



Build Back Victoria Program Update

Committee of the Whole
October 14, 2021



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Purpose

- Share updated information and seek Council approval to extend the *Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw* until June 1, 2022
- Seek Council direction to bring forward recommended interim changes to the *Sidewalk Café Bylaw* prior to June 1, 2022 applying lessons learned from BBV Victoria
- Confirm Council direction on the future of Mobile Vending
- Provide update on Government Street, Broad Street, and Gladstone Avenue pedestrian priority projects



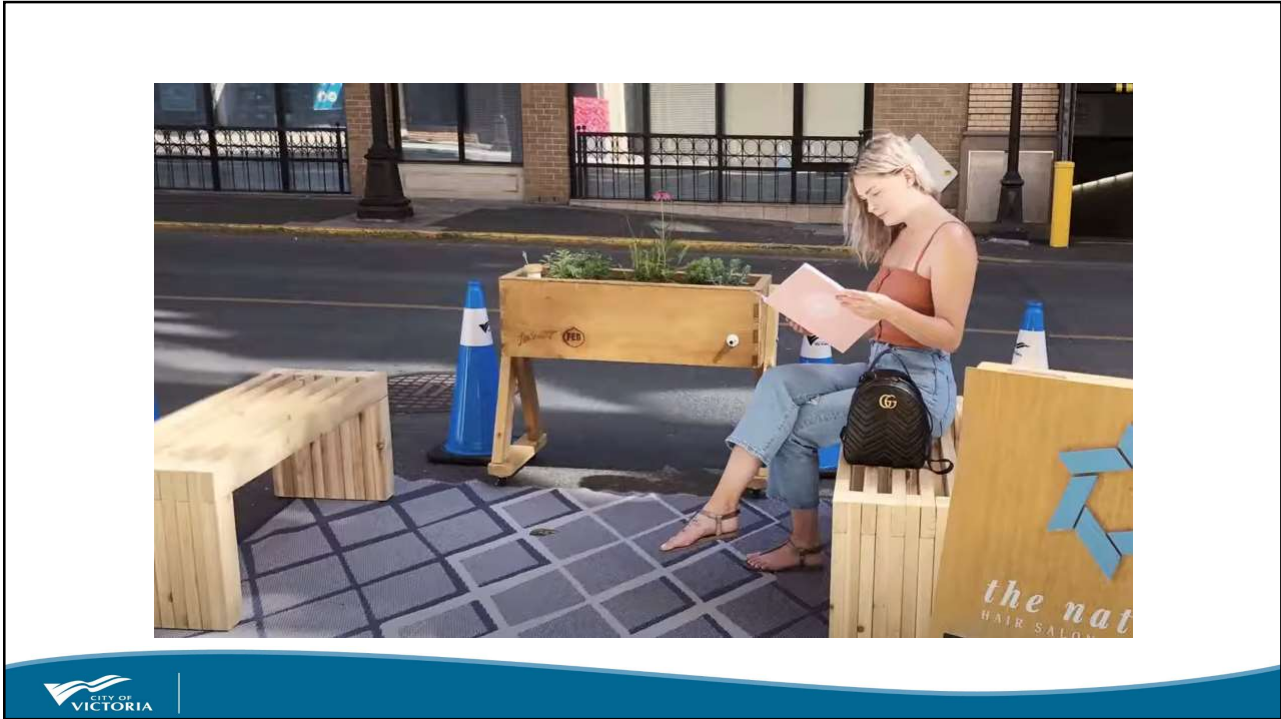
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Build Back Victoria Program

- Developed in late April 2020
- Bylaw approval and program launch at beginning of June 2020
- Bylaw extension in October 2020 for one year to align with Province of BC
 - New accessibility requirements, winterization details, & updated application
- Public engagement January – March 2021
 - 80% of public survey respondents were satisfied with the BBV program
 - Overall positive contribution to community
 - Some concerns with “overreach” of corporate use of public space, accessibility, noise levels, and stewardship practices
- Last update to Council in April 2021



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BBV Participants

	Current Permits*	Estimated Program High
Private land patio	11	11
Temporary Loading Zone	7	19
Outdoor Patio	42	53
Flex Zone	28	37
Mobile Vending	0	16
Park use	7	17
TOTALS	95	153

* As of 10-8-2021



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BBV Program Successes

- Rapid support for businesses in time of uncertainty
 - Diverse business types and locations
- “Bureaucracy light” -- but not “regulation light”
- Ability to trial, test and innovate and adapt as required
- Demonstrated staff’s ability to respond / pivot
- Helped to identify enhancements / gaps for current bylaws and programs



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BBV Program Learning

- Approvals handled quickly – rapid response by nature
 - Staff were not able to undertake a deep design / policy analysis
- Resource intensive
 - Efforts to support successful applications
 - Deferral of other projects and priorities
- Corporate use of public space will always require a fine balance
 - We have not yet found the “sweet spot”
- On-going resource constraints for staff to effectively monitor, administer, assess and improve both the BBV program and other existing programs



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BBV Program Conclusion

- Bylaw and program expires October 31, 2021
- Extension of BBV bylaw until June 1, 2022
 - Aligns with Provincial Temporary Liquor Licensing
 - Provides certainty to participating businesses
 - No new BBV permits accepted after October 31, 2021
 - Current permit holders must re-apply by November 30, 2021



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Sidewalk Café Bylaw

- Bylaw last updated in 2018
- Significant expansion of patios and associated learning through implementation of BBV to inform interim updates
 - Outdoor patios and cafes can have positive impact on city life
 - A diversity of patios and business types is desirable
 - Need for on-going inspections and annual oversight of license holders / installations
 - Future fee structures should be fair, reflect value of city land, and the economic value to the business
 - Timely service and approvals are important, but standards, quality, safety or accessibility should not be compromised



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Sidewalk Café Bylaw

- Recommended interim updates in 2022 including:
 - Safety (heaters, railings, lighting, wind protection)
 - Accessibility (ramps, furniture, navigation space)
 - Fees (equity among permit holders)
- Changes would apply to new and existing licenses
- Future year Bylaw modernization
 - Comprehensive engagement process
 - Rates and fee structures
 - Business types
 - Seasonal participation
 - and more!



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Mobile Vendors

- City has no system to license mobile vendors to operate on public roads / plazas.
- BBV introduced additional options for Mobile Vending to support recovery associated with cancelled events and festivals.
 - Pre-approved sites with rotating permits
 - Some sights very successful; others limited success
- After BBV expires, mobile vendors will continue to be able to operate through special event permits, park use permits or on private land
- Staff resourcing priorities focused transition of patios / updating Sidewalk Café Bylaw in 2022
 - Consideration of resource requirements in 2023 Financial Planning process



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Street & Travel Lane Closures

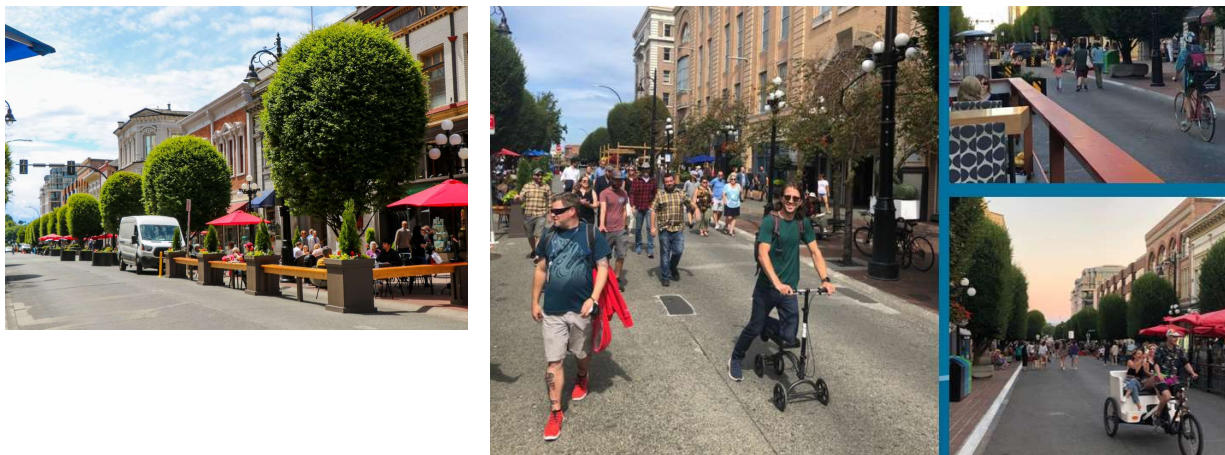


Gladstone Avenue & Broad Street



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Government Street Pedestrian Priority



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Next steps

- Share information with BBV permit holders immediately
 - Support businesses in winding down or transitioning to other programs
- Report back to Council with bylaw changes on road/lane closures
 - Before end of 2021
- Report back to Council with interim updates to sidewalk café bylaw
 - Before June 2022
- Council consideration of Supplemental Requests - 2022 Financial Plan
 - Business relations, inspections / assessments, further modernization of bylaws and expansion of streetscape programs integrating lessons learned from BBV and Council feedback



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Recommendations

1. That Council direct the City Solicitor to bring forward amendments to the Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw (#20-072) to extend its validity to June 1, 2022 with new applications being accepted until October 31, 2021 only and applications for extensions of existing permits being accepted until November 30, 2021 only.
2. Direct the Director of Engineering & Public Works, Director of Sustainable Planning & Community Development, and City Solicitor to bring forward interim changes to the Sidewalk Café Regulation Bylaw (#16-038) to incorporate lessons learned from Build Back Victoria.
3. Direct staff to prepare resource considerations to introduce a pilot and establish an on-going Mobile Vending Business Licence and associated permit program as part of the 2023 Financial Planning Process
4. That the above motions be forwarded to the daytime meeting of October 14, 2021 for ratification.



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