



Date: July 14, 2004

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Changes to Bus Parking Charges in 2005 and 2006

RECOMMENDATION

- A. *THAT the Board approve phased increases over two years to the bus parking rates in Stanley Park and Queen Elizabeth Park as set out in this report, commencing January 1, 2005*
- B. *THAT the Board approve a requirement for companies which offer “hop on, hop off” style bus tours which stop in Stanley Park to purchase bus access passes which will be phased in over three years commencing January 1, 2005*

POLICY

Current approved rates (since 2003) for bus parking in Stanley Park and Queen Elizabeth Park are:

	<u>daily fee</u>	<u>annual pass</u>
11 seat & under	\$10	\$425
12 - 24 seat	\$15	\$600
25 seat +	\$30	\$850

BACKGROUND

In 1997, the Board introduced pay parking for tour buses in Stanley Park and Queen Elizabeth Park. Buses which park in these parks have to display either an annual parking pass or else a daily parking pass purchased at a pay station.

Buses carrying students from day care, elementary schools, high schools and other equivalent educational institutions, for visits where the primary purpose is educational, are specifically exempted from these parking payment requirements.

One daily bus parking pass is valid in both parks on the day of purchase. Annual passes are valid in both parks and are transferrable between a company's buses. Typically, 120 - 150 annual passes are sold each year. Net bus parking revenues to the Board in 2003 were \$171,000. These revenues were split almost evenly between daily parking paid at the pay stations and annual pass sales.

Both Vancouver Trolley Company and Gray Line operate “hop on, hop off” style tours which have a number of designated stops in Stanley Park. Since they only stop, and don’t actually park, to date they have been exempted from the parking charges.

DISCUSSION

Increase in Bus Parking Rates

At the Board’s Finance Committee meeting of July 12, 2004 the committee heard delegations from representatives of several bus companies requesting a delay in the implementation of the bus parking rates since their pricing structure for 2005 had already been set. After some discussion with the bus companies the Committee agreed to recommend to the Board that the increases be phased in over two years with a moderate increase occurring in the first year (2005). Prices for daily fees have been rounded off to the nearest dollar for ease of payment at the ticket dispensers

Bus parking rates were last increased in 2003. Previous, current and the proposed bus parking rates (including tax) are:

	1997 & 1998	1999	2000 - 2002	2003 - 2004	2005 proposed	2006 proposed	% increase in 2005	% increase in 2006
Annual Pass								
11 seat & under (<i>note</i>)	\$450	\$450	\$350	\$425	\$450	\$500	6%	11%
12 - 24 seat	\$450	\$450	\$500	\$600	\$635	\$700	6%	10%
25 seat +	\$600	\$600	\$700	\$850	\$900	\$1,000	6%	11%
Daily Fee								
11 seat & under (<i>note</i>)	\$10	\$12	\$8	\$10	\$11	\$12	10%	9%
12 - 24 seat	\$10	\$12	\$12	\$15	\$16	\$18	7%	12%
25 seat +	\$20	\$25	\$25	\$30	\$32	\$36	7%	12%

note: the lower rate for passenger vans 11 seats & under was not introduced until 2000.

It is estimated that these rate increases will generate about \$12,000 in additional net revenue to the Board in 2005 and a further \$17,000 in 2006.

The proposed new rate structure is higher than the inflationary increases that the Board generally

applies. However, during this period the Board has incurred significant additional expenditure on repair and maintenance of park roads to deal with damage inflicted by heavy vehicles such as these buses. In addition, improvements have been, and continue to be, made to bus parking facilities in both parks. The bus parking area at the Totem Poles was rebuilt in 2001. The new bus parking area on top of the reservoir at Queen Elizabeth Park is scheduled to open by the summer of 2005. It will significantly enhance the parking facilities available to buses at that location and improve access for their customers to the park's attractions.

A copy of this report is being sent to bus & tour companies who will be affected by these rate changes.

Introduction of a fee for "Hop on, Hop off" tour buses in Stanley Park

Vancouver Trolley Company runs its "City Attractions Tour" year round in Stanley Park. It regularly runs at least four 34 seat trolleys at half hour intervals, but on the busiest days it could have six or seven vehicles operating. In the summer months, it runs 15 scheduled tours per day and stops at three locations in the Park. An adult day pass costs \$28.

Gray Line operates its "Double Decker Attractions Loop Tour" from April to October. It currently uses four buses daily. Usually these are red double decker buses, although there is also a green trolley bus which is sometimes used on these tours. Gray Line runs 17 tours per day and charges \$30 for an adult ticket which is valid for two days. The tours stop at two locations in Stanley Park.

In the interests of treating all of bus tour companies equitably, the operators of "hop on, hop off" tours should also be required to purchase bus access passes for their vehicles. Since these buses are in the 25 seats and over category, each annual pass would cost them \$1,000, and the daily fee would cost \$36. As the passes are transferrable between vehicles, they would need to purchase enough passes to ensure that each bus coming into the park could display one.

At its meeting of July 12, 2004 the Finance Committee agreed to propose the phasing in of the \$1,000 fee as the two companies had not budgeted for this increase in 2005. The fee would be introduced in 2005 at \$50 and be increased to \$525 in 2006 and \$1,000 in 2007.

SUMMARY

The **Finance Committee** is recommending that the Board approve the proposed new bus parking fees.

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