

REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: June 23, 2025

FROM: Transportation and Engineering Department

DATE: June 10, 2025

SUBJECT: On-street Parking By-law Review

LOCATION: Town-wide

WARD: Town-wide

Page 1

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the maximum allowable duration for on-street parking in the Town of Oakville be increased from three (3) hours to five (5) hours between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m.
2. That a year-round, town-wide prohibition on overnight on-street parking between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. be implemented to replace the current seasonal and location-based restrictions.
3. Subject to the approval of recommendations 1 and 2, that staff be directed to prepare a by-law to amend the Traffic By-law 1984-1 and present it to Council for approval at a future meeting.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The current maximum on-street parking duration in the Town of Oakville is limited to three (3) hours.
- Extending the maximum on-street parking limit to five (5) hours would align Oakville with surrounding municipalities, where on-street parking limits range from five to six hours.
- Vehicle ownership per capita in Oakville is comparable to that of neighbouring municipalities, including Burlington, Milton, Halton Hills, and Mississauga.

- Overnight parking regulations currently vary by location: Streets north of Dundas Street are subject to year-round restrictions, while streets south of Dundas Street are restricted only during the winter season.
- Access to monthly on-street parking permits was introduced in areas south of Dundas starting in 2020. This allowed residents in South Oakville the opportunity to accommodate longer term parking needs on street, similar to the on-street parking permit program already in existence in North Oakville. These permits are in addition to the courtesy parking permit program which offers short-term on street parking at no charge.
- Implementing a year-round overnight parking restriction on streets south of Dundas Street would enable consistent enforcement across the town.

BACKGROUND:

Parking is a complex issue that involves both planning and ongoing management, requiring careful consideration of design standards, future growth, community needs, and operational practices. Staff work collectively to ensure that parking supports broader goals such as accessibility, economic development, and sustainability. From time-to-time, Council will be asked to consider and approve matters relating to either the planning or management of parking. These decisions help ensure that parking continues to meet the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors effectively. This report proposes a change to the way parking duration and time limits are managed.

Currently, on-street parking in the Town of Oakville is permitted for a maximum duration of three (3) hours between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. However, provisions for overnight parking vary depending on location relative to Dundas Street, reflecting a context-sensitive approach that has historically addressed differing needs across the town.

Specifically:

- North of Dundas Street, on-street parking is prohibited year-round between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- South of Dundas Street, overnight on-street parking is permitted for a maximum of three (3) hours between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. from April 16 to November 14.
- From November 15 to April 15, overnight parking south of Dundas Street is prohibited to support snow clearing and winter maintenance operations.

While this tailored approach has addressed area-specific operational needs, the implementation of the on-street parking permit system in areas south of Dundas Street starting in 2020 to match the parking permit program in North Oakville

presents an opportunity to streamline regulations and enhance consistency for all residents, while improving clarity, equity, and enforcement effectiveness.

On November 18, 2024, Council directed staff to undertake a comprehensive review of parking regulations across other municipalities within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). The objective was to evaluate the relevance and effectiveness of Oakville's current three (3) hour on-street parking limit and overnight parking provisions, in the context of increasing demand for residential on-street parking due to an increase in work from home after pandemic, growing presence of contractors working in residential areas, and limited driveway capacity.

As part of this review, staff conducted a jurisdictional scan, analyzed vehicle ownership data, and assessed parking enforcement impacts, all with the goal of identifying opportunities to modernize and harmonize Oakville's on-street parking regulations.

Parking permits

Monthly on-street parking permits offer increased flexibility for Oakville residents, particularly for households with more vehicles than can be accommodated in their driveways. These permits can also support visitor or temporary parking needs.

The Town currently offers two types of monthly on-street parking permits:

- North of Dundas Permit
- South of Dundas Permit

Both permits provide exemption from the Town's three-hour parking limit and the overnight parking restriction (2 a.m. to 6 a.m.). Permits are available to residents at a cost of \$55 for a 30-day period.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Jurisdictional Scan

Staff conducted a jurisdictional scan of parking by-laws in 13 Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) municipalities, including four neighbouring municipalities adjacent to Oakville. The scan focused on maximum on-street parking duration and overnight parking provisions.

The review indicates that the maximum allowable on-street parking duration across these municipalities ranges from three (3) to twelve (12) hours, with the City of Guelph allowing a maximum of 48 hours. Overnight parking is prohibited in most municipalities. Notably, Oakville is the only municipality with two distinct overnight

parking regulations within its jurisdiction, varying north and south of Dundas Street. A summary of the jurisdictional scan results is presented in Appendix A.

In adjacent municipalities, including the City of Mississauga, City of Burlington, Town of Milton, Town of Halton Hills, and the City of Hamilton, on-street parking is permitted for five (5) to six (6) hours, and up to twelve (12) hours in City of Hamilton.

Staff also obtained vehicle ownership data from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to assess potential correlations between vehicle ownership per capita and on-street parking limits in each municipality. The data indicates that, among the four adjacent municipalities, one has a higher vehicle-per-capita rate than Oakville, one is equivalent, and two are lower. Despite these figures, all four municipalities permit longer on-street parking durations than currently permitted in Oakville.

Recommended Updates to Parking Regulations

Based on the results of the jurisdictional scan and in response to the growing demand for on-street parking, staff recommend replacing the current location- and season-based overnight parking regulations with a consistent town-wide approach. The implementation of the on-street parking permit system across the entire town supports the opportunity to streamline and standardize parking regulations. Accordingly, staff recommend the following:

- Extend the maximum allowable on-street parking duration from three (3) hours to five (5) hours between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. town-wide.
- Implement a uniform town-wide restriction on overnight on-street parking (2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.) year-round.

These recommendations will not impact parking permit holders, as valid permits will provide exemptions from both the five-hour parking limit and the overnight restriction (2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.). Similarly, the proposed changes will not impact paid parking in commercial districts, where time limits are governed by the existing Parking Meter By-law 1965-10, or on streets with posted two-hour parking limit signage regulated by Traffic By-law 1984-1, since these by-laws reflect the unique parking and operational needs of these commercial areas.

These recommendations will support residents and visitors to Oakville with a more equitable, town-wide approach to on-street parking, ensure consistent implementation of parking by-laws, and address the growing demand for on-street parking. These changes in regulations will replace the current split approach based on location and season. On-street parking needs can be met through various on-street parking permits offerings now available townwide and provides for consistent and equitable application of parking regulations in all communities.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

Recommendations provide in the report will address the growing needs of on-street parking.

(B) FINANCIAL

There are no financial impacts as a result of this report.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

There are no impacts to other departments as a result of this report.

(D) COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This report supports Council's strategic priorities of growth management and community belonging.

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

With more residents working from home post-pandemic, increased flexibility in on-street parking helps support sustainable living patterns by reducing the need for commuting infrastructure and supporting local economic activity. This aligns with broader climate resilience and environmental sustainability goals

APPENDICES:

Appendix A - On-Street Parking By-law Jurisdictional Scan Results

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