



Council Member Motion

For the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting of December 18, 2014

Date: December 12, 2014

From: Mayor Helps and Councillor Alto

Subject: Car Free Day 2015

Background

'Car Free Day' is an event where a segment of a public thoroughfare is closed to vehicle traffic for a short, defined period of time. The Downtown Victoria Business Association has proposed such an event for Victoria, and suggested closure of some blocks of Douglas Street (Herald to Courtney) on Sunday, June 21, 2015, noon to 6pm. An overview of the proposed event is attached. Considering this resolution now will provide the DVBA with an indication of the City's support, and thus assist the DVBA in planning and executing the event.

While a closure of a main street such as Douglas Street presents some challenges, other cities have undertaken very successful, well-attended 'car free events' including closures of major streets for extended periods of time. The DVBA has observed such events in other jurisdictions, and provided a plan to minimize disruption, including working with BC Transit to reroute affected buses, keeping some east-west streets open to vehicle traffic, and maintaining access to all 5 civic parkades.

As the City seeks opportunities to act on the Official Community Plan's priorities of active, alternative transportation and the innovative use of public spaces, supporting a defined 'car free day' event is a tangible illustration of our commitment to these priorities.

Recommendation

Thus resolved that the City of Victoria supports, in principle, the proposal of the Downtown Victoria Business Association to host a 'car free day' event on June 21, 2015, on a segment of Douglas Street with details to be confirmed and approved by the City.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Helps".

Mayor Helps

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Alto".

Councillor Alto