



800 Robson Street Plaza Update

February 13, 2019
Council Presentation

Margaret Wittgens
Director Public Space
& Street Use

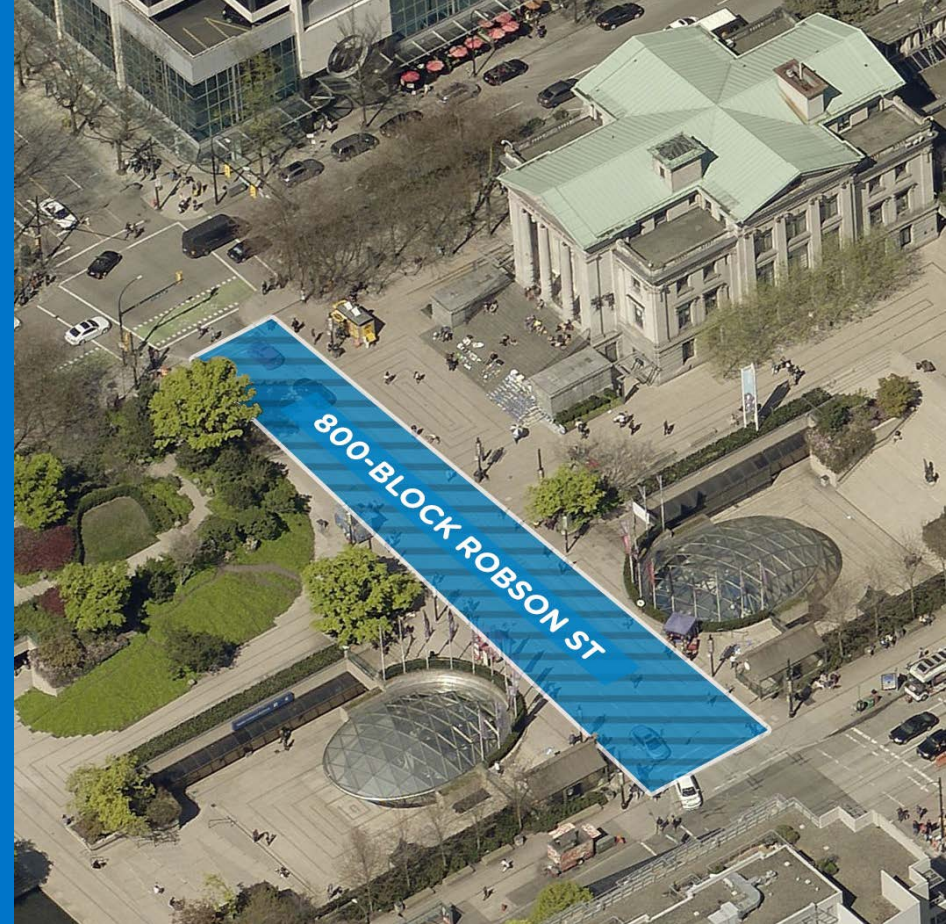
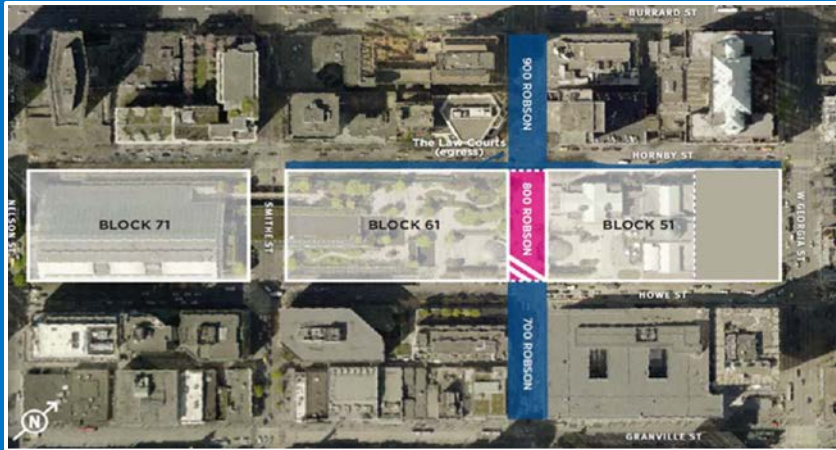
Further to December 18, 2018 Council decision to defer project funding for 800 Robson Plaza and direction to seek partner funding,

Today we will:

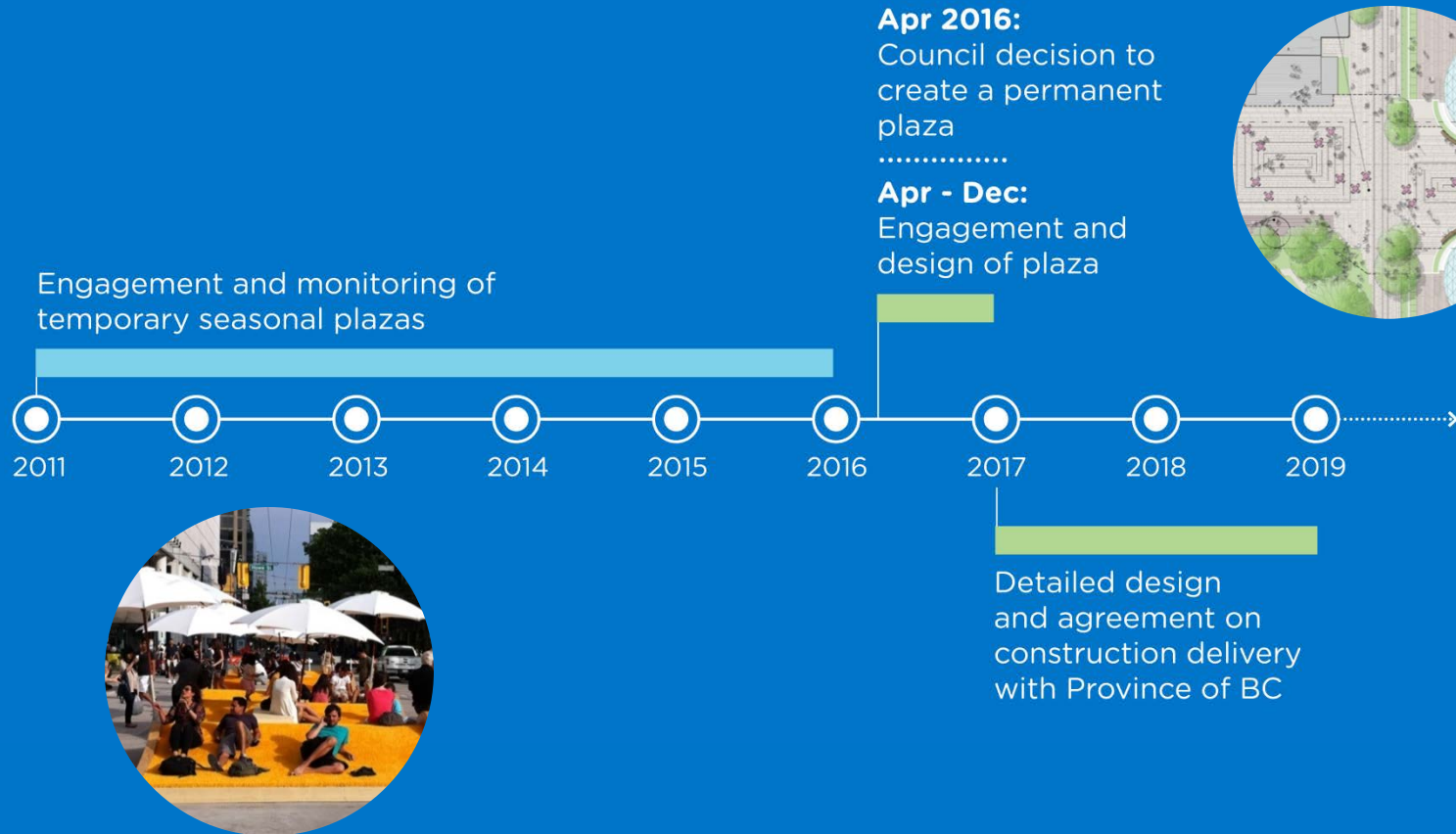
- provide more information on the project
- update on recent stakeholder input
- present revised funding approach

800 Robson | Background & Context

City-serving public space with high social and cultural value, and a regional destination drawing residents and visitors to the heart of the city for creative expression, relaxation, and enjoyment.



800 Robson | Background & Context





Transportation 2040 Plan:
Create public spaces and gathering places throughout the city.



Healthy City Strategy:
Social connections and sense of belonging through Public Spaces



Engaged City Task Force:
Building community through public space activation



Greenest City Action Plan:
Planning for safe and enjoyable public spaces

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A permanent, high quality public realm at 800 Robson will serve to benefit our health, generate economic activity and foster improved social connections.

Since December 2018, Staff have heard from a number of stakeholders, including:

- Downtown Vancouver BIA
- Vancouver Public Space Network
- Coastal Jazz
- West End BIA
- UBC Robson Square
- Robson Street BIA
- Asian Canadian Special Events Association
- Happy City
- Public Space Stakeholders
- Residents / Others

Public space is critical for livability and affordability

"A place like Robson Square acts as the City's living room – especially for many of those dealing with the very affordability issues that you are rightly concerned about."

Years of engagement contributed to design

"This initiative [has] been created from a powerful process of community engagement, resulting in an integrated plan to build a welcoming public gathering place in the heart of our bustling City."

Current temporary state is not adequate

"The current temporary state of the street does not support the promised vision – that of an increased sense of safety through improved lighting, animation through programming activities, or available infrastructure needed to support cultural performances."

800 Robson | Permanent Plaza – Key Components



Safety for All:

- Enhanced active transportation and integration
- Lighting
- Level surface



Accessible & Inclusive:

- Flexible space offers year round programming



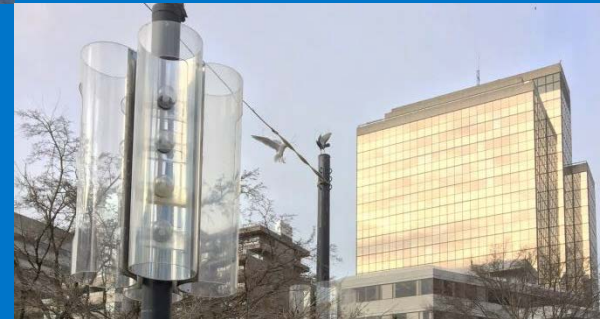
Greener:

- Service connections (no need for generators)
- Site drainage

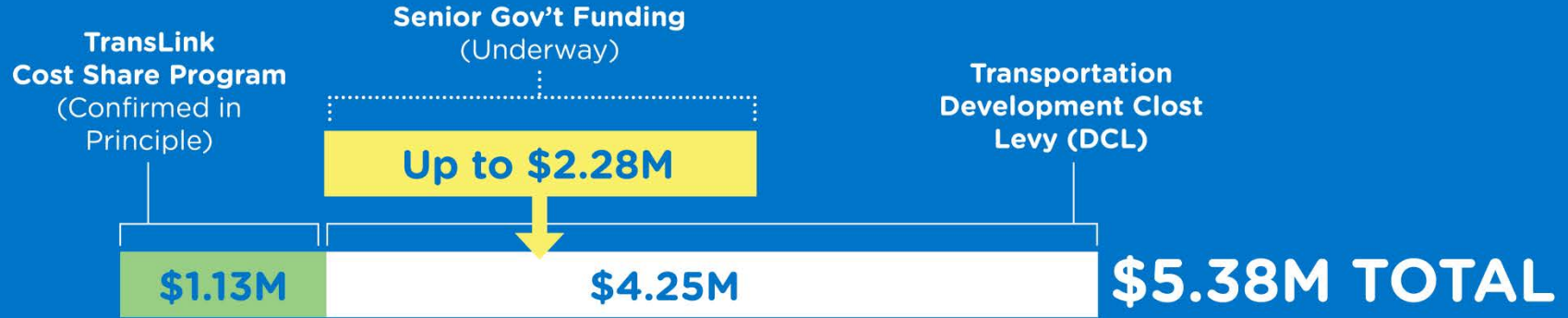


Ongoing Stewardship:

- Programming, operations & maintenance



800 Robson | Revised Funding Approach



City's portion of funding total will be lowered as senior government funding is confirmed, including:

- Federal Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (underway)
- Provincial BikeBC (underway)

The use of Transportation DCLs ensures project is not competing with funding that could be directed to housing.

Private sector partnerships to focus on programming & sponsorship

800 Robson | Recommendation

THAT Council direct staff to continue with delivery of the 800 Robson Plaza, providing a place for connection, artistic expression, and recreation in the heart of the City.

THAT, subject to approval of Recommendation A, Council approve a capital project and corresponding multi-year capital project budget and 2019 Annual Capital Expenditure of \$5,380,000 for 800 Robson Plaza Upgrade; source of funding to be:

- \$4.25 million Development Cost Levy (DCL) from the 2019-2022 Capital Plan (Transportation), and
- Reallocation of \$1.13 million TransLink funding from the 2019 Active Transportation Corridors & Spot Improvements program.

800 Robson | Design Concept

