

THE CORPORATION OF THE  
**CITY OF WHITE ROCK**  
**CORPORATE REPORT**



**DATE:** May 3, 2021  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ed Wolfe, Fire Chief  
**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Proposed Prevention Measures Waterfront

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council receives this report for discussion on potential COVID-19 community safety prevention measures that may be considered for implementation on the waterfront.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The primary purpose of this report is to provide Council with options for consideration that would further support the recommendations of the Public Health Officer and help reduce the transmission and spread of the COVID-19 virus. Following Council’s direction, staff have generated options with a focus on communications, waterfront access and limiting public parking.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION**

<b>Motion # &amp; Meeting Date</b>	<b>Motion Details</b>
April 12, 2021 2021-204	Council direct staff to report what measures the City should put in place, if any, to help address keeping with Health Orders during the pandemic at the waterfront. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
April 19, 2021 2021-217	THAT Council directs staff to develop comprehensive communications plan including the following: LED signs at the waterfront, replacement of missing COVID related signage at the waterfront, website update, social media posts - Twitter, Facebook, information for staff, news release, Facebook/Instagram advertising, information for community partners, signage on site, banner at the Pier arch. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
April 19, 2021 2021-218	THAT Council endorses the following: Adjustment of the bylaw staff schedule to allow for more flexibility with hours to assist with enforcement efforts (shifts to be adjusted to reflect coverage of the busiest days and times - typically weekend afternoons and evenings); and Hire additional Bylaw Enforcement Officers - casual position(s) <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

<p>April 19, 2021 2021-219</p>	<p>THAT Council endorse staff to initiate communications with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) police regarding the need for uniformed officers from their organization to assist with enforcement efforts along with railway and initiate communication with the province for enforcements at the beach.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>April 19, 2021 2021-221</p>	<p>THAT Council directs a statement be issued by the City that the following options are not being considered by Council at this time, subject to Provincial Health Orders: Fence off the entire Promenade in order to keep people from using the Promenade; and Closure of waterfront parking lots; and Closure of the Pier.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>April 19, 2021 2021-222</p>	<p>THAT Council endorses there be a request made of the Province that they consider the City of White Rock for a community vaccination program.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>April 26, 2021 2021-231</p>	<p>THAT Council approves changing Marine Drive to a one way and ask staff to bring forward options as to how best to do this.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DEFEATED</p>
<p>April 26, 2021 2021-230</p>	<p>THAT staff be directed to bring forward a corporate report, to a Special Council meeting to be held on May 3, 2021, that outlines possible closure of the promenade, some parking lots with some parking lots to be made available for residents only; and there be strong messaging that White Rock is closed to visitors.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

### **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

COVID-19 cases in the Fraser Health region are the highest in the province and the Provincial Health Officer is recommending the public to stay home and remain in your neighborhood. White Rock is a destination community that attracts many visitors to the waterfront and beach, especially with the restrictions imposed to reduce viral transmission during the pandemic. In support of the Provincial Health Officer’s recommendations and to promote the health and safety of White Rock residents, staff have generated a list of options focusing on communications, waterfront access and limiting public parking for Council consideration, following Council’s direction, to try and reduce or limit visitation to the City’s waterfront at a critical time during the pandemic.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost to deliver a stronger, comprehensive communications and messaging plan would be approximately \$2100. In addition, any closures of parking at the waterfront will result in lost

revenues, depending on the combination of closed lots. Lost revenues from parking can be recovered, as it qualifies through the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed COVID-19 prevention measures, if implemented along the waterfront, may impact public access, and therefore impact local businesses and potentially prompt responses from residents that had prepaid for parking passes.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS**

The Engineering and Municipal Operations Department along with Planning and Development Services, Financial Services and Fire Services have worked together to provide options outlined in this report.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Not applicable.

### **OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES**

The following options are available for Council's consideration:

1. Through Motion Number 2021-217, Council directed staff to develop a comprehensive communication plan that includes signage, media relations, social media, information for staff and community partners and a website update. Those communication methods will be used to convey any significant changes to residents, businesses, and visitors.
2. Fence off the entire Promenade. The estimated timeframe to implement a closure of the promenade would be one week, dependent upon contractor availability. The cost would be approximately \$30K depending on the extent of the closure.
3. Closure of select parking lots. This could be accomplished using large water filled barriers for the closures, as they are difficult to move. A rough estimate of closure costs is \$10K that would increase over time depending on required barrier and signage maintenance. Costs would be recoverable through the COVID-19 Safe Restart Program. Select closed parking lots would potentially provide space to incorporate additional seating that may assist in accommodating restaurant takeout business.

The following table provides a legend for the waterfront parking lots that correspond to the maps shown below. For each lot, the number of spaces and the average monthly parking revenue has been provided. Council may want to decide to close any combination of lots depending on the desired outcome. Any lot closures will require a change in signage and will depend on the direction provided. Council may wish to change the time restriction for the on-street parking stalls.

**WATERFRONT PARKING LOT REVENUES - AVERAGED OVER MAY-JULY 2019 PERIOD**

		# OF SPACES	AVG. MONTHLY REVENUE
LOT A		48	\$7,400
LOT B		72	\$6,100
LOT C		87	\$15,600
LOT D		84	\$34,100
LOT E		112	\$58,100
LOT F		25	\$14,600
PARKADE		186	\$11,800
LOT G		63	\$18,600
LOT H		40	\$15,100
LOT I		44	\$12,500
LOT J		10	\$4,300

**West Beach Lots**



### East Beach Lots

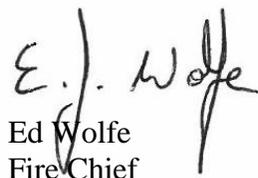


4. Close the West Beach Parkade. The timeline to implement a closure would be immediate with no additional cost, but a loss of revenue.
5. Initiate communication with Semiahmoo First Nation to consider a partial or full closure of their public parking lot.

**CONCLUSION**

The popularity of White Rock as a destination community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and desire to be outdoors has resulted in regular crowding on the waterfront. The influx of people to the community during the pandemic creates additional risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission. In support of the Public Health Officer's recommendations and to protect the health and safety of White Rock residents, following Council's direction, staff have generated a list of COVID-19 prevention measures with a focus on communications, waterfront access and limiting public parking. Potential prevention measures included in this report are for Council's consideration.

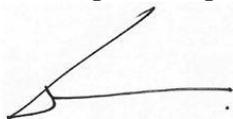
Respectfully submitted,



Ed Wolfe  
Fire Chief

**Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer**

This corporate report is provided for Council's consideration.



Guillermo Ferrero  
Chief Administrative Officer

- Appendix A: City of White Rock Corporate Report; COVID-19 Proposed Prevention Measures  
April 19, 2021
- Appendix B: West Beach Parking Lots
- Appendix C: East Beach Parking Lots