



# Downtown Public Realm Plan and Streetscape Guidelines

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
OCTOBER 26 2017



## Background/Purpose

- The Downtown Public Realm Plan was developed through the Visual Victoria process involving extensive public and stakeholder engagement.
- The draft plan was presented at the July 13 2017 Committee of the Whole workshop and revised based on Council comments and feedback.
- The purpose of today's meeting is to present the revised Downtown Public Realm Plan for Council's consideration for adoption.



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## Plan Refinements

- **Capital City Status** has been further emphasized as a key component of the design rational and framework.
- **Stronger linkages to Arts and Culture Master Plan** including references to guidelines for murals and site furnishings as public art.
- **Celebration and Play** more clearly emphasized in the design principles, framework and rational.



create  
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## Plan Refinements

- **Bump-outs in Old Town** assessed on a case by case basis where they are required to improve pedestrian safety.
- **More limited and focused use of heritage style (Type A) bollards** in Bastion Square, Waddington Alley and within feature areas in the Inner Harbour.
- **Reconsider use of blue tiles for street names** for street names on Government Street between Wharf Street and Chinatown dependent on ability to consistently source suitable tiles over the long term.



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## Plan Refinements

### Develop a downtown pedestrian light strategy:

- Maintain the globe/cluster lights in Old Town, the Inner Harbour, and along key downtown corridors
- Develop a new light standard for Newtown and Rock Bay.
- The specific design and confirmation of locations for the new light will be based on more detailed design and assessment and future direction from Council as part of development of the strategy.



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## Plan Refinements

### Ensure accessibility was considered and integrated throughout the plan document

- An accessible and barrier-free downtown pedestrian environment is a key objective of the plan
- The plan is consistent with accessibility policies, objectives and standards as set out in the Pedestrian Master Plan and Master Municipal Construction Document Standards
- Materials and elements premised on balancing function, durability, accessibility and aesthetics (elegance and high quality)
- Tactile "buttons" to mark pedestrian crossings in the downtown being piloted to improve accessibility for those with limited visibility



tactile button



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## Plan Refinements

### Priority Public Realm Improvements

- Undertake planning and design for long term change envisioned for **Douglas St as a transit corridor**, rather than undertake interim improvements (street lights and furnishings) for Douglas St.
- Prioritize conceptual design of the Government Street mall expansion (from Yates to Chinatown), and include considerations for updates to street trees and planters for the existing Mall (from Wharf to Yates) as part of the conceptual design.



Douglas St: Transit Oriented Corridor



Government St: Complete the Street



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## Recommendation

- That Council approve the City of Victoria Downtown Public Realm Plan, 2017, to replace the City of Victoria Downtown Beautification Strategy and Kit-of-Parts, January 26, 1995.
- That Council direct staff to amend the Subdivision and Development Services Bylaw to reference the Downtown Public Realm Plan to direct frontage improvements for development within the downtown.



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