroachments could result in an additional 50-75 on-street parking spaces to support both local residents and visitors.

Resident-Only Parking Permits

Some local residents have requested 'Resident-Only' parking permits, while others oppose them. A Resident-Only parking system would require significant financial resources to administrate, patrol and enforce, while also providing significantly less parking for visitors from the rest of Surrey and an inconsistent approach across the City. Present data shows adequate parking supply to support both locals and visitors.

Blackie Spit Parking Lot

Staff may consider opportunities to improve visitor experience through providing real-time parking availability for the Blackie Spit Park parking lot that visitors can refer to and working with partners to enhance alternative transportation options (such as transit and cycling).

CONCLUSION

Comprehensive analyses indicate that Crescent Beach's parking supply meets balanced demands of both locals and visitors, even during most peak times. However, in response to resident concerns, staff will explore opportunities to improve parking supply and traffic speeds as described in this report.

Scott Neuman, P.Eng.
General Manager,
Engineering

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

RV/cc

Appendix "I" – Traffic Calming

Appendix "II" – On-Street Parking Supply and Demand

Traffic Calming

Crescent Beach residents have had long-standing concerns about traffic in their neighbourhood, primarily related to congestion, safety, and speed. Since the start of 2018, residents have submitted almost five times more service requests related to traffic speed, safety and operations than the City as a whole, on a per-capita basis.

Crescent Beach can experience congestion during peak times, which in the case of Crescent Beach is primarily summer evenings and weekends when there is a higher level of traffic generated by Blackie Spit Park, the businesses in the area, and the beachfront in general. This naturally leads to some level of congestion, and though on a larger scale, is not dissimilar to the congestion experienced elsewhere in Surrey.

It is important to note that the injury crash history in Crescent Beach as reported to ICBC is very low, and there are no patterns amongst the collisions that would indicate the need for mitigation.

Nonetheless, in response to resident concerns, the City has conducted seven speed studies since 2019 on local roads in Crescent Beach. Crescent Beach is a unique community in Surrey in that the speed limit on all streets is 30 km/h, compared to 50 km/h elsewhere. Recorded 85th percentile speeds range from 29 km/h to 36 km/h, indicating that the vast majority of traffic is travelling close to the speed limit. The threshold to implement traffic calming is far from being met.

Notwithstanding the above, speed humps have been installed on eight roads in Crescent Beach, including two segments of McBride Avenue, in the areas closest to Blackie Spit, and to discourage speeding near the railway crossings. Only four local roads, including one segment of McBride Avenue, do not currently have speed humps.

A petition has recently been submitted by the Crescent Beach Property Owners' Association, requesting traffic calming on every road in the neighbourhood. Once the current utility construction is complete and traffic patterns have normalized, anticipated to be in the next few weeks, staff will conduct new speed studies. Should speeds meet the traffic calming requirements, a traffic calming plan will be developed. Staff will also review the operations along the two busier roads in Crescent Beach, Beecher Street and Sullivan Street, to evaluate whether other improvements may be needed.

On-Street Parking Supply and Demand

In 2022, staff conducted a parking count to assess demand against supply. The counts were conducted over long weekends in May and August in the morning, afternoon and evening.

The locations of highest demand were Beecher Street, Target Street, and the Blackie Spit Parking Lot, all of which are primary access points to the waterfront. Even at peak periods over the August long weekend, these locations averaged 64-76% occupancy, meaning there was still supply available. Outside of these locations, there remained plenty of on-street parking available throughout the neighbourhood.

Parking Occupancy Report: May 2022

Parking Occupancy Report:	May-22										
	Occupied Spaces										Total
Date of Stall Count	Total # of Stalls	5/11/2022	5/11/2022	5/11/2022	5/21/2022	5/21/2022	5/21/2022	5/23/2022	5/23/2022	5/23/2022	Average Occupancy
Day of Week		Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Saturday	Saturday	Saturday	Monday	Monday	Monday	
Time of Stall Count [Approx.]		AM	NOON	PM	AM	NOON	PM	AM	NOON	PM	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bayview Street	120	18%	25%	15%	7%	18%	17%	16%	24%	15%	17%
Beecher Street	57	54%	46%	56%	32%	35%	42%	58%	68%	67%	51%
Sullivan Street	155	24%	23%	31%	8%	14%	20%	16%	25%	21%	20%
Gordan Ave	137	9%	10%	13%	6%	9%	12%	12%	12%	11%	10%
McKenzie Ave	159	16%	13%	17%	16%	18%	19%	19%	18%	19%	17%
McBride Avenue South	218	19%	16%	16%	11%	23%	23%	22%	25%	24%	20%
Dunsmuir Rd	4	25%				25%	25%	25%	25%		14%
Kidd Rd	16	13%	19%	19%	19%	6%	13%	13%	38%	31%	19%
McBride Avenue North	115	10%	13%	23%	9%	23%	18%	18%	23%	29%	19%
Alexandra Street	19	37%	37%	58%	16%	37%	42%	16%	58%	16%	35%
Agar Street	98	18%	23%	24%	11%	18%	15%	28%	31%	27%	22%
Gardiner St	46	11%	17%	20%	15%	15%	24%	20%	26%	30%	20%
Gilley St	30	33%	13%	30%	13%	20%	23%	57%	63%	37%	32%
Target St	27	37%	11%	41%	26%	48%	22%	44%	74%	67%	41%
Parking Lot	304	28%	18%	38%	19%	42%	39%	41%	67%	62%	39%
Maple Street	44	20%	16%	14%	14%	18%	11%	14%	27%	18%	17%
TOTALS:	1549	21%	19%	25%	13%	24%	24%	25%	36%	32%	23%

