

and public safety. The proposed location meets the site servicing requirements while minimizing negative impacts on existing infrastructure and the public realm.

Public engagement on this project included consultation with stakeholders and subject matter experts. Staff connected with the Late-Night Advisory Committee, the Accessibility Advisory Committee, and the managers of both the Strathcona Hotel and Island Savings, to share details of the project and invite comments. All feedback received through the public consultation indicated support for the proposed location.

The proposed site is on the south side of Broughton Street, just east of the southeast corner of Douglas Street and Broughton Street, adjacent to Island Savings Bank. Its proximity to Douglas Street makes for easy wayfinding for tourists and patrons of local businesses, requiring minimal signage to identify the facility.

The proposal includes siting the washroom on a new curb bulge into Broughton Street and will result in upgrades to the sidewalk at the corner of Douglas Street and Broughton Street. In coordination with the project, accessibility improvements will also be made at the intersection, along with the replacement of end-of-life traffic signal equipment to minimize future disturbances at this corner. These improvements will include a new curb ramp and improved crosswalk alignments. Two on-street public parking spots on Broughton will be removed due to the addition of the sidewalk bulge to accommodate the washroom. A third parking stall will be converted to a new accessible parking stall.

The construction of the washroom in the proposed location will require the removal of a small Kwanzan cherry tree that is in poor condition. To mitigate the loss of this tree, staff will plant a replacement tree along Broughton Street. The downtown is an area of low canopy cover and ensuring space for public trees is essential.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Staff recommend that Council approve the proposed location for a new public washroom on Broughton Street adjacent to the 900 Block of Douglas Street, as shown in Attachment A. Should Council approve this location, construction will take approximately 12 – 16 weeks to complete. The planned construction completion for this new facility is fall of 2022. Given the current challenges with global supply chains, there are risks relating to the procurement of materials that may affect the project schedule.

Accessibility Impact Statement

The new universal access public washroom facility will be operated 24-hours a day. The design features include space for wheelchair access, an oversized entry door, accessible fixtures, sharps disposal container, and louvred wall panels that allow attendants to communicate with users without compromising privacy.

The project aligns with the goals of the City's *Accessibility Framework* including:

Focus Area (1) – Built Environment

To systematically remove and prevent barriers in public parks, open spaces and plazas, mobility systems and City-owned buildings and facilities.

Focus Area (2) – Governance and Services

To provide all residents and visitors with equitable access to municipal programs, services, information, engagement opportunities, and the ability to exercise their statutory rights.

2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan

The project aligns with the City's *Strategic Plan*, including actions concerning access to services and facilities:

5.24: Identify and remove barriers to make Victoria accessible and apply a barrier-free lens to all decisions we make to ensure we're not creating new barriers.

Impacts to the Financial Plan

A budget of \$400,000 was approved for this project in the Financial Plan. No additional costs are anticipated, at this time, to deliver the work.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

The project is aligned with the Official Community Plan and specifically the following section:

(7.17.2) Identifying priorities for improvements to sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities through planning processes including opportunities to remove physical barriers, improve lighting and wayfinding, buffer sidewalks from travel lanes, and provide weather protection, benches, drinking fountains, public washrooms, landscaping and beautification measures.

(15.1) Encourage a fair distribution of community services, social services and facilities across the city, to support all parts of the population.

CONCLUSIONS

The new public washroom will provide an important amenity in an area of the downtown where such facilities are currently limited. Staff recommend approval of the proposed location to allow detailed design and construction to proceed immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

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Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager

List of Attachments: Attachment A – Douglas Street Public Washroom Concept Design