

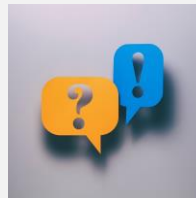
2021 Downtown Pedestrian Mall Business Information Session



Thank you for joining us



To reduce background noise, all
microphones have been muted



Please hold questions until the end
of the presentation

Meeting Agenda



Enhancements

Road Closure

Parklet Program

Parking

Accessibility Resources

Questions

COVID-19 & Public Health Guidelines



2021 Downtown Pedestrian Mall

The goal is to ensure the Downtown Pedestrian Mall encapsulates the greater downtown area.

Parklets in all areas of the downtown will be standardized:

- Operate between May 22 and October 31
- 7am to 11pm
- Open accessibility on sidewalks which contributes to the universal design of decks.

Enhanced arts and entertainment programming throughout the downtown:

- Art market on George Street and Duckworth Street
- Musical performances on George Street Stage, Angel's Corner, and other locations
- Other programming to encourage people to visit all of downtown

2021 Downtown Pedestrian Mall

Opportunity for downtown businesses to occupy the parking stalls in front of vacant properties within the road closure (excluding alcohol service).

Improved signage and promotion directing patrons to all areas of downtown.

Beautification through Downtown St. John's as well as City Parks division.

Capital investment for event entrance.

Addition of one space for mobile vending, managed through the Mobile Vending Association.

Enhanced animation in the area of McBride's Hill.

These enhancements will be made in accordance with Public Health Guidelines at the time of the event.

2021 Road Closure

Based on a thorough review of the 2020 event as well as a review of feedback obtained during engagement, the proposed road closure for the 2021 Downtown Pedestrian Mall be:

Water Street, from Adelaide Street to Clift's Baird's Cove
Friday July 2 to Monday September 6

Road Closure Rationale

In 2020, the closure of Water Street from Clift's Baird's Cove to Prescott Street created two safety concerns:

- The private parking lot adjacent to the TD Building on Water Street is utilized by paying patrons who have 24/7 access their parking space. During event hours, even with the assistance of Commissionaires, parking lot patrons had great difficulty navigating through pedestrians, and were often hassled by pedestrians for driving on the street. This was not a safe environment for either the parking lot patrons or pedestrians.
- Court House access was maintained through Clift's Baird's Cove, however this was a safety concern for pedestrians in the area. Although there was a Parking Enforcement Officer at the barricade, the junction of Water Street and Clift's Baird's Cove was often crowded with pedestrians as vehicles attempted to access the Court House.

Road Closure Rationale

Through event engagement, it was requested that the Pedestrian Mall either divide time between Water and Duckworth Street, or occur simultaneously. After review and consideration, the following are some challenges associated with these requests:

- Due to fire and life safety concerns raised by St. John's Reginal Fire Department, closing Duckworth Street and Water Street simultaneously is not recommended.
- Consistency from a road closure/traffic flow perspective should be maintained to avoid confusion and frustration of those visiting the downtown area for the purpose of business or pleasure. This affects personal vehicles, couriers, taxis, metrobus and fire and life safety.
- Access to the Court House and judges parking on Duckworth Street must be maintained.
- Access to MetroPark at 330 Duckworth Street must be maintained.

Road Closure Rationale

Through event engagement, it was requested that the Downtown Pedestrian Mall expand to include Waldegrave Street to Adelaide Street. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate this section due to the following:

- Metrobus has indicated it is very important to maintain the use of Convention Centre checkpoint via Waldegrave St, New Gower, Queen Street, as the Convention Centre is the only west bus stop that is accessible.
- Traffic implications at Water Street and Waldegrave Street created by a partial or full closure of this section, would have significant implications on an already high traffic intersection.

Road Closure Logistics

Security

- Barricade security at access points/closed roads 8am to 10pm
- Overnight Security 10pm to 8am

Deliveries permitted on street until 12pm

- After 12pm, delivery vehicles will park in designated locations

Rainy Days

Parklet Program

Based on feedback provided by the Inclusion Advisory Committee, new in 2021 extension of premises will be limited to parking stalls only, requiring sidewalks to remain clear from obstructions.

Additionally, this will allow a smooth transition from the Parklet Program to Downtown Pedestrian Mall road closure, as deck requirements will be consistent.

The depth is limited to parking stall depth.

The width is limited to the width of your building/storefront; however if you have approval from your neighbour to expand in front of their property you can apply to the City to do so.

An application will be required for every business wishing to expand. Depending on your location (private or public land) the time frame for the approval process may vary.

Parklet Program

Once plans for the 2021 Parklet Program are approved by Council (March 22) the City will open the application process for businesses looking to expand outdoor space.

The use of the City's land will extend from **May 22 to October 31, 2021**, and the hours of operation for the outdoor areas will be from 7a.m. to 11p.m. daily.

Further details, including an application checklist will be circulated via Downtown St. John's and announced on the City's website, by the end of March.



Parking

City Pay Stations

- Pay stations have been installed on Duckworth Street between Prescott Street to Cochrane Street (on both sides). There are still more to be installed.
- Regular enforcement in the area.
- Pay stations and Pay by Phone zones are configured to only allow a vehicle to stay in a particular zone up to 2 hours

Parking Garages

- The City will be promoting parking garages in the area.

Metrobus

- Metrobus have plans to develop a marketing campaign which will encourage people to take the bus downtown, subject to Public Health restrictions.

Accessibility Resources

For more detailed information or support

- Consider Coalition of Persons with Disabilities - Disability Awareness Training for staff and volunteers.
- Consider Inclusion NL training or a location accessibility review.
- Universal Design NL detailed information on creating environments and products that are usable for all people.
- inclusion@stjohns.ca can help connect you with the resources/support you need.

Summary

Parklet Program

- May 22 to October 31

Road Closure

- Water Street, from Adelaide Street to Clift's Baird's Cove
- July 2 to September 6

Next Steps

- Receive business feedback by March 12
- Present recommendation to Council week of March 22

Questions/Feedback



Please virtually raise your hand or submit your question in the chat box



Recommendations will be presented to Council the week of March 22

To submit comments for consideration, please email specialevents@stjohns.ca or reach out to a member of Council



Feedback submitted must be received by March 12