



City of Vancouver

Planning Department / Engineering Department, 453 W. 12th Ave Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4 ☎ 873.7344 fax 873.7060
planning@city.vancouver.bc.ca / engineering@city.vancouver.bc.ca

KINGSWAY AND KNIGHT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE: SHOPPING AREA: PUBLIC REALM AND PEDESTRIAN / TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

Adopted by City Council _____, 2004

DRAFT – June 22, 2004

Kingsway and Knight Neighbourhood Centre Shopping Area

PUBLIC REALM AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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Acknowledgements

1. Introduction and Background

The Kingsway and Knight Neighbourhood Centre Shopping Area: Public Realm and Pedestrian/Traffic Improvements Plan (PRPTIP) is one of the main elements of the implementation program for this Centre, based on the Kensington-Cedar Cottage Community Vision approved in 1998. This Plan was produced through an intensive 2003-2004 community consultation process undertaken jointly by the Planning and Engineering Departments, working with the Park Board and the Cultural Affairs Public Art Program. A Shopping Area Working Group providing ongoing advice throughout the process, which culminated with an area-wide survey in Spring 2004. This plan reflects the preferences of the public expressed in that survey.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to guide the redesign of Kingsway and intersecting streets from Inverness to Perry Streets over time, in a consistent manner, whether the work is undertaken by the City of Vancouver or as part of private development. Geometric changes, a landscaped median, a unique sidewalk treatment, public art and other initiatives are to be brought together into a cohesive whole.

3. Vision

The changes are intended to achieve a number of design and community development objectives, in order to help meet the main goal to capitalize on opportunities for the shopping area to provide a wide range of retail goods and services for a diverse community. The objectives include:

- to create a special and unique local identity for this part of Kingsway that reflects both its long and important history and its aspirations for the future
- to enhance pedestrian comfort, convenience and amenity
- to create a variety of attractive public places for rest and social encounter
- to enhance appearance through additional greening
- to provide for a future commuter bicycle facility along Kingsway

4. Plan Overview

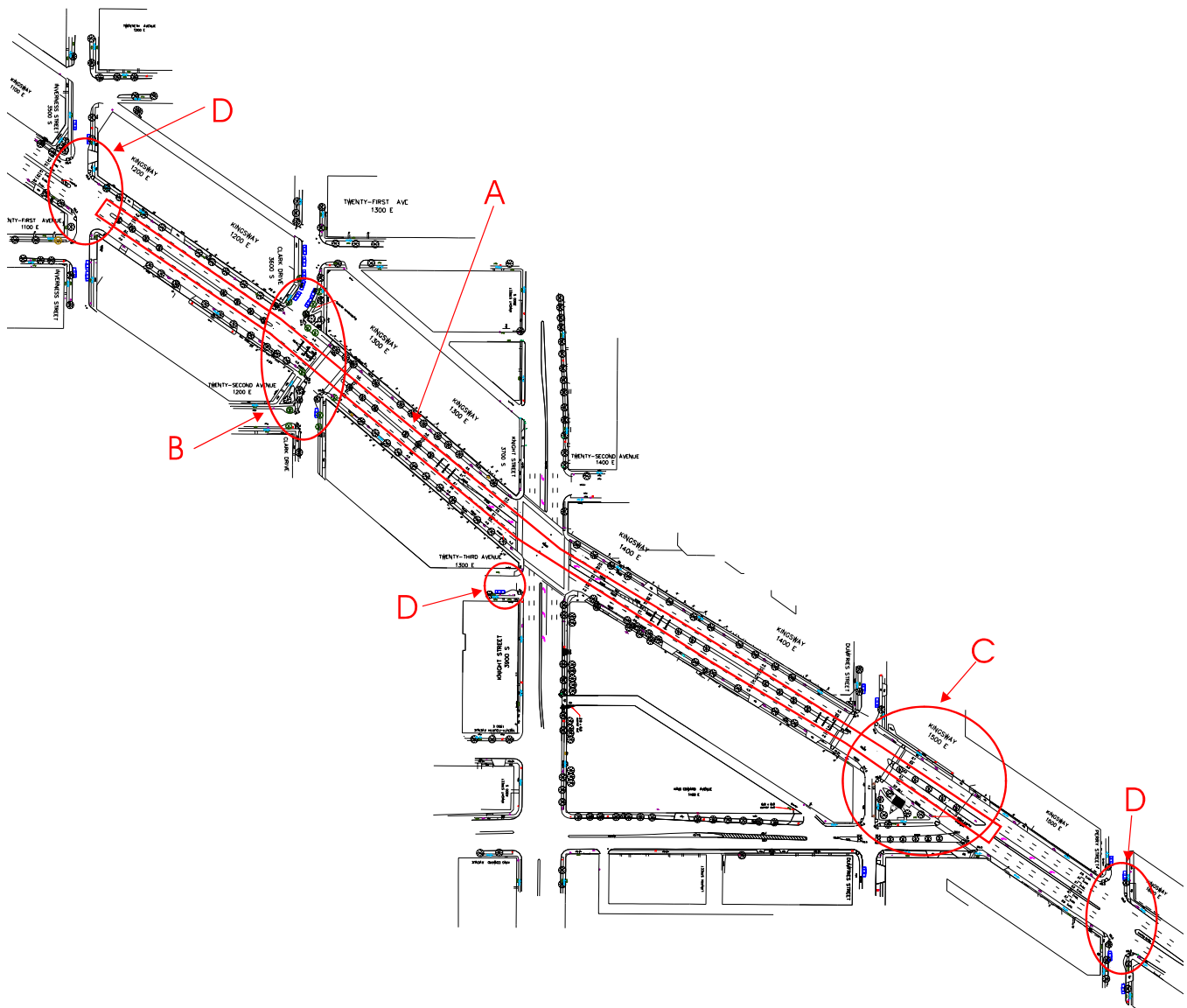
The Plan is composed of a series of interrelated changes that together will help achieve the objectives (Figure 1). The improvements include:

- A. On Kingsway, a landscaped median between Inverness and Perry Streets
- B. Geometric changes to the intersection of Clark Drive and Kingsway, creating two small public areas for seating, special planting and public art, relocating pedestrian-actuated signals, and shortening crosswalk distances
- C. Geometric changes to the Dumfries/Kingsway/King Edward area to include a landscaped median at King Edward, relocated and shortened crosswalks across Kingsway, and related signal changes. The existing triangular open space will be changed to aid pedestrian movement, enhance amenity and improve views to the Flower Totem installation (the first piece of public art on Kingsway, c. 1980).

- D. Installation of small landscaped corner bulges at Inverness and Kingsway, E. 23rd Avenue and Knight Street, and Perry and Kingsway.
- E. New streetscape elements including improvements to landscaping and street trees, a unique sidewalk paving pattern and sidewalk stamp, new street furniture, character lighting and public art.

This Plan, including preliminary plans for geometric changes, has been produced by the Engineering Department and City Plans Division. As detailed design and implementation proceed, refinements may occur prior to construction.

Figure 1. Plan showing geometric changes, median and public spaces



5. The Landscaped Median

Through the public consultation process the idea of a landscaped median emerged as a preferred means to achieve important urban design identified above. Figure 2 illustrates a typical cross section for Kingsway between Inverness Street and Dumfries Street. This configuration creates a special visual character, incorporates more greening and provides for a future bicycle facility in the curb lane.

Figure 2. Kingsway Cross Section

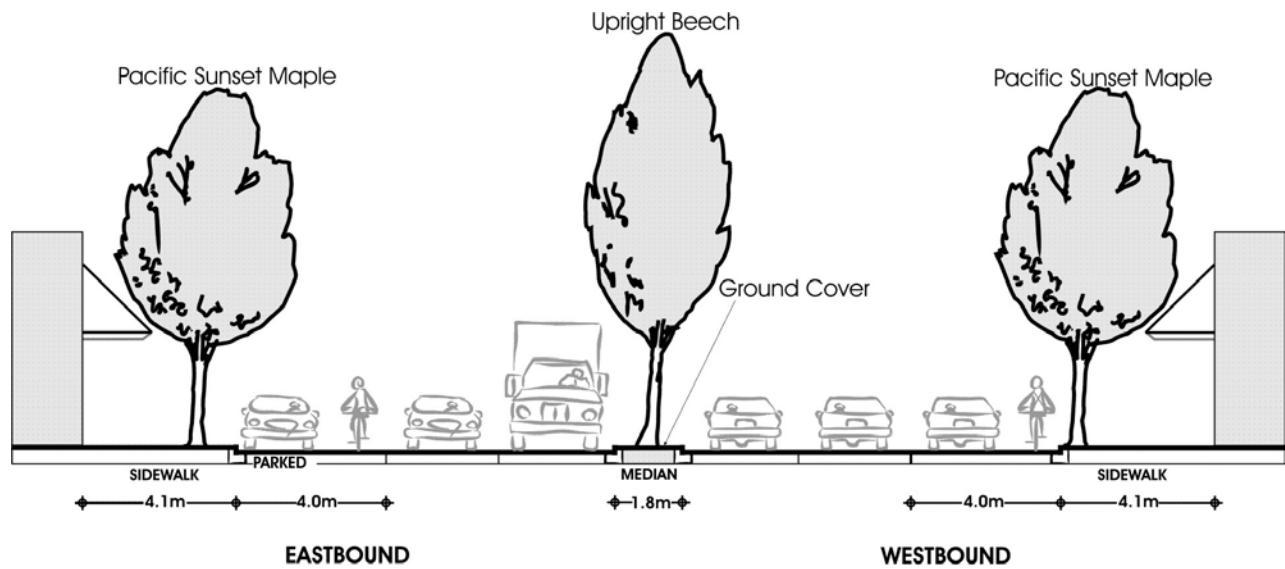


Figure 5. Knight Street & Kingsway

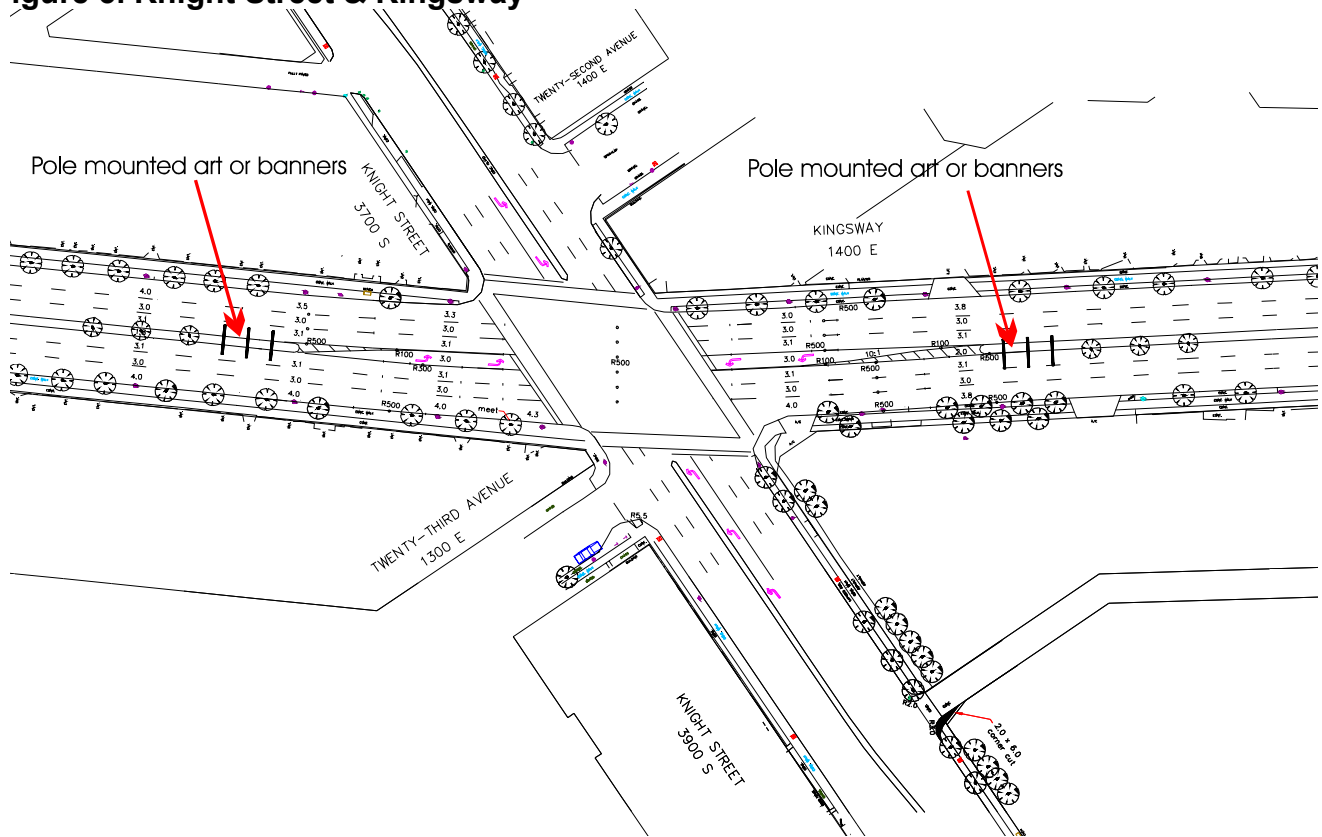
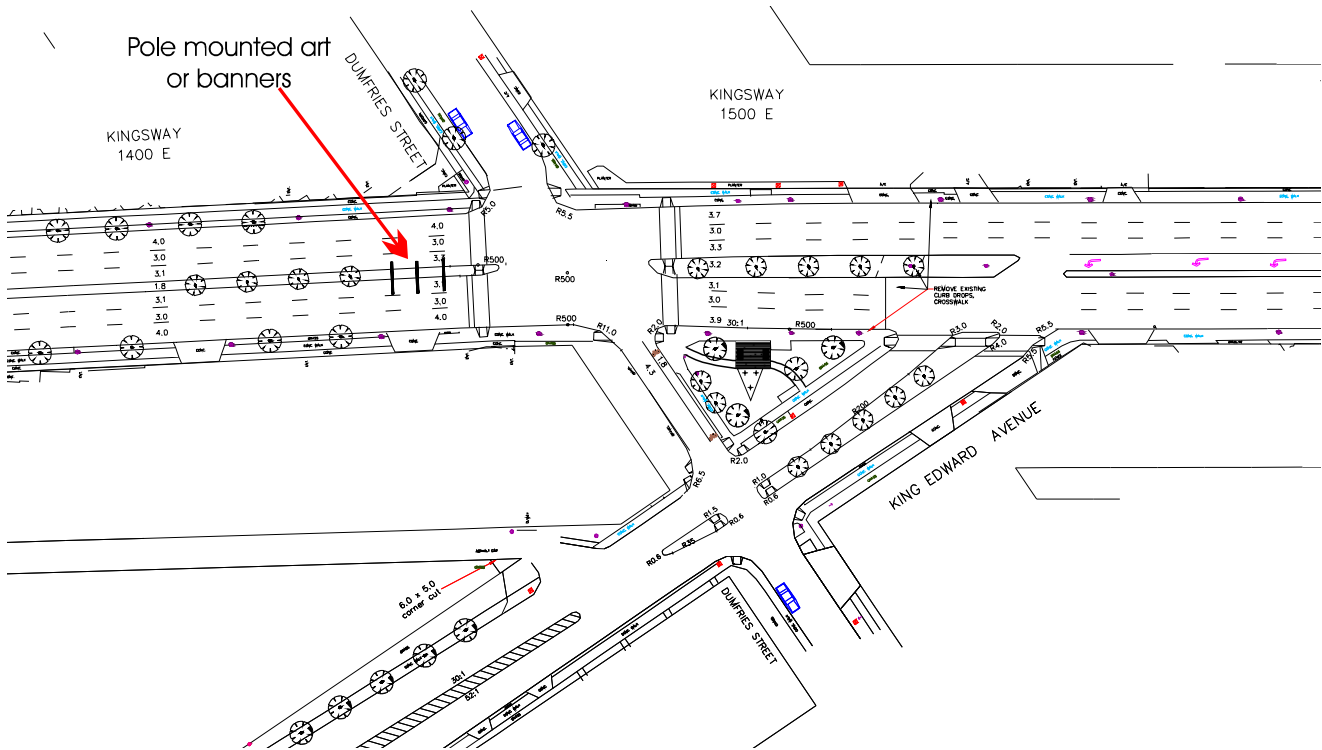


Figure 6. Dumfries Street/King Edward Avenue and Kingsway



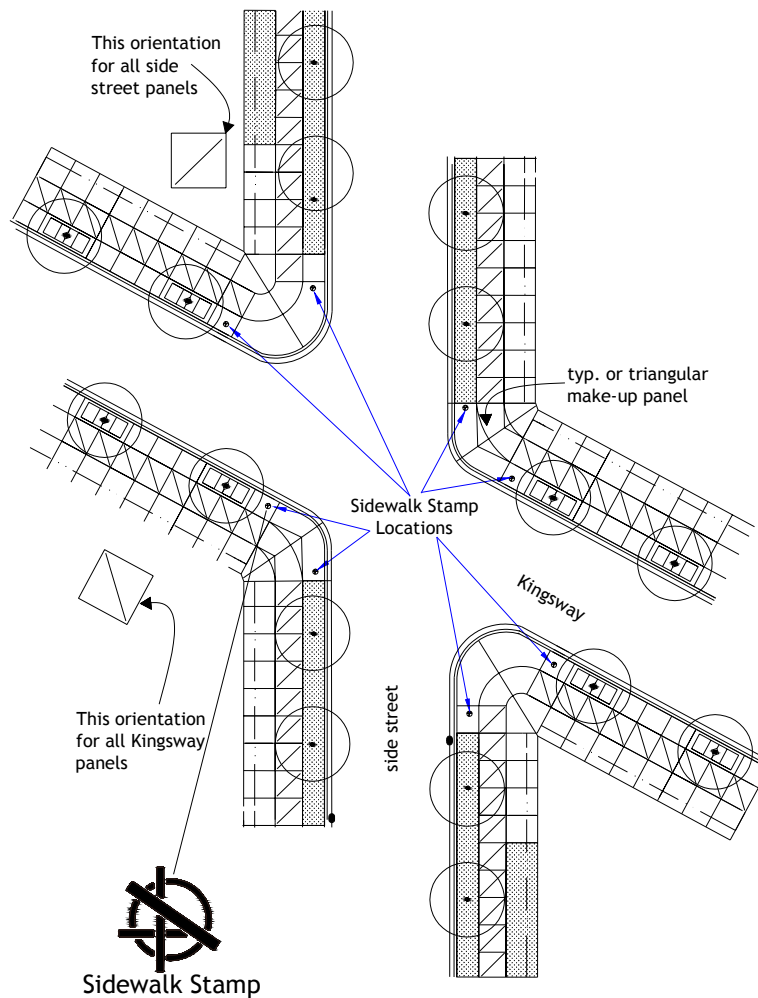
8. Sidewalk Treatment

Figures 11 through 14 show the basic sidewalk paving material and treatment, composed of the following main elements:

- Broom-finished concrete, with a diagonal scoring pattern in the centre panel
- 1.2m utility strip and 0.6m setback at new mixed use developments are included in the unified sidewalk treatment.
- Tree species stamp in surround (Pacific Sunset Maple”)

New and infill street trees along Kingsway are to be protected with a special four-piece tree surround (Figure 15), while existing mature trees will continue to have no surround or grate.

Figure 11. Key Plan Showing Basic Sidewalk Paving Pattern



Sidewalk Stamps

Adding to visual interest and local identity underfoot is part of the palette of enhancements to the pedestrian realm. Figure 11 shows the placement of the logo-type stamp at corners, shown enlarged in Figure 16.

Figure 12. Basic s/w Treatment Detail

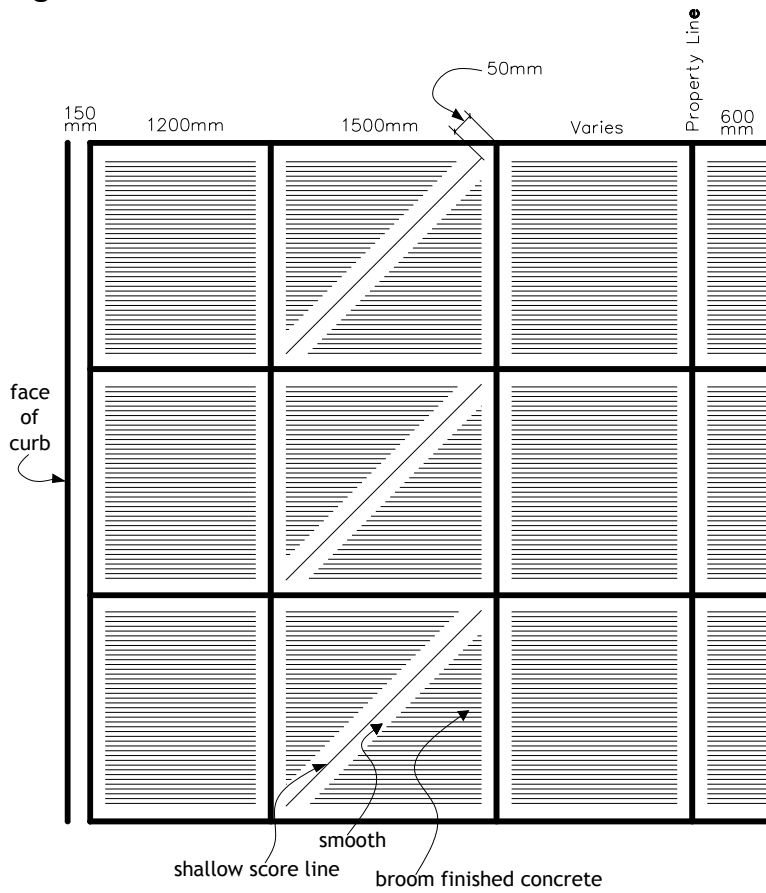


Figure 15. Tree Surround

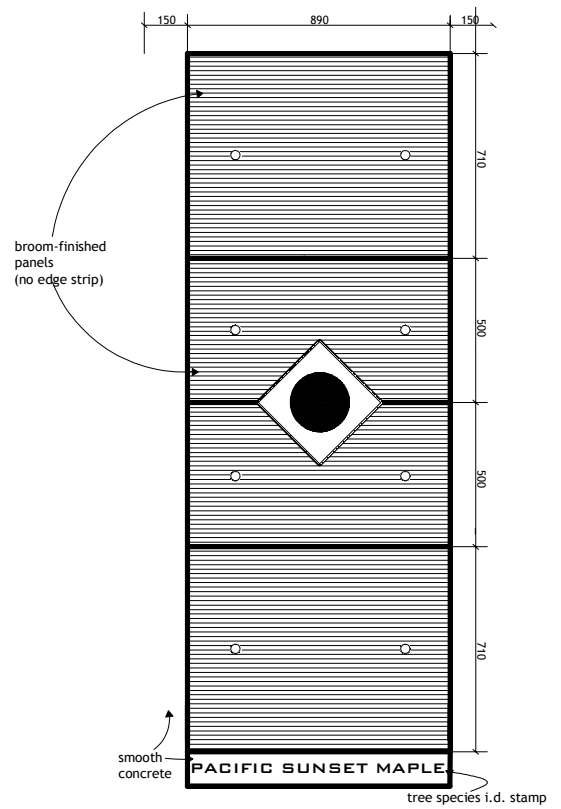


Figure 13. On Kingsway

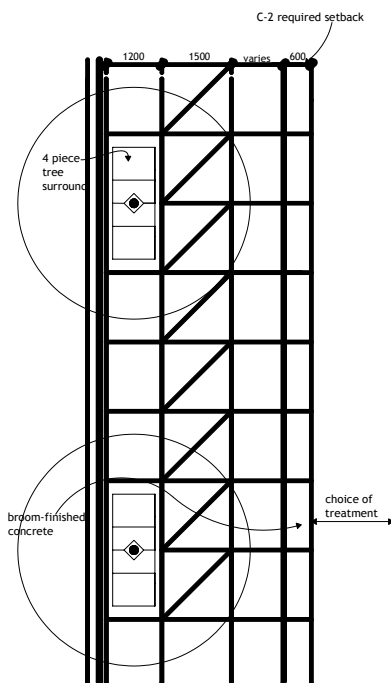


Figure 14. On Side Streets

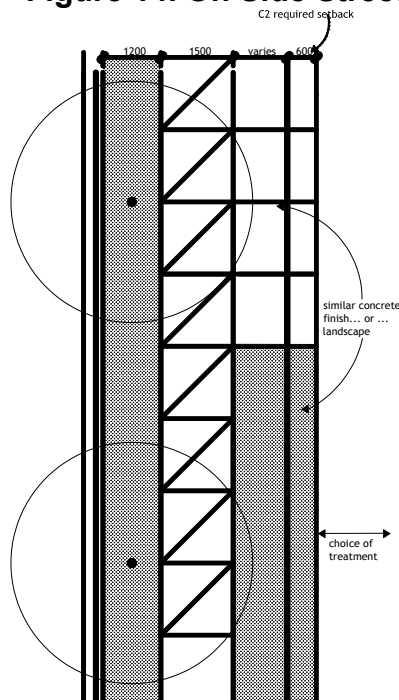


Figure 16. Sidewalk Stamp



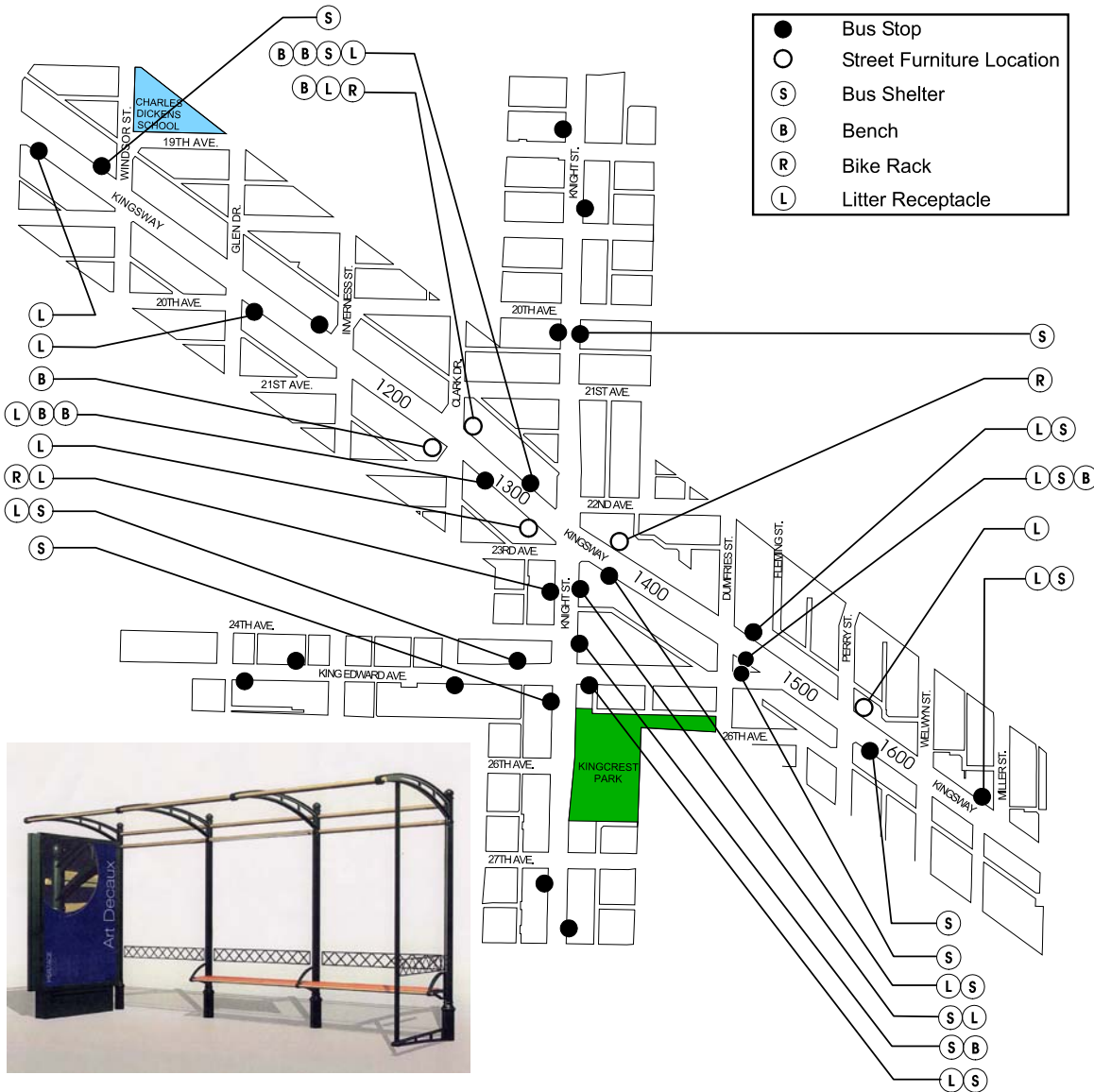
9. Street Furniture

Street furniture will be provided through the City’s coordinated street furniture program provided by Viacom/JC Decaux. The plan for the Kingsway and Knight shopping area include the following elements, to be placed in the locations noted in Figure 17.

- Bus shelter style: the “Heritage” line
- Bench
- Litter receptacle
- Bicycle rack

Colour: All furniture is to be provided in glossy black.

Figure 17. Street Furniture Location Plan and Heritage Bus Shelter



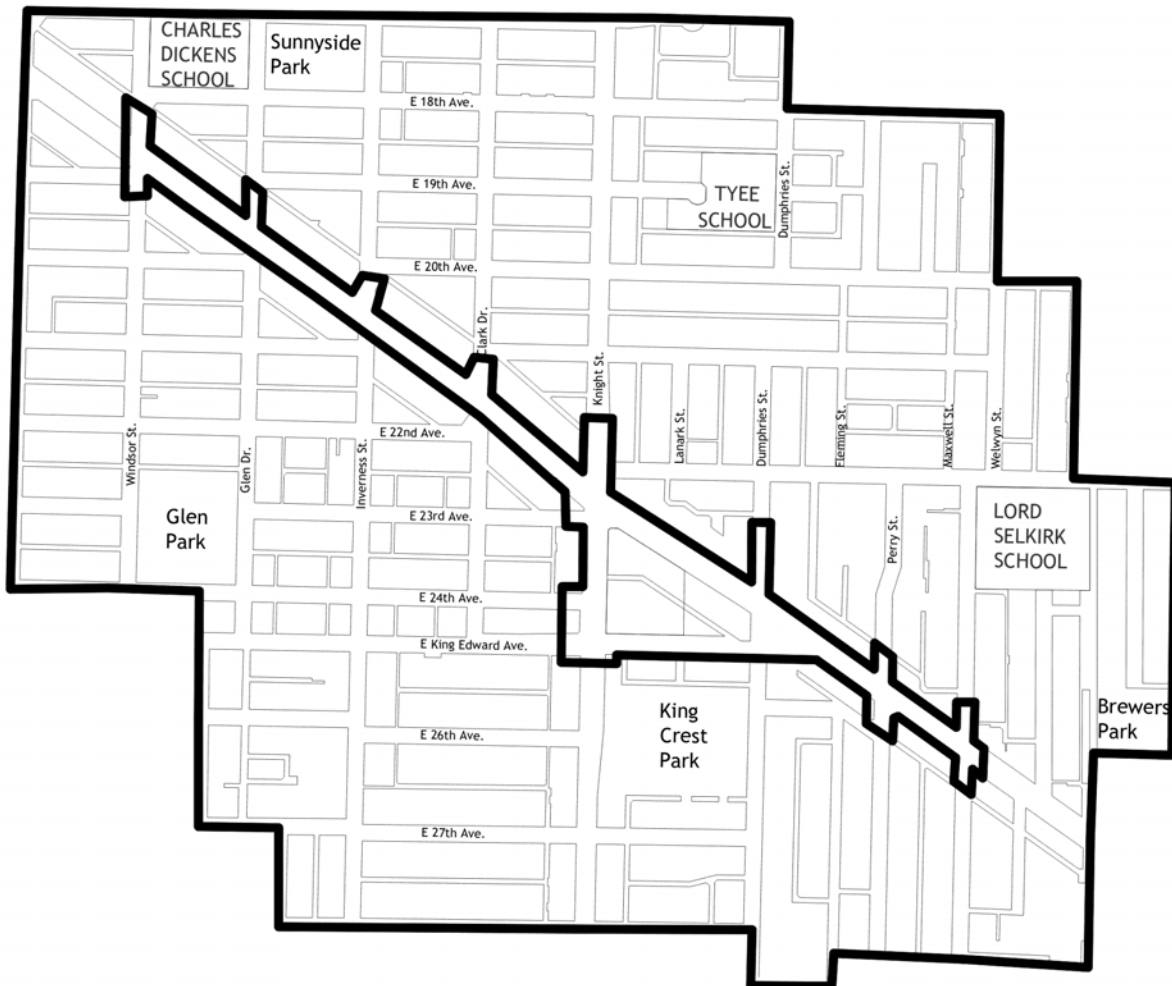
10. Utility Poles and Character Lighting

The style and colour of utility poles as well as light fixtures can make important contributions to the overall appearance of a street. While no change in the kinds of poles are envisioned for Kingsway, over time it is desirable to replace the existing “cobra” style poles on Knight Street with a similar pole as on Kingsway, which are trolley poles (Figure 19).

Utility Poles

The Cedar Cottage Business Association chose glossy black as the colour for utility poles in the Neighbourhood Centre Shopping Area. Accordingly, poles were painted in 2003, in a larger area from Windsor Way on the west to Welwyn Street on the east, and including both sides of the 1400 block of King Edward Avenue (Figure 18).

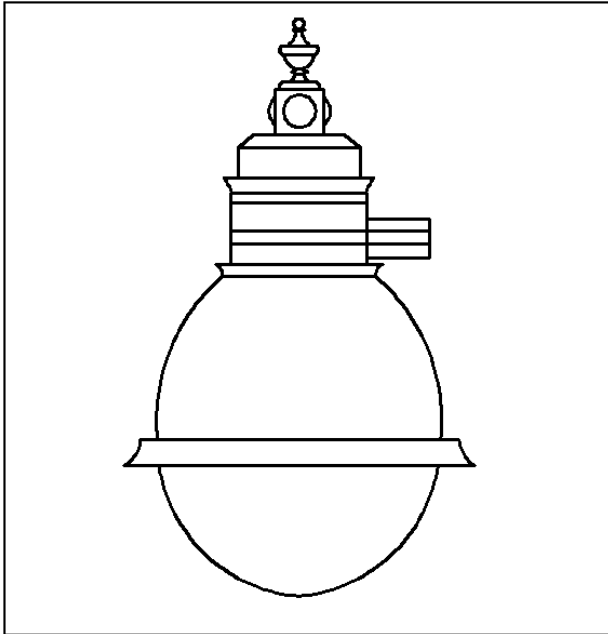
Figure 18. Area for Utility Pole Special Colour



Character Lighting

Character lights attached to existing light poles will add to the intended character and identity of the shopping area. They are to replace the existing highway style luminaires in place on Kingsway, Knight Street and King Edward Street. They have the added advantages of not adding to the demand for electrical supply, and meeting the City's objective of reducing night sky pollution.

Figure 19. Character Light Fixture



Style: Metrolux 'VillageMaster' VG-25 with drop acrylic lens

Colour: standard black

11. Public Art

A number of opportunities for different kinds of public art are available in the shopping area. \$40,000 has been allocated from the Public Art Program's capital funds for this purpose. Area residents and businesses provided advice for the preliminary concept shown in Figures 18 and 19. Additional consultation will be required to finalize choices for specific pieces, locations and artists. The following list and Figure 20 identify a preferred range of opportunities and locations and Figure 21 provides relevant examples.

1. Within the \$40,000 allocation, in priority order:
 - A. Colourful "gateway" pole-mounted kinetic art or banners in the median designed by local artists incorporating themes of movement, local history and diversity in median
 - B. Engraved boulders known as "story stones" located at public places, oriented primarily to pedestrians. They are to tell local stories in English, Chinese and Vietnamese, three dominant languages of the community
 - C. Improve sightlines and access to the 1980 work "Flower Totems" with additional changes to include paths, granite paving and street furniture.
2. Through the separate Citywide manhole cover program:
 - D. Specially designed cluster of manhole covers on the southwest corner on Kingsway and Knight.
3. Through the private rezoning-related public art process at King Edward Village:
 - E. Major privately-commissioned public art installation, to lead people to the interior public square. Possibilities include the use of water, neon, plant materials, and the like.
4. Opportunities for future community public art may arise in residential neighbourhoods surrounding the shopping area. These could be related to pedestrian "Linkages and Greening" routes connecting neighbourhoods to the shopping area, to community facilities and to each other.

Figure 20. Possible Locations for Public Art

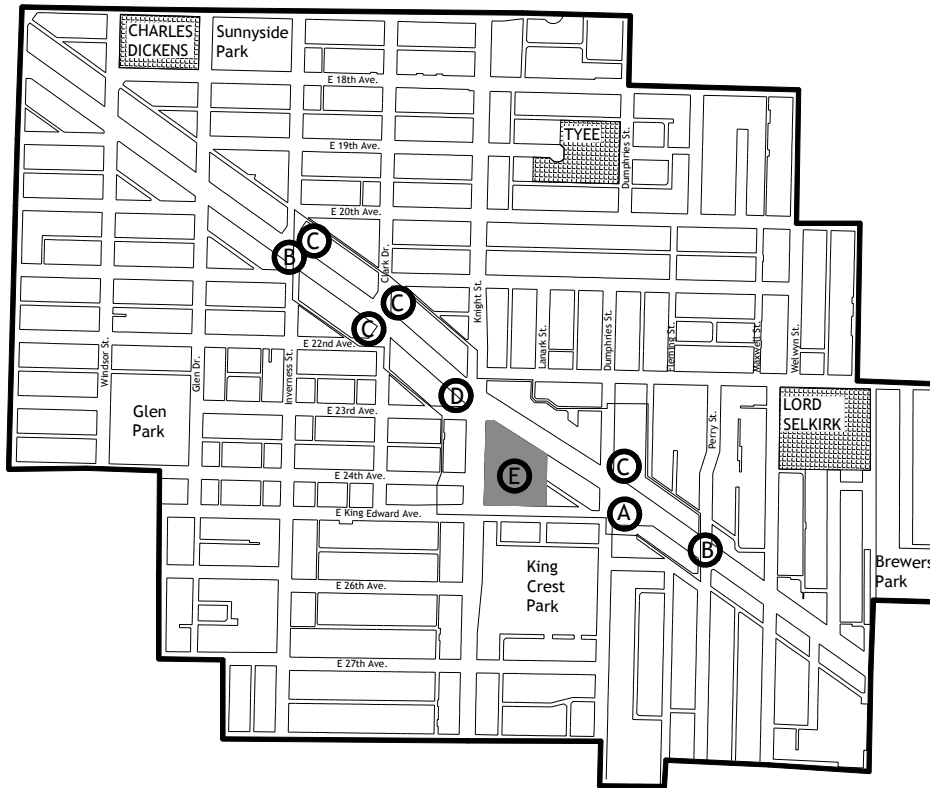


Figure 21. Examples of Public Art



Flower Totems (Artist: Sam Carter)



Story Stone



Kinetic Sculpture (Artist: Doug Taylor)



Opportunity for Manhole Cover Art at Kingsway & Knight

Acknowledgements

Shopping Area Working Group (SAWG)

Gary Bell
Aideen Cleary
Peter Kletas
Sandy Lavigne
Angie Lee
Francis Lee

Ed Levinson
Carol Mak
Gabe Muller
Kerry Williams
Jack Yong

Staff

Dave Rudberg, General Manager of Engineering Services
Ann McAfee, Co Director of Planning

Planning
Frank Ducote,
Trish French
Cam Scott
Grant Miller

Engineering
Melina Scholefield
Josh Anderson
Jen White

Contributing Staff and Consultants

Bridge Communications
Planet Consulting
Ward Consulting
Scott Edwards
June Christy
Chris Robertson
Peter Judd
Douglas Scott
Bruce Sashaw

Cappelleto Design Group
Wayne Pledger
Bill Stephen
Pat St. Michel
Dale Bracewell
Liz Abbink
Paul Montpelier
Joe Dingwall