

2022

CITY OF VICTORIA | Engineering & Public Works

# Conversion of the Temporary Extended Sidewalk on Cook Street

Fernwood Community Association/North Park Neighbourhood Association

February 23, 2022





The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.





# Meeting Agenda – 60 minutes

- Quick Overview – Digital Meeting Tools
  - Mute, Chat, Hands Up...
- Introductions
- Background & Context
- Presentation of Proposed Changes
- Feedback / Discussion
- Next Steps

# Housekeeping

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- This meeting is one of many ways that the City is sharing information and collecting feedback.
- Virtual sessions are not the same as in-person meetings or collaboration sessions. We recognize that participating requires patience and the use of different tools.
- Transportation is an important issue to our entire community – road safety matters to staff, Council, residents and visitors
- We know mobility needs are personal
  - What works for some people, won't work for others
  - What the City prioritizes might not be your priority

# OUR MOBILITY VALUES

- Safety
- Liveability and Well-being
- Equity and Affordability
- Climate Action
- Accessibility and Connectivity





# Go Victoria: Our 2030 Vision

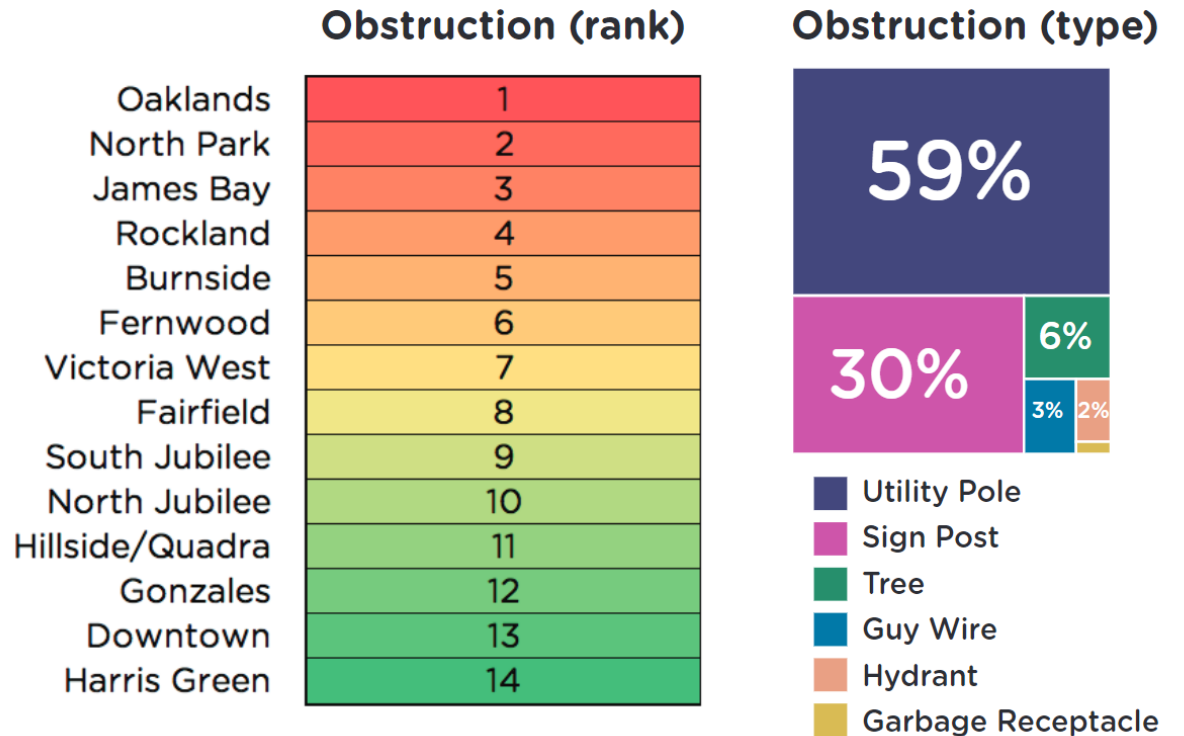
*Clean, seamless  
mobility options for everyone*



# Go Victoria – Pedestrian Goals

- Make every street safer and more enjoyable for walking
- Evaluate, prevent and remove barriers to accessibility in our transportation network
- Build a community culture that supports accessibility and active transportation

## I OBSTRUCTIONS



Source: 2019 Sidewalk Survey Data. Obstructions restricting Pedestrian Clear Zone to <0.9m.

# CURB MANAGEMENT



The City strives to adapt and regulate space to meet the diverse needs of our community. Curb use is never permanent or exclusive. Public feedback is an important part of decision making - but is not the only input.



# Temporary Extended Sidewalks

## Installed in 2020

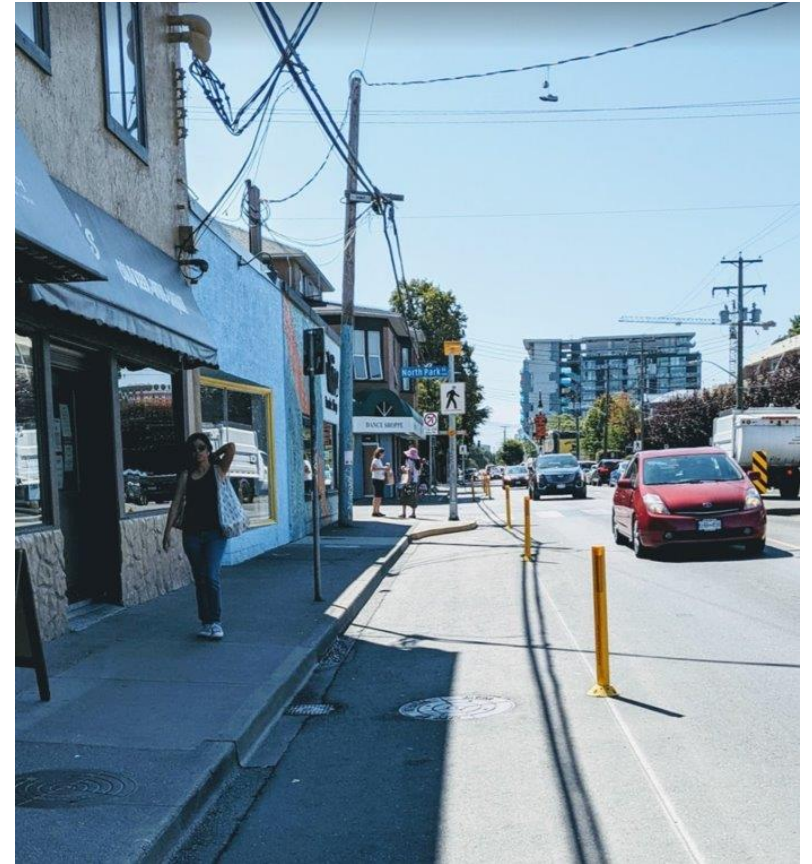
- Part of City's pandemic response program

## 5 locations within the municipality

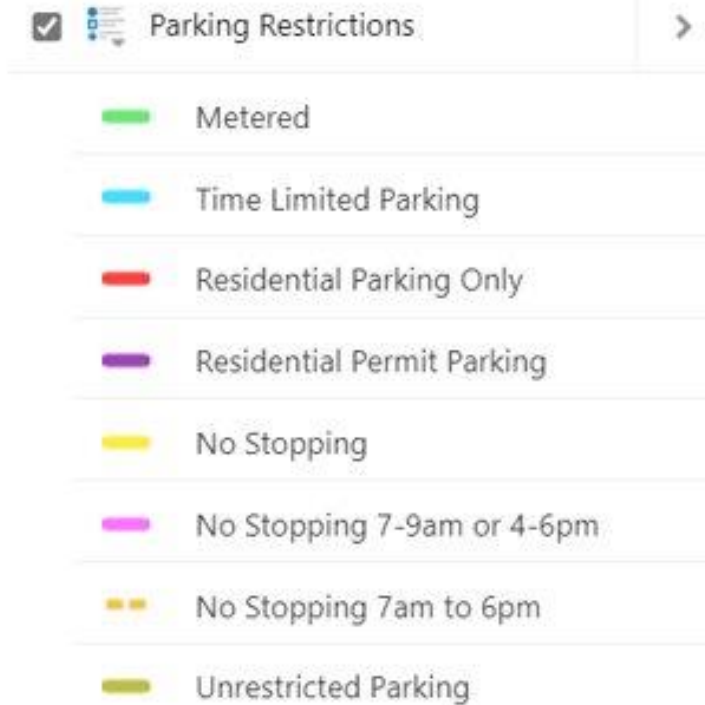
- Targeted in areas with narrow sidewalks and limited opportunity for physical distancing with queueing / line-ups
- Two removed and two becoming permanent

## Cook Street Location:

- Keep, remove or hybrid?



# Curb Use Regulations & BBV Program



- ★ Commercial Loading Zone
- ★ General Loading Zone
- BBV Commercial Use of Parking / Curb Space



# What we heard - Fall 2021

- “I have really enjoyed the temporary sidewalks. I hated it when cars were parked up to the edge of the sidewalk – you felt trapped walking between a vehicle and a building.”
- “Businesses need access to convenient parking and loading on Cook Street”
- “At first, we didn’t really understand why the City installed this and then saw the bakery line one day with a person going by on crutches. It was easy to see the value of more space in the Village.”
- “I want to see the City encourage placemaking and places to sit – widen the sidewalks and add some planters”
- “As a parent, I would love a spot close to the day care for pick up and drop off”
- “It is important to communicate that these are not bike lanes – if they stick around how can we make it more obvious this space is for pedestrians?”
- “They have helped to slow vehicles down through the village”

# What we heard - Fall 2021

- Existing sidewalks in the village are too narrow and contain obstructions (utility poles, sign-posts) – these create accessibility and comfort issues beyond any pandemic
- Value in having customer parking / commercial loading on Cook Street itself
- Concerns about associated spill-over impacts on to other streets
- Desire for more bicycle parking
- Desire for accessible parking
- Interest in more attractive / aesthetically pleasing treatments



# Options and Design Objectives

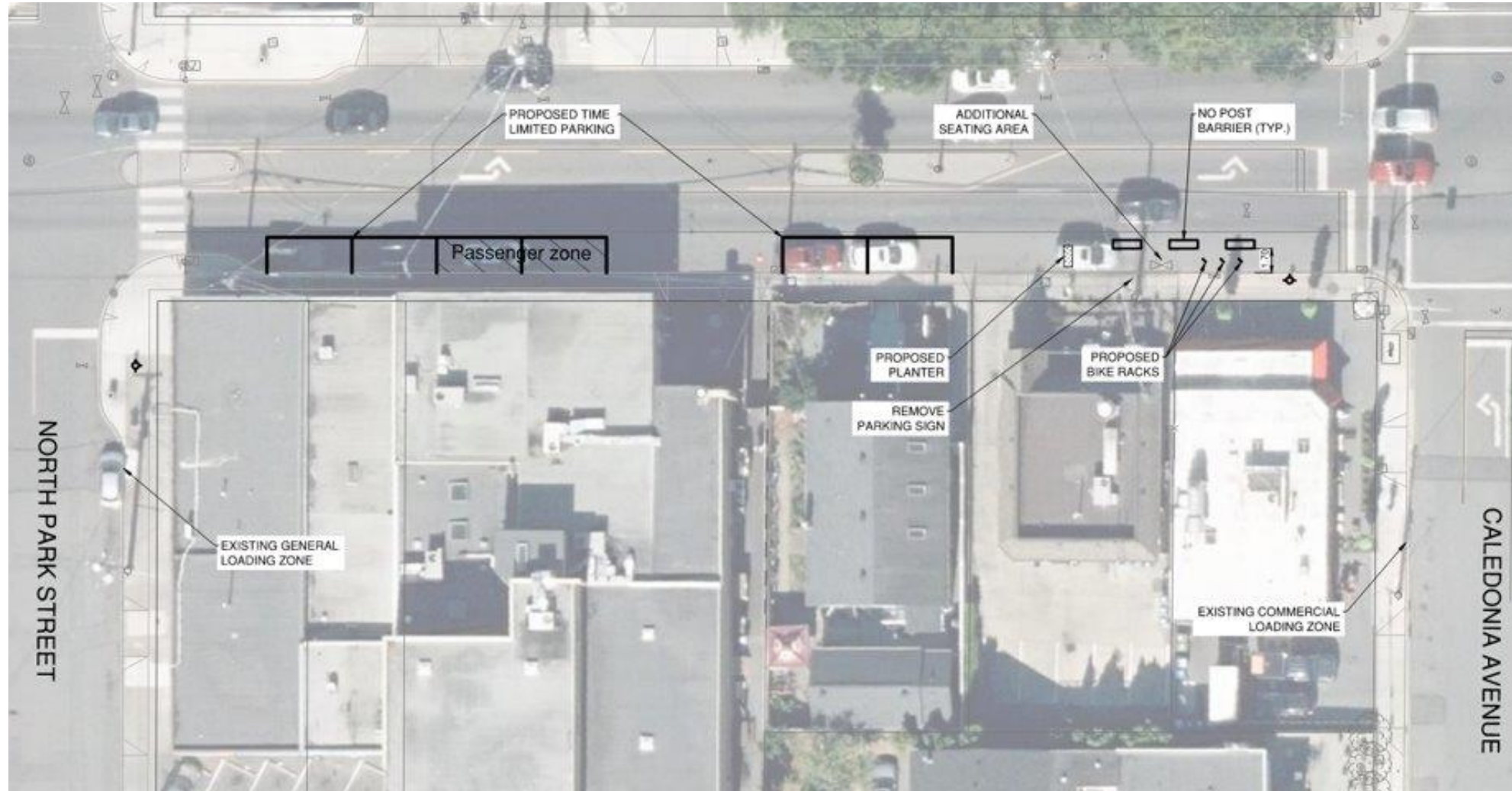
- The hybrid design concept is intended to find a balance between what was historically on Cook Street and what is there is today
  - Focuses on safety and accessibility
  - Address needs of residents, commuters, businesses and customers
  - Accommodates emergency service needs
  - Considers road maintenance requirements
  - Can be delivered within existing capital budgets

# Caledonia Avenue to North Park Street





# Proposed changes– Caledonia to North Park



# Examples – Placemaking Zone



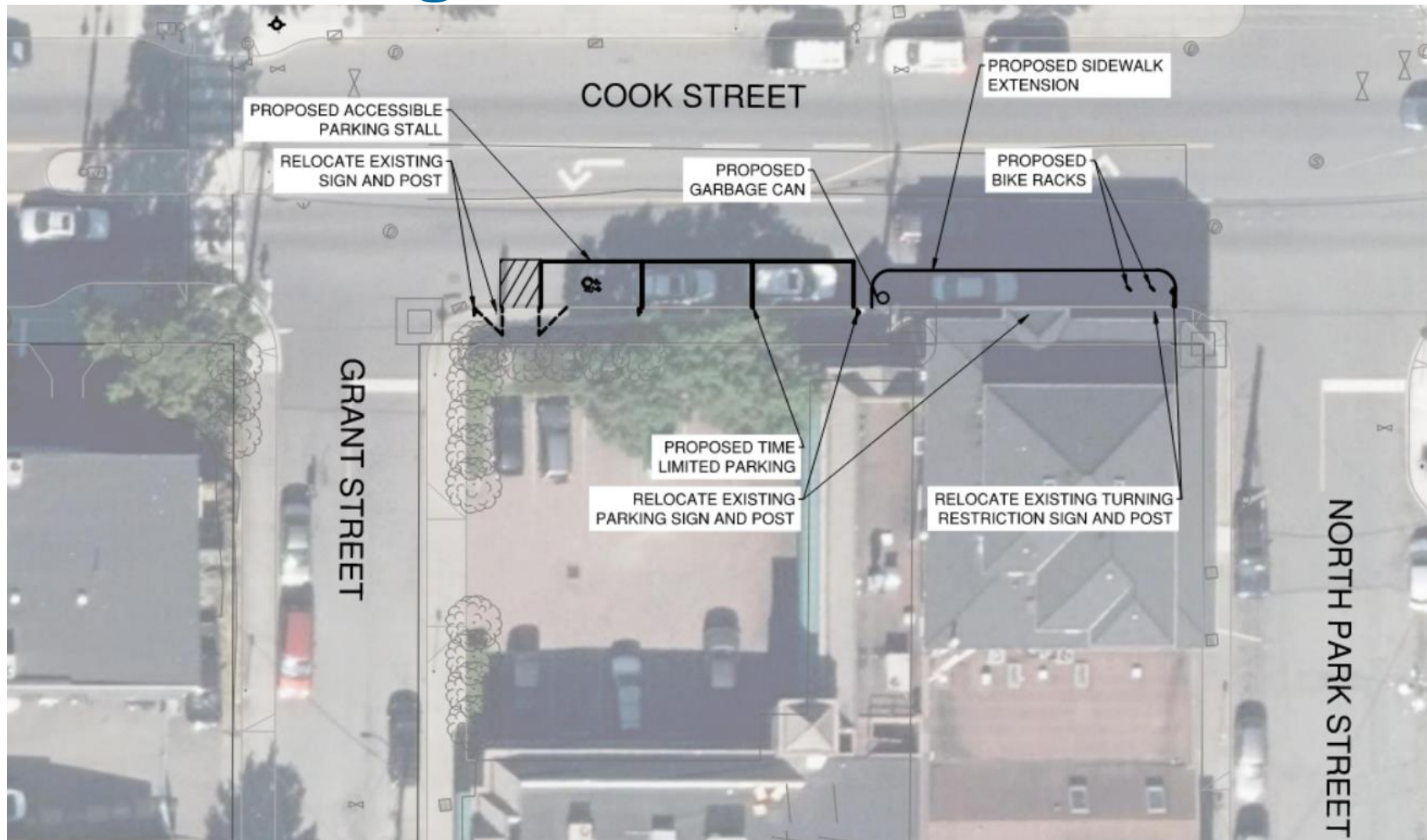


# North Park Street to Grant Street





# Proposed Changes– North Park to Grant



# Participant Discussion / Thoughts

- What are your thoughts on the proposed hybrid design?
- What would you change or modify?
- Does this approach better help to meet the diverse needs of the Village?
- Construction approach – Two phases?
- Opportunity to work with Neighbourhood Associations and businesses on approach to furniture/placemaking at northern end?