



# Downtown Guelph Parking Master Plan



**Presentation to the City of Guelph Accessibility  
Advisory Committee, June 20, 2023**

Presenter:

Ralph Bond, Principal, BA Group

Other project team members here today:

Jamie Zettle, Program Manager, Parking, City of Guelph

Sue Cumming, Engagement Consultant, Cumming+Company





## Why are we here?

- To provide an update on the Downtown Parking Master Plan
- To provide further feedback on input received at the February 21, 2023, AAC
- To learn about priorities from the AAC to inform the study recommendations





## Study Background (refresh)

The Downtown Parking Master Plan Update is a long term study to plan for the right amount of parking, in the right locations, for the right price and the right reasons.

Parking is important for good access to the Downtown and is being considered in the context of city objectives for supporting downtown growth and encouraging non-auto use through active transportation and transit.





## Study Scope (refresh)

To balance the needs and desires of often competing interests with respect to how much parking is provided, where it is provided and how much it should cost.

To ensure that parking supports City policy goals and is integrated with ongoing projects.

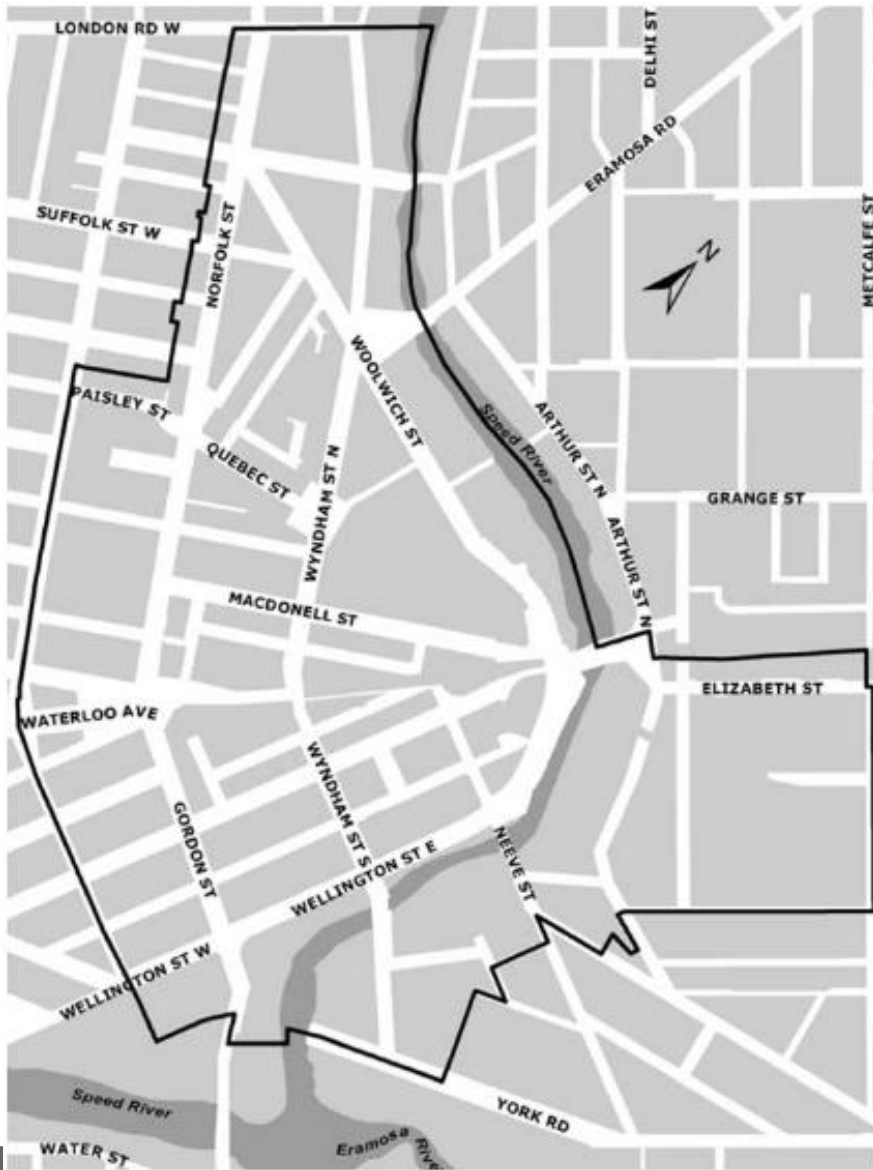
The study will consider parking needs based on future growth, changing circumstances, technological advances, and alternate funding models.

The update will assess how to support multiple users, accommodate shifting demands, provide a range of options, and identify how these should be arranged and costed.





# Downtown Parking Master Plan



Study Area



## What we have done so far

Data collection and Parking surveys

Extensive stakeholder consultation (over 30 stakeholder meetings and workshop)

Public Consultation (Survey #1 – 1300 responses, April 13 Virtual Public meeting)

Identification of needs and opportunities

Assessment of changes and drivers to supply and demand of parking

Review of financial models





## Input from AAC (February 21)



1. Clarification sought on the number of existing accessible spaces

On-street	30
Parkades West (18) East (10) Market (16)	44
Surface lots Macdonell(2) Neeve (4)	6
Total	80





## Input from AAC (February 21)



2. What are stats on daily usage of accessible parking spaces?

Based on surveys in October/November 2022:

- Over 5 days of surveys, observed peak use was 41% of accessible parking spaces occupied (occurred on a Saturday afternoon)
- Most consistently occupied accessible parking spaces on Wyndham North and Quebec St.



## Input from AAC (February 21)



3. Need to consider right number on different streets

Consider establishing a working group to determine if there needs to be a re-allocation of some on-street spaces from one area in the downtown to another to address proximity to destinations





## Input from AAC (February 21)



4. Challenge of knowing what accessible parking is available and when. Desire for an APP to identify real time availability of accessible spaces

Consider recommendation to explore the feasibility of app-based options for real time availability of on-street and off-street spaces. Would require installation of parking sensors.





## Input from AAC (February 21)



### 5. Covered/sheltered accessible parking

Recommendation to ensure supply of weather protected spaces in parkades

### 6. Access to sidewalks is important

Recommendation to improve continuity of access points and curbs through coordination with on-street works

### 7. Provide for accessible electric vehicles

Recommendation to include provision for accessible electric vehicles when installing infrastructure in parkades or surface lots in the future. Baker garage has two planned





## Input from AAC (February 21)



8. When talking about parking, it is important to communicate the following key messages:
  - Avoid assumptions that accessible parking usage is during the day only. There is no one type of business or activity that people with disabilities access. It is important to have access to all types of activities day or night.
  - When considering a car free downtown, there needs to be a better understanding that the car can be an accessibility device for people with disabilities. Taking away the use of the car downtown (by creating pedestrian only streets) can create barriers to access for people with disabilities.

Key messages are being included through ongoing consultation and will be included in report to Council.





## Key Question for the AAC



How would the AAC prioritize these recommendation items? What is at the top of the list to be considered?

3. Establish working group to determine if some existing on-street spaces should be redistributed from one street to another
4. Develop mobile app to identify available accessible spaces
5. Ensure supply of sheltered accessible parking spaces
6. Improve access to sidewalks
7. Provide accessible electric vehicle charging





## Recommended Motion

That the AAC recommend the following prioritization of recommendations:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Further, that the Accessibility Advisory Committee supports the Downtown Parking Master Plan Study in its goal of creating a system that ensures safe and equitable access to parking for all users and assists in identifying considerations for improving how accessible parking is provide





## Further Public Engagement Opportunities



### Moving Forward/Recommendations Stage (June 2023)

- Virtual Presentation and Discussion #2 being held **June 28, 2023** from **7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** To register go to <http://downtownguelphparkingplan.eventbrite.ca>
- Public Survey #2 will be available on **haveyoursayguelph.ca** Invite to participate will be sent to AAC through Sarah Cunneyworth



## Next Steps

1. Participate in the virtual public meeting – June 28
2. Complete the public survey – on or about June 20
3. Committee of the Whole presentation – Sept 6

Individuals can delegate at Council by registering with the Clerks Office

Delegate instructions are available from Clerks at [How to delegate](#)

