

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: Downtown Pedestrian Mall Road Closure 2021

Date Prepared: March 18, 2021

Report To: Committee of the Whole

Councillor and Role: Councillor Debbie Hanlon, Tourism, Culture & Immigration

Ward: N/A

Decision/Direction Required:

Council approval for the 2021 Downtown Pedestrian Mall.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

Planning for the 2021 Downtown Pedestrian Mall is ongoing. The proposed event plan was presented to downtown businesses during a virtual meeting on February 25, and businesses were given until March 12 to provide their feedback. Since this meeting, we have received comment from several downtown businesses as well as the public, expressing strong opinions of the proposed event. All feedback was considered and research completed by City staff to determine the viability of all suggestions that include a fully pedestrianized zone.

While an all-inclusive downtown event would be preferred by many, there are challenges with many sections of downtown that, in staff's opinion, cannot be reasonably overcome.

The proposed road closure options below, provided for Council consideration, are based on input from St. John's Regional Fire Department, City of St. John's Traffic Division, Parking Services, and Metrobus. Any combination of closures below can occur simultaneously:

1. Water Street (Adelaide Street to Prescott Street)
 - Road closure unchanged from 2020
 - See attachment for map
 - Current budget allocation \$200,000
2. Duckworth Street (New Gower Street to Bates Hill)
 - Barricades with security required at New Gower Street/Duckworth Street and Bates Hill/Duckworth Street
 - See attachment for map
 - Estimated cost \$35,300 for road closure, budget allocated \$0

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3. Duckworth Street (Cathedral Street to Prescott Street)

- Barricades with security required at Cathedral Street/Duckworth Street and Duckworth Street/Prescott Street
- See attachment for map
- Estimated cost \$35,300 for road closure, budget allocated \$0

An additional \$97,000 would be added for any combination of Duckworth closures to account for overnight security, event staff, and garbage removal. This cost is also not allocated in the 2021 budget.

Event Logistics

- Events date: Friday July 2 – Monday September 6
- Hours of operation: 12:00pm – 10:00pm daily
- Deliveries: before noon daily
- Security: 8:00am – 10:00pm daily, with roaming security after hours

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: The Downtown Pedestrian Mall, Water Street closure, operates under the allocated budget for 2021. The addition of a Duckworth Street closure will impact the budget as noted above.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: Downtown St. John's, and Downtown Businesses.
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans: A Connected City – a city where people feel connected, having a sense of belonging, and are actively engaged in community life. This would be accomplished through the goal of developing and delivering programs, services and public spaces that build a safe, healthy, and vibrant community.
4. Legal or Policy Implications: N/A
5. Privacy Implications: N/A
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: Engagement with Downtown St. John's and various Downtown Business was undertaken as part of the review process.
7. Human Resource Implications: N/A
8. Procurement Implications: N/A

9. Information Technology Implications: N/A

10. Other Implications: N/A

Recommendation:

That Council approve the following from July 2 to September 6:

1. Close Water Street from Adelaide Street to Prescott Street.
2. Due to the reasons outlined in the presentation at the March 24 Committee of the Whole, that sections 2, 4, and 5 of Duckworth Street are not included in the road closure.
3. As sections 1 and 3 have no identified barriers preventing a road closure, that Council include both of these sections in the 2021 Downtown Pedestrian Mall.

Prepared by: Christa Norman, Special Projects Coordinator

Approved by: Jennifer Langmead, Supervisor – Tourism and Events

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Downtown Pedestrian Mall Road Closure 2021.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 18, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jennifer Langmead - Mar 18, 2021 - 10:17 AM

Tanya Haywood - Mar 18, 2021 - 2:25 PM