



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** April 3, 2023
From: Lloyd Bie, P.Eng. **File:** 10-6455-01/2023-Vol
Director, Transportation 01
Re: **Azure Road Neighbourhood: Results of Residential Permit Parking Review**

Staff Recommendation

1. That Staff engage with the residents on Alta Court to develop a resident permit parking pilot program, as described in the staff report titled “Azure Road Neighbourhood: Results of Residential Permit Parking Review” dated April 3, 2023, from the Director, Transportation; and
2. That should the majority of residents on Alta Court wish to participate in such a program, staff will bring forward the necessary City Bylaw amendments for Council consideration.

Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation
(604-276-4131)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Roads and Construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Bylaws	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Development Applications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

At the September 20, 2022 Planning Committee, the following referral was received:

That staff be requested to explore a resident only parking pilot program in the vicinity of the proposed development.

This report provides the outcome of staff's review of the request and engagement with the neighbourhood.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Strategy #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement:

1.4 Leverage a variety of approaches to make civic engagement and participation easy and accessible.

Analysis

As part of the rezoning (RZ 21-931122) at 6071 Azure Road, residents near the development expressed concerns regarding parking related issues. In particular, comments were made about the high utilization of street parking in the neighbourhood generated by non-residential uses including the hospital, medical services building and school. Interest in a resident only permit parking program was raised to address such parking intrusion in the neighbourhood.

Staff have performed a parking study of the area, consulted with the neighbourhood to explore options for such a program and surveyed residents to determine the level of support.

Review of Street Parking

Azure Road is within the quarter section neighbourhood bounded by Westminster Highway to the north, Gilbert Road to the east, Granville Avenue to the south and No. 2 Road to the west. Staff visited the study area several times to assess street parking occupancy. Higher street parking use is observed on Azure Boulevard and the sections of Azure Road and internal roadways closer to Gilbert Road (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Street Parking Utilization

Neighbourhood Engagement

Online Neighbourhood Meetings

Letter notices of virtual meetings were sent to 607 households in the Azure Road neighbourhood. Staff held two online meetings with residents to present staff’s technical assessment of potential street parking permit options and then achieve a consensus on options for a neighbourhood survey (Table 1).

Table 1: Summary of Online Residents Meeting

Date	Attendees	Purpose	Feedback/Outcome
Nov. 17, 2022	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present staff’s technical assessment Discuss options for permit parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some attendees indicated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles parking in front of their house Observations of employees parking in neighbourhood Concerns with fees for permits Did not support pay parking on streets Some concerns expressed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic flows at Azure Road/ Gilbert Road intersection Crosswalk at Azure Road/Azure Boulevard intersection measures Other development specific concerns
Dec 6, 2022	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present revised permit parking options based on feedback from first meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consensus achieved on content of neighbourhood survey comprising the following options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3-Hour parking limit except with permit No parking except with permit

Neighbourhood Survey

From January 5, 2023 to February 10, 2023, residents were surveyed to determine the level of support for the two preferred permit parking options developed through the engagement phase (Attachment 1). A total of 607 surveys were mailed out to each discrete address; 173 responses (28.5 per cent response rate) were received.

Table 2: Resident Survey Results

Survey Results	
Number of Surveys	607
No Response	434 (71.5%)
Number Of Responses	173 (28.5%)
Parking Permit Options	Results
Not In Favour	100 (58%)
3-Hour Parking Limit Except By Permit	28 (16%)
No Parking Except By Permit	45 (26%)

The results indicate that there is no majority support for a residential permit parking program (Table 2) in the neighbourhood. Of the 173 responses, 100 identified no support for permit parking. Of the 73 positive responses, there was more support (45 responses) for the “No Parking Except With Permit Option”. The 73 positive responses were dispersed throughout the neighbourhood. However, there is notable support of households on Alta Court with eight of the 13 residences in favour of permit parking (Attachment 2).

Staff recommend targeted consultation with these residents to develop a pilot residential permit program for Alta Court. Staff believe working directly with a limited number of residents during a potential trial period will provide an opportunity to establish and monitor a resident permit program that can inform process and criteria should similar requests arise from other neighbourhoods.

Proposed Terms for Resident Parking Pilot Program

Of the eight residents on Alta Court who responded in support of resident parking permits, seven were in favour of the option to regulate the street for resident vehicles only. The advantage of this option is that it streamlines and permits proactive enforcement. Residents of the street can register their vehicles with the City to be exempt from the “No Parking” restriction which will allow staff to more efficiently and effectively determine if a vehicle is permitted to park on the street within the established permit zone. A fee of \$100 per year for each vehicle is proposed and was discussed during the stakeholder meetings. This fee is based on a review of similar permit fees in other municipalities to cover the administrative costs of a parking permit program. The City’s license plate recognition vehicle can also proactively patrol the street and enforce accordingly. Installation of street signs within the pilot area will designate the permit parking zone. The disadvantage discussed at the stakeholder meetings of this option is visitors or service providers of residents will need to be accommodated off-street.

Should the majority of residents on Alta Court support the proposed terms of the pilot program, a one year pilot will allow staff to assess its effectiveness at managing street parking. During this period, staff will seek feedback from residents and develop formal criteria and fees for a permanent program.

Other Resident Traffic Related Concerns

- *Parking Enforcement of 3-hour Parking Limit:* Traffic Bylaw 5870 currently limits the amount of time a vehicle can park in front of a residential home should the vehicle not belong to a resident or visitor. To address complaints received from residents regarding parking issues, parking enforcement officers conducted targeted enforcement and responded to complaints in the neighbourhood.

From November 20, 2022 to December 5, 2022 a total of 110 tickets were issued:

- 102 Warnings
- 8 Tickets with fines
- The License Plate Recognition vehicle scanned 540 vehicles plates
- 9 Proactive Patrols
- 13 calls from residents wanting to know why they received a warning ticket. All calls related to them not parking in front of their dwelling but rather either adjacent to their home or down the street.

The majority of offences were for the contraventions of parking over 3 hours between 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. of the Traffic Bylaw. Since this period, Community Bylaws advises the number of complaints regarding this issue has decreased.

- *Azure Road/Azure Boulevard Intersection:* To address a resident request for an upgrade of the existing signed and marked crosswalk at this intersection, a crosswalk study at the intersection was conducted. The results indicate a special crosswalk is not warranted due to low traffic volumes. Further, traffic calming measures secured at this intersection through the rezoning project at 6071 Azure Road will slow vehicles in the vicinity of the crosswalk to increase safety.
- *Azure Road North/ Gilbert Road Intersection:* Concerns about long vehicle queues on Azure Road eastbound created by vehicles waiting to make a left turn onto Gilbert Road were raised. A traffic study was performed and the wait times observed for left-turn vehicles were under 30 seconds. There is a pedestrian signal to facilitate pedestrians crossing Gilbert Road. Staff will continue to monitor the operation of this intersection.

Richmond General Hospital Parkade

As concerns were raised by some residents about Richmond General Hospital employees parking in the neighbourhood, staff contacted Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) regarding the current parking provision for hospital staff parking onsite. VCH advises all employees are entitled to a reduced daily parking flat rate of \$4.95. Monthly parking passes are \$46.00, however, there is a waiting list for monthly parking passes. Vancouver Coastal Health has leased additional stalls across Westminster Highway at the Westminster Health Centre and the Airport Conference Centre to provide adequate employee parking and reduce the need for street parking.

Staff have requested Vancouver Coastal Health to continue and work with the hospital's parking services team to advise hospital employees to apply for access to the leased stalls and not park in neighbouring residential areas. Other users of onsite parking include community workers, such as Public Health inspectors or nurses and community based therapists. These employees are part of a program that is exempt from paying for parking.

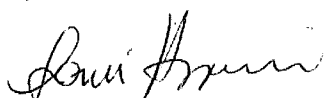
Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The City and residents of the Azure Road neighbourhood collaboratively reviewed permit parking options for the neighbourhood with two online stakeholder meetings. The survey results do not indicate a majority support for any single proposed option. The Alta Court cul-de-sac comprising of 13 households does demonstrate a cluster of positive responses for resident permit parking.

Staff recommend developing a residential permit parking pilot for Alta Court and will consult with affected residents regarding the details of such a pilot program. Bylaw amendments required to enforce the pilot program will be brought forward in a separate report should residents confirm majority of support for street parking permits.



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Manager, Transportation Planning and New Mobility
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SH:ck

- Att. 1: Residential Survey - Permit Parking Options
- 2: Results of Permit Parking Survey

Residential Survey - Permit Parking Options

Objectives:

Permit parking zones are created in residential neighbourhoods where there is a high demand for parking by non residents.

Advantages:

- Help manage parking and street space.
- Restrict parking by non residents.

Disadvantages:

- It may not guarantee parking in front of your property.
- Permits will have a fee.

Option 1: 3-Hour parking limit except with permit. Visitors or service providers can park up to 3 hours.



Option 2: No parking except with permit. Visitors and service providers can not park in permit zone.



Results of Permit Parking Survey

