



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Public Works and Transportation Committee **DATE:** December 4, 2000
FROM: Gordon Chan, P. Eng. **FILE:** 6455-01
 Manager, Transportation
**RE: **PARKING RESTRICTION ON GILBERT ROAD BETWEEN GRANVILLE AVENUE
 AND WESTMINSTER HIGHWAY – FOLLOW-UP REPORT****

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That staff proceed with the introduction of a "24-Hour No Parking" regulation on Gilbert Road between Granville Avenue and Westminster Highway as previously endorsed by Council at the November 8, 1999 Council meeting.

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Manager, Transportation

Att. 1

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Community Bylaws	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

At the November 8, 1999 Council meeting, Council passed the resolution that "24-Hour No Parking/Stopping" regulations be introduced on the following arterial roads:

- Gilbert Road (Westminster Highway to Steveston Highway);
- Westminster Highway (No. 1 Road to Lynas Lane);
- Cambie Road (Garden City Road to No. 5 Road);
- Bridgeport Road (Oak Street Bridge to No. 6 Road); and
- Steveston Highway (No. 1 Road to Railway Avenue).

At the same meeting, concerns were raised regarding the impact of the proposed parking restrictions for Gilbert Road on Gateway Theatre patrons. There were also concerns expressed relating to the requirement for maintaining the existing loading bay in front of the Gateway Theatre and the incidents of reported malfunctioning of the pay-parking machines in the theatre parking lot.

At the Community Services Committee meeting held on February 15, 2000, a follow-up staff report on the parking restrictions for Gilbert Road between Granville Avenue and Westminster Highway was presented. The Committee passed the following resolutions at this meeting:

"That the introduction of a "24-Hour No Parking" regulation on Gilbert Road between Granville Avenue and Steveston Highway, including the Gateway Theatre road frontage be referred to staff for review of:

- a) *the proposed elimination of parking on Gilbert Road in front of the Gateway Theatre; and*
- b) *further options which would provide relief to paid parking."*

This report addresses the various Council concerns and the resolutions of the Community Services Committee meeting of February 15, 2000.

ANALYSIS

1. Purpose of Arterial Road Parking Policy

The intent of the arterial road parking policy is to preserve the role of the City's arterial road network to provide connections to major local activity centres as well as regional facilities. The policy serves a number of transportation goals:

- *Traffic Safety* - The removal of parking and stopping on arterial roads enhances traffic safety by reducing the conflict between the flow of moving vehicles and parked vehicles;
- *Traffic Flow Efficiency* - Arterial roads carry significant traffic volumes, particularly during peak hours, and parked vehicles may impede the safe and efficient flow of vehicles on these roads;

- *Major Road Network (MRN)* - Sections of the City's arterial road network either form part of or connect to the MRN, which was established to address the need for improved local and regional travel and goods movement; and
- *Emergency Response* - The City's arterial road network provides road access for emergency vehicles and should be kept clear of parked vehicles.

2. Parking Ban on Gilbert Road

Gilbert Road is designated as part of the City's arterial road network as it serves as one of the major road connections between Richmond and the airport. It is also a primary commuter route that carries significant traffic volumes during peak hours. Gilbert Road also provides access to and from the No. 1 Fire Hall, which is located at the northeast corner of Gilbert Road and Granville Avenue. Prohibiting on-street parking on Gilbert Road will achieve the following objectives:

- Enhance traffic safety and protect the function of Gilbert Road as a major arterial road; and
- Be consistent with the application of the *Arterial Road Parking Policy*, as the traffic volume on this section of Gilbert Road is similar to or greater than sections, which have already had a parking ban installed.

The no stopping/no parking restriction of the *Arterial Road Parking Policy* is already in effect on Gilbert Road between Steveston Highway and Granville Avenue. The proposed extension of the parking ban to Gilbert Road between Granville Avenue and Westminster Highway is intended to address the following specific traffic safety concerns:

- Provision of two clear traffic lanes so that through traffic is not forced to use the continuous left turn lane as a passing lane to overtake vehicles waiting for, backing into and/or pulling out of parallel parking spaces; and
- Alleviate traffic conflicts between moving and parked vehicles, particularly at night when visibility is reduced.

3. Impact of Removal of On-Street Parking

Representatives of Gateway Theatre have expressed concerns regarding the loss of on-street parking fronting the theatre. The following analysis identifies the extent of the parking loss and the availability of off-street parking in the surrounding area.

On-Street Parking Capacity

The removal of on-street parking in this section of Gilbert Road will result in a loss of about 25 parking spaces for Gateway Theatre patrons. Given the 550-seat capacity of the main stage, the number of patrons who currently park on Gilbert Road for theatre events represents a very small percentage of the total attendance of the theatre.

Availability of Additional Parking in Vicinity

There is additional adequate parking available within walking distance of the Gateway Theatre for a nominal amount (see Attachment 1):

- The Minoru Park tennis courts lot (free), approximately 50 stalls;
- Richmond Inn (\$1.00 per hour 6 a.m. – 5 p.m. and free after 5 p.m., holidays and Sundays), approximately 100 stalls;

- Temporary City Hall lot (\$1.00 for 2 hours), approximately 150 stalls;
- The Bowling Green lot (\$1.00 for 2 hours), approximately 50 stalls;
- Richmond Hospital parkade (\$1.75 per hour), approximately 200 stalls;
- The Medical Centre lot (across from the hospital) (\$1.00 per hour), approximately 100 stalls.

The above locations, which together offer over 600 parking spaces, are either pay parking or free parking facilities that will be able to easily accommodate the parking demands that will be generated by the removal of on-street parking.

A number of these sites are already used by theatre patrons, as on-site parking at the Gateway Theatre is limited to about 40 spaces. Gateway Theatre season ticket holders receive the benefit of free parking in the City's pay parking lot. In addition, Gateway facility renters will receive a number of free parking passes as part of their rental agreement. The company operating the parkade for Richmond Hospital, Metro Parking, is exploring the possibility of establishing a flat rate in the evenings similar to the one already in place at the Gateway Theatre, Minoru Chapel and Family Place lots. Staff will continue to work with parking operators in the area to provide accessible and reasonable parking alternatives for theatre patrons.

4. Other Concerns Raised by the Gateway Theatre

The Gateway Theatre raised several other concerns related to the issue of on-street parking at the November 8, 1999 Council meeting. These concerns and the corresponding staff response are summarised below.

Pay Parking Ticket Dispensers

The dispensers located at the Gateway Theatre, Family Place and Minoru Chapel lots have been upgraded since the February 15, 2000 staff report. To-date there has been only one report of a malfunctioning dispenser recorded; and

Bus Loading / Unloading Zone

The existing signed loading zone on Gilbert Road fronting the Gateway Theatre that allows for two buses will be maintained. Should special events scheduled at the theatre be anticipated to generate greater bus traffic, staff will work with theatre representatives to accommodate temporarily the additional traffic volumes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None as funds for parking and signage have already been allocated per the November 8, 1999 report.

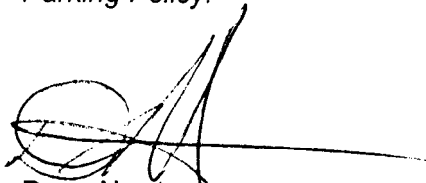
CONCLUSION

In November 1999, Council endorsed a 24-hour no parking and no stopping restriction on selected arterial roads to address traffic safety concerns regarding conflicts between the flow of moving vehicles and parked vehicles. Gilbert Road between Westminster Highway and Steveston Highway is one of five arterial roads identified for implementation of the parking restriction. Gilbert Road was selected as it is one of the major road connections between Richmond and the airport and it is a primary commuter route that experiences significant traffic volumes during peak hours. As directed by Council, a 24-hour parking ban on Gilbert Road between Blundell Road and Granville Avenue has recently been introduced.

The removal of on-street parking on Gilbert Road between Granville Avenue and Westminster Highway will complete the Council-approved parking ban and address several existing traffic safety concerns.

The removal of on-street parking will result in the loss of about 25 parking spaces for theatre patrons. However, there is adequate additional parking available (over 600 spaces) for theatre patrons in the immediate area.

Based on the above considerations, it is recommended that the proposed parking ban on Gilbert Road, as previously endorsed by Council on November 8, 1999, be implemented between Granville Avenue and Westminster Highway in accordance with the *Arterial Road Parking Policy*.

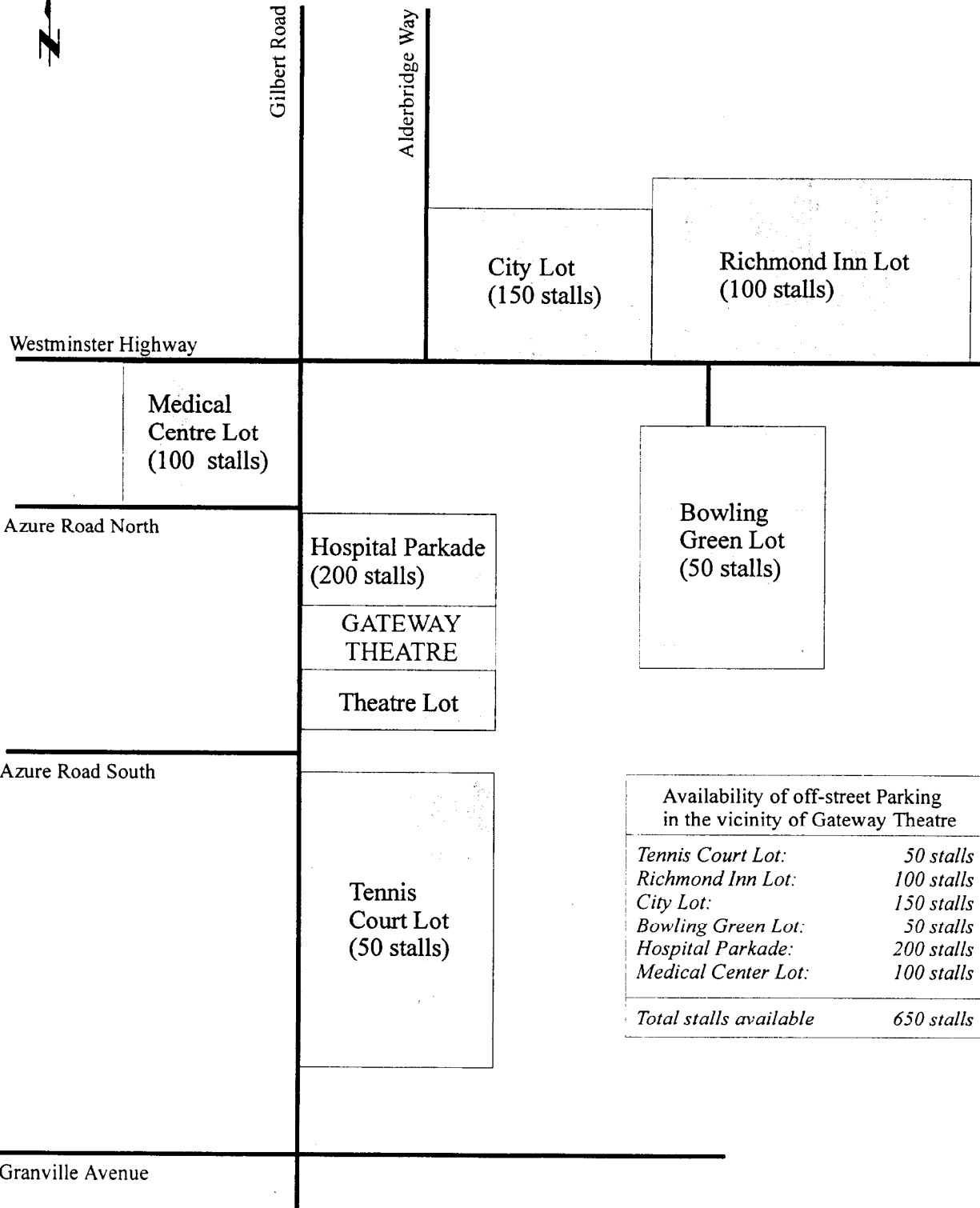


Doug Newton
Traffic Technician I

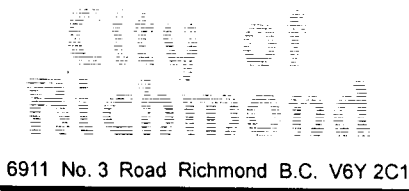


Joan Caravan
Transportation Planner

DN:lce



Availability of off-street Parking in the vicinity of Gateway Theatre	
<i>Tennis Court Lot:</i>	<i>50 stalls</i>
<i>Richmond Inn Lot:</i>	<i>100 stalls</i>
<i>City Lot:</i>	<i>150 stalls</i>
<i>Bowling Green Lot:</i>	<i>50 stalls</i>
<i>Hospital Parkade:</i>	<i>200 stalls</i>
<i>Medical Center Lot:</i>	<i>100 stalls</i>
<i>Total stalls available</i>	<i>650 stalls</i>



TITLE: 13 Off-Street Parking Availability for Gateway Theatre Patrons		
DESIGN: DN		
DRAWN: DN	DWG No. C://GilbertParking.cdr	
CHECKED:	SCALE: NTS	DATE: November 27, 2000
ENGINEER:	SEC. No.	SHT. No. 1/1