

MC Parking....The Latest....

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Yesterday Vancouver Council finally voted to free up space for scooters and motorcycles by permitting selected corner clearance parking for both gas and electric powered cycles for an initial cost of \$50,000. Gas powered two wheelers will be expected to pay by phone and will receive a 50% discount off the regular parking rate. The city will also allow multiple cycle parking in metered spaces designed for cars with a 50% discount provision when pay by phone is used.

The fact that council has recognized, albeit reluctantly and slowly, the benefit to the city in allocating more parking for cycles is very positive and you must all be congratulated for your show of support and participation in making this milestone occur.

However as you know, the parking has been mispriced with little thought as to the rationale in pricing. There is seemingly no logical or philosophical underpinning to the pricing they (staff and council) came up with. The price is not competitive when considering what is offered elsewhere in the country and the rest of the world. It is not fair when considering the amount of space a powered cycle occupies (roughly 1/8th of a regular car or truck). It is not fair when considering council has discriminated ONLY against motorcycles in structuring tiered pricing based on emissions (zero emission cycles will not have to pay in corner clearances). It is convoluted, inconvenient and confusing when considering the pay by phone options, not to mention that tourists will not find it user friendly either. In short, not a lot has

changed except the recognition of both the need for parking and the benefit to the city.

The good news is we have parking and Council has committed to a pricing review in a year. We will hold them to it. If nobody is utilizing their idea, or if single bikes are utilizing their metered stalls (utilizing the 50% discount thus losing the City revenue), perhaps they (Council) will be forced to behave like business people and adjust their pricing to align with reality.

Motorcyclists and others are to be congratulated for their show of solidarity and support in lobbying council for more parking. We shall be holding more rallies so you will be hearing from us. Thank you for your support.