

# Report

Date February 4, 2026

File:

Subject Traffic Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4056 for introduction

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## PURPOSE

To introduce Traffic Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4056, 2026, which proposes to amend Traffic Bylaw No. 2276, 1988, to update definitions, facilitate enhanced Bylaw enforcement of parking related contraventions and restrict overnight parking.

## BACKGROUND

At the September 3, 2025 Regular Council meeting the following motion was passed:

*THAT Council directs staff to prepare a report outlining potential amendments to North Cowichan's Bylaws related to the parking of Recreational Vehicles (RVs) in designated parking areas, including:*

- *A proposed reduction of the current 24-hour parking allowance to a 4-hour maximum during business hours, and*
- *Additional Bylaw amendments to improve enforceability.*

## DISCUSSION

Over the last several years, North Cowichan's Bylaw department has received several calls for service regarding people living in recreational vehicles who do not have a fixed site to reside and instead use public parking spots. This has resulted in a significant number of recreational vehicles which have essentially taken up abode in the commercial centres of North Cowichan.

A review of North Cowichan's bylaws indicated that changes were required to improve enforcement of recreational vehicle regulations, and that changes to the fees and fines schedules would be part of that. These changes include enhanced definitions of "continuously parked", "highway", "licensed gross vehicle weight", "recreational vehicle" and "trailer" to distinguish between commercial tractor-trailers and recreational vehicles more clearly, and to address overstaying in parking stalls.

The revisions also include additional language to limit the parking of recreational vehicles on North Cowichan roads to no more than 4 hours and to prohibit parking a recreational vehicle in an established parking area for the purpose of sleeping overnight in the vehicle. The changes to the bylaw also include language to enhance general parking restrictions regarding the allowable distance from a stop sign or post office box and the obstruction of a fire hydrant.

## OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council gives first, second, and third readings to Traffic Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4056, 2026.

- The proposed revisions will allow for greater enforcement of parking restrictions for recreational

vehicles.

2. THAT Council direct staff to monitor the parking of recreational vehicles in North Cowichan and provide additional background and context at a future Council meeting.
  - This option provides for a more detailed analysis of the number of recreational vehicles in the community that are essentially residential dwelling units, the circumstances of the individuals living in their recreational vehicles, and the options that might be considered to regularize their situation.

## IMPLICATIONS

Currently, recreational vehicles using North Cowichan parking spots know that if they move their vehicle every 24 hours, they will be in compliance with our Traffic Bylaw. This results in extended stays in certain parts of the community: Chemainus city centre, the downtown core adjacent to the City of Duncan, and other commercially oriented parts of North Cowichan. The proposed changes will limit parking to 4 hours, allowing Bylaw Compliance Officers to patrol these areas and inhibit long-term parking by recreational vehicles and others.

If Council chooses to move forward with the proposed bylaw amendments, associated changes to the Bylaw Offence Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 4057, 2024 and the Municipal Ticket Information System Bylaw No. 3464, 2013 related to contraventions of Traffic Bylaw No. 2276 will follow.

## RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council gives first, second, and third readings to Traffic Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4056, 2026.

Report prepared by:

*John Horn*

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John Horn  
Director, Social Planning and Protective Services

Report reviewed by:

*Bill Corsan*

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Bill Corsan  
General Manager, Corporate Services

## Approved to be forwarded to Council:

*Ted Swabey*

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Ted Swabey  
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment:

- (1) Traffic Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4056, 2026