

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT
FROM THE MEETING HELD MAY 14, 2020

For the Council meeting of May 14, 2020, the Committee recommends the following:

H.1.a Victoria 3.0 - Recovery Reinvention Resilience - 2020-2041

That Council:

1. Adopt *Victoria 3.0 – Recovery Reinvention Resilience – 2020-2041*
2. Forward proposed 2021 actions to staff for consideration as part of the 2021 budget process.
3. That Council receives an annual report on the implementation of Victoria 3.0

H.1.b Open Air Recovery – Support for Restaurants and Cafes in Public Spaces

That Council direct staff to report back with options for flexible, innovative, and expedited permitting of patios in public spaces for restaurants and other establishments once public health restrictions have been loosened in order to promote economic recovery, taking into consideration accessibility impacts, needs for appropriate physical distancing, and ample room for pedestrians in high-traffic areas and livability for residents.

H.1.c Supporting the Recovery of the Arts and Culture Sector

1. That Council move forward at this time with the previously approved 2020 Create Victoria actions related to the creation of a Cultural Infrastructure Grant fund, Cultural Spaces Roadmap, and the new staff position for implementing *Create Victoria*
2. That Council direct staff to report back with options for a special round of grants to:
 - a. Encourage events with alternative formats that build community and social connection while allowing for physical distancing;
 - b. Once restrictions are lifted, events to bring people back downtown, support arts and culture, and inject economic vibrancy back into the core and village centres.
3. That the City of Victoria provide a \$5000 grant to the Pro Art Alliance of Greater Victoria for the creation of a City of Victoria sponsored award at the annual Pro Art Regional Arts Awards, to be aligned with the objectives of Create Victoria, to be funded from the 2020 contingency budget.
4. Staff report back on equity and inclusion at the same time as the regular report back on *Create Victoria*.

H.1.d Increasing Physical Distancing for Pedestrians in Public Space

1. That Council direct staff to keep the physical distancing measures in place in village centres and other locations and report back to council with to further opportunities to allocate additional spaces for people to walk and roll safely in village centres and downtown in order to proactively prepare for increased pedestrian traffic as people begin to leave their homes.
2. Direct staff to pedestrianize Beacon Hill Park while opening parking lots at Heywood Rd, Circle Drive, and Nursery Rd. and the roads that serve as their closest access points for the duration of summer. Further that Council direct staff to seek input from accessibility organizations including the AWG if that body is available, and report back with that advice, and all other input received so council can consider whether to further extend the pedestrianized approach to the park.

H.1.e Extending Reduced Parking Fee Policy

1. Direct staff to extend the current parking fee policy, as approved April 9, 2020, through to June 15, 2020 with the option to extend, and
2. Direct staff to report back to Council on the impacts of that policy, at the June 11, 2020, meeting of Committee of the Whole.

H.1.f Commercial Loading Zones to Free Time Limited Zones

That Council request staff to change some the Commercial Loading Zones in the City to be free time limited zones after 4pm and on Sundays while leaving some spots for 3 minute passage zones or for use of seating areas for businesses if it can be achieved in a safe and accessible manner.

H.1.g Assistance with Recovery Phase for Business

That Council request that staff create temporary bylaw amendments that would:

1. Allow businesses to display and sell their merchandise in front of their business
2. Allow tables and chairs outside restaurants, coffee shops, bakeries
3. Allow businesses to use areas of public spaces or squares adjacent to a business
4. Consider how larger City spaces could be shared by businesses

H.1.h COVID -19 Community Recovery Grants Program

1. That Council direct staff to, on an urgent basis, design and report back with options for an innovative, one time, time limited grant program that would allocate funds to organizations and/or individuals to support specific, measurable, actions to remedy a city-based business, organization, neighbourhood, or other entity directly affected by COVID-19, and in that report identify options for funding such a program and apply and report on a high level equity analysis and how those actions reflect the City's equity mandate.
2. Authorize up to \$500,000 from the 2020 contingency toward the Strategic Plan Grant Program.
3. Direct staff to initiate without delay a second intake for the Strategic Plan Grant Program for 2020, incorporating a new criterion in the evaluation of applications based on the degree to which applicants have experienced economic hardship arising from Covid-19.

H.1.i COVID Recovery: Housing Security

1. That staff explore opportunities reprioritize, expedite, or amend actions within the Victoria Housing Strategy to address certain growing housing precarity within Victoria.
2. That, via council liaisons, staff solicit written recommendations from existing City Task Forces and Committees regarding potential actions to support housing security.

H.1.j COVID Recovery: Food security for low income tenants

That the city work with local housing providers of subsidized, low income, and supportive housing to explore avenues and partnerships to allow residents to participate in City of Victoria food security and food growing programs where they live.

H.1.k Recovery Town Hall

That Council direct staff to hold a digital townhall in late May or early June to share the City's proposed initiatives with the public and answers questions about proposed plans and initiatives.

H.1.l Capital Projects

Request staff to prepare a list of capital projects ready to go but not started or committed. These should range in cost from Crystal Pool through a second artificial turf field at Topaz to bridges on the David Foster pathway.

H.1.m Safe and Supervised Indoor Sheltering

Request the Province to establish a safe indoor sheltering locations throughout the region with supports with sufficient capacity to meet the need of all those who are unhoused as a pathway to safe, adequate, secure, permanent housing.

H.1.n Hospitality Industry

1. Advocate for federal and provincial programs that assist restaurants in designing physical layouts, cleaning, ventilation, and serving processes that would allow them to operate safely.
2. Respond quickly to requests by hospitality industry to changes in zoning, occupancy, etc. to allow for physical distancing.

H.1.p Pathway to Recovery for a Caring, Low Carbon Community

That Council endorse in principle the *Moving Forward, Not Backward* policy statement and refer the report to the August 6, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting to inform decisions relating to the 2020 and 2021 Financial Plans.

H.1.r Food Security during COVID-19 Recovery

That Council continue to support the shift toward more resilient food systems by:

1. Authorizing a grant to provide insurance to allow the Community Food Support Network hamper program to continue to operate from May 18, 2020 to August 31, 2020; and
2. Endorse the continuation of the *Get Growing Victoria* program during the Covid-19 recovery phase, including the distribution of food plants, gardening materials and educational resources for the winter 2020-2021 growing season.

H.1.s Sustainable Transportation During COVID-19 Recovery

That Council endorse the following actions for sustainable transportation during Covid-19 recovery:

1. Request that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission, indicating the City of Victoria's support for the following priorities for public transit during Covid-19 recovery:
 - a. Retain the current fare-free public transit program during the pandemic, to ensure driver safety, economic relief for passengers and low-carbon transport.
 - b. Deploy the existing BC Transit fleet with maximum service hours for bus and handyDart to substantially improve service and equity, alongside fast-tracking the purchase of new buses and expansion of fleet maintenance facilities.
 - c. Implement transit priority including bus lanes on existing roads, to increase transit capacity, speed and reliability at peak periods.
2. Request that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Transportation, indicating the City of Victoria's support for the following priorities for public transit during Covid-19 recovery:
 - a. Job-creation investment in a third fleet maintenance facility for the Victoria Regional Transit System, to allow for major service expansion and rapid transit.

- b. Job-creation investment in the electrification and expansion of local, regional and national inter-city bus and rail networks, under public ownership, operation and control, including bus priority lanes, LRT and other modes.

H.2 Council Member Motion - Continuation of Youth Bus Pass Program

1. That Council reaffirms support for the Youth Bus Pass Program and directs staff to engage BC Transit and report back to Council on funding options for continuation of the program in the September 2020 – August 2021 period.
2. That Council reaffirms its commitment to the 2019 Strategic Plan action to explore extending the fare-free transit program to include Low-Income People and Senior Citizens.