

2.4.2 GOVERNMENT STREET - SHARED SPACE

With a diversity and concentration of pedestrian oriented shops and services, and as a key pedestrian connection between the legislative precinct through Old Town to Chinatown, Government Street is the Downtown's most prominent pedestrian priority street and one of its signature destination retail high streets. Streetscape improvements emphasizing Government Street's role as pedestrian priority street, including the use of brick pavers, rolled curbs and widened sidewalks, were completed from Wharf Street to Yates Street in the late 1970's.

The Downtown Core Area Plan adopted in 2011 includes a direction to extend the established pedestrian oriented streetscape character from Yates to Pembroke. Further, Government Street is identified to be part of the City's All Ages and Abilities bike network. A number of additional improvements were identified during the Visual Victoria process to be incorporated as a part of further detailed design for this corridor. These include:

- Reconfiguring the intersection of Government Street and Wharf Street to make it more comfortable and accessible for pedestrians, and emphasize it as a key pedestrian gateway and connection point between the Lower Causeway/Legislative Precinct and Old Town.
- Implementing a 'shared street' or whoonef streetscape design on the new extension between Yates and Pembroke. Specifically, a curb-less streetscape environment with a continuous ground plane and paving materials, and the separation of pedestrian from vehicular space using bollards, bench elements and other streetscape elements and furnishing. Together with temporary and seasonal traffic closures, this design will support the use of Government Street as a linear plaza, and an events and festivals space. This will also increase the use of the corridor a ceremonial street and parade route.
- Exploring the opportunity to incorporate more on-street parking within a shared streetscape environment similar to Broad Street for the existing section between Wharf Street and Yates Street.
- Exploring the opportunity to re-establish two way vehicle travel along Government Street through the Downtown.

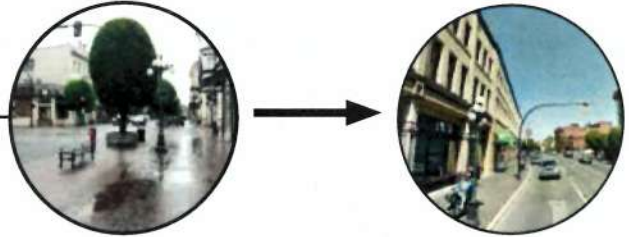
Conceptual and detailed design based on these design directions and strategies will be undertaken as a key action item of this Plan.

As a more immediate, short term action, the street trees and planters between Wharf St and Yates St will be replaced, given their deteriorating condition and the desire to have a more suitable tree species that does not block views of heritage building facades. Street trees and planter types are specified in Part 3 of this document. As a part of this strategy, an irrigation system would also be installed. The tree and planter replacement as well as the irrigation system implementation would occur in stages to minimize impacts to the public realm.

- Potential long term improvements
- Temporary interventions/ potential ideas

Complete the street

- Extend existing Government St. treatment and aesthetics between Wharf St. and Yates St. all the way to Pandora Street.



Envision long term change

- Curb-less shared street with multi-modal users freely moving through.



Replace street trees and planters

- Replace existing trees with dense canopy in planters with more transparent canopy trees that will allow the true heritage of Government Street to shine and become more visible.



Encourage sense of shared space

- Allow for temporary road closure to promote pedestrian environment and community building.



6.2 PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Major capital projects such as implementation of separated bike lanes and the Harbour Pathway will include implementation of the new streetscape standards where appropriate. Additionally, priority capital improvements may also be undertaken either on a stand alone basis or concurrently with other works (either public or private) to meet key strategic plan goals of the

City. Once approved, these projects need to be incorporated into the work plans of effected departments if not already incorporated, and additional resources and budgets allocated.

6.2.1 SHORT TERM (0-5 YEARS)

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PARTNERSHIPS	IN CURRENT WORKPLAN	PRIORITY LEVEL
1 Centennial Square Master Plan	» Undertake a Master Plan process for Centennial Square and adjacent buildings addressing short medium and long term objectives and site program directions established by this plan.	Planning	DVBA	Yes	High
2 Downtown Pedestrian Light Strategy	» Identify and specify new pedestrian light and implementation program as directed by this plan.	Engineering and PW	-	No	Medium
3 Conceptual Design for Douglas Street Corridor	» Undertake conceptual design to reconfigure Douglas Street within the downtown study area as a Transit Oriented Corridor and major pedestrian promenade as directed by this plan.	Planning	DVBA	No	Medium
4 Ship Point Master Plan Phase I Implementation	» Undertake a master plan based on the site and program objectives established by the Harbour Vitality Principles and implement Phase I.	Planning	GVHA	Yes	High
5 Conceptual And Detailed Design For Government Street Mall Extention (Yates To Herald Street) And Replacement of existing streetscape elements (Wharf to Yates Street)	» Undertake conceptual and detailed design for Government Street from Yates to Herald Street based on objectives and design directions established by this plan, and in the context of the larger Government Street Corridor including incorporation of bike facilities, and reconfiguring the intersection of Wharf and Government Street as a major Downtown Gateway. » Confirm design and location of new furnishing, planters, and street trees, as directed by this plan.	Planning, Engineering, PW	DVBA	No	High
6 Government Street Improvements (Yates to Herald Street)	» Based on detailed design and results of action 5, Government Street will undergo a series of improvements from Wharf Street to Herald Street.	Engineering, PW	DVBA	No	High
7 Undertake a Waterfront Public Art Strategy	» The Arts Culture and Events Department to spearhead a Waterfront Public Art Strategy.	Arts and Culture	DVBA	No	High