



Date: June 25, 2004

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

RECOMMENDATION

- A. *THAT the Board approve increases to the bus parking rates in Stanley Park and Queen Elizabeth Park as set out in this report, effective 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 parking passes, effective January 1, 2005*

POLICY

Current approved rates for bus parking in Stanley Park and Queen Elizabeth Park are:

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

The **Finance Committee** discussed the proposed changes to bus parking fees at its meeting on May 31, 2004 and adopted a motion to approve them, to come into effect on January 1, 2005.

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

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

	1997 & 1998	1999	2000 - 2002	2003 & 2004	2005 - proposed	% increase in 2005	average annual % increase 1997 - 2005
Annual Pass							
11 seat & under <i>(note)</i>	\$450	\$450	\$350	\$425	\$500	18%	1%
12 - 24 seat	\$450	\$450	\$500	\$600	\$700	17%	7%
25 seat +	\$600	\$600	\$700	\$850	\$1,000	17%	8%
Daily Pass							
11 seat & under <i>(note)</i>	\$10	\$12	\$8	\$10	\$12	20%	2%
12 - 24 seat	\$10	\$12	\$12	\$15	\$18	20%	10%
25 seat +	\$20	\$25	\$25	\$30	\$36	20%	10%

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

It is estimated that this rate increase will generate about \$29,000 in additional net revenue to the Board in 2005.

Bus parking rates were last increased in 2003, so this proposed increase in 2005 effectively covers two years. The average annual percentage increases in bus parking rates over the years since pay parking for buses was introduced in 1997 have been 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 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 parking passes for their vehicles. Assuming the above noted annual pass rates are approved for 2005, since these buses are in the 25 seats and over category, each annual pass would cost them \$1,000, and a daily pass 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.

If Vancouver Trolley Co and Gray Line each purchase four annual passes for their regularly scheduled tours, their annual costs would be \$4,000 each. Whether they would buy annual passes or daily passes for extra buses they use on the busiest days would be up to them. If they wish to use daily passes, they would purchase these passes in advance from Central Parking.

These two companies have been notified of this proposed charge. They both commented that they had already set their rates for 2005 without knowing of it, so have not factored it into these rates.

SUMMARY

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

Prepared by:
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