



REPORT

Report Date: May 24, 2022
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Meeting Date: June 8, 2022
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Sites for 2022 Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Program

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to designate certain public places over which the City has jurisdiction as places where liquor may be consumed;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment by Council a By-law to amend the City Land Regulation By-law to designate these places, generally as set out in Appendix A.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report outlines six plaza locations recommended for inclusion in the 2022 Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Program. Building on pilots in 2020 and 2021, and the Council-approved Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Policy, this year's program will run from June 15 to October 16, 2022.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

March 30, 2022: Council approved the Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Policy and further directed staff to consult with VANDU and Eastside Illicit Drinkers Group for Education (EIDGE) about their proposal for a peer-staffed outdoor drinking space in the Downtown Eastside as a form of alcohol harm reduction.

July 6, 2021: Council approved, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow a pilot for liquor consumption in three additional public plazas from July 15 to October 11, 2021, and instructed staff to bring the by-law forward for enactment.

May 18, 2021: Council approved, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow a pilot for liquor consumption in three public plazas from May 31 to October 11, 2021, and instructed staff to bring the by-law forward for enactment.

March 30, 2021: Council directed staff to revisit the 2020 alcohol consumption pilot to consider timely reactivation of last summer's pilot plazas, and add any new locations that might equitably support local food and drink services that cannot otherwise provide patio spaces, as well as safe social gathering for Vancouverites.

July 29, 2020: Council approved, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow a pilot for liquor consumption in four public plazas, and instructed staff to bring the by-law forward for enactment. Staff were also directed to report back in Q2 2021 on the feasibility of enabling licensed restaurants to allow patrons to consume an alcoholic beverage while waiting for a table adjacent to the food establishment.

June 23, 2020: Council directed staff to prepare a by-law pursuant to Section 73 subsections (2), (3) and (4) of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act, to allow a pilot for liquor consumption in select public places under jurisdiction of the City. Staff were directed to create limited spaces for responsible consumption of alcohol in public, and to consult with VPD, VCH, internal stakeholders, local Business Improvement Associations and businesses, to recommend appropriate locations and hours for consumption of alcohol in specified public spaces.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

Proposed 2022 Locations

Following Council approval of the Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas policy, staff requested proposals from existing plaza partners via an 'Expression of Interest' process. Proposed sites were evaluated against partner and locational criteria established in the policy. The sites were also shared with VPD and VCH for review, and no concerns were expressed. Six sites are being brought forward for Council's consideration, including one new site (Main & 21st Plaza) and five sites returning from previous pilot seasons.

Recommended sites:

- Main & 21st Plaza
Location West block of E 21st Ave. at Main St.
Partners: Coco et Olive café, Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, residents

- Cambie & 17th Plaza
Location: East block of W 17th Ave. at Cambie St.
Partner: Cambie Village Business Association (CVBA)
- Granville & 13th Plaza
Location: West block of W 13th Ave. at Granville St.
Partner: South Granville Business Improvement Association (SGBIA)
- Granville & 14th Plaza
Location: East block of W 14th Ave. at Granville St.
Partner: South Granville Business Improvement Association (SGBIA)
- Maple & 4th Plaza
Location: South block of Maple St. at W 4th Ave.
Partner: Kitsilano West 4th Avenue Business Improvement Association
- Lot 19 Plaza
Location: 855 W Hastings St.
Partner: Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA)
(supported by EasyPark)

See the draft by-law in Appendix A for maps of locations and designated areas at each plaza. The program is proposed to run from 11am to 9pm daily between June 15 and October 16, 2022. Staff will continue to work closely with plaza partners to ensure sites remain safe, welcoming, and well maintained, and will engage with other stakeholders including VPD and VCH as relevant.

Public Input

Staff collected considerable public and stakeholder feedback through the 2020 and 2021 pilots that informed this continued program. Should the sites be supported by Council, staff will have regular communication with partners and will track all related public and stakeholder feedback for the program duration. This feedback will be used to inform implementation of the program in future years.

Financial

City costs for implementation of needed infrastructure such as portable washrooms, program signage, and other site specific needs will be managed within existing Engineering budgets. The 2022 program is estimated to cost up to approximately \$10,000 for the duration of the program. These costs do not include staff time.

Legal

Section 73 of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act (BC) gives the City the authority to designate, by by-law, public places as places where liquor may be consumed, subject to certain requirements as set out in the Act and the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation.

CONCLUSION

The Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Program builds on the success of two pilot seasons. Through the implementation of these recommendations for 2022, the City will temporarily allow public drinking in six designated plazas that will be managed in close collaboration with partners and other key stakeholders.

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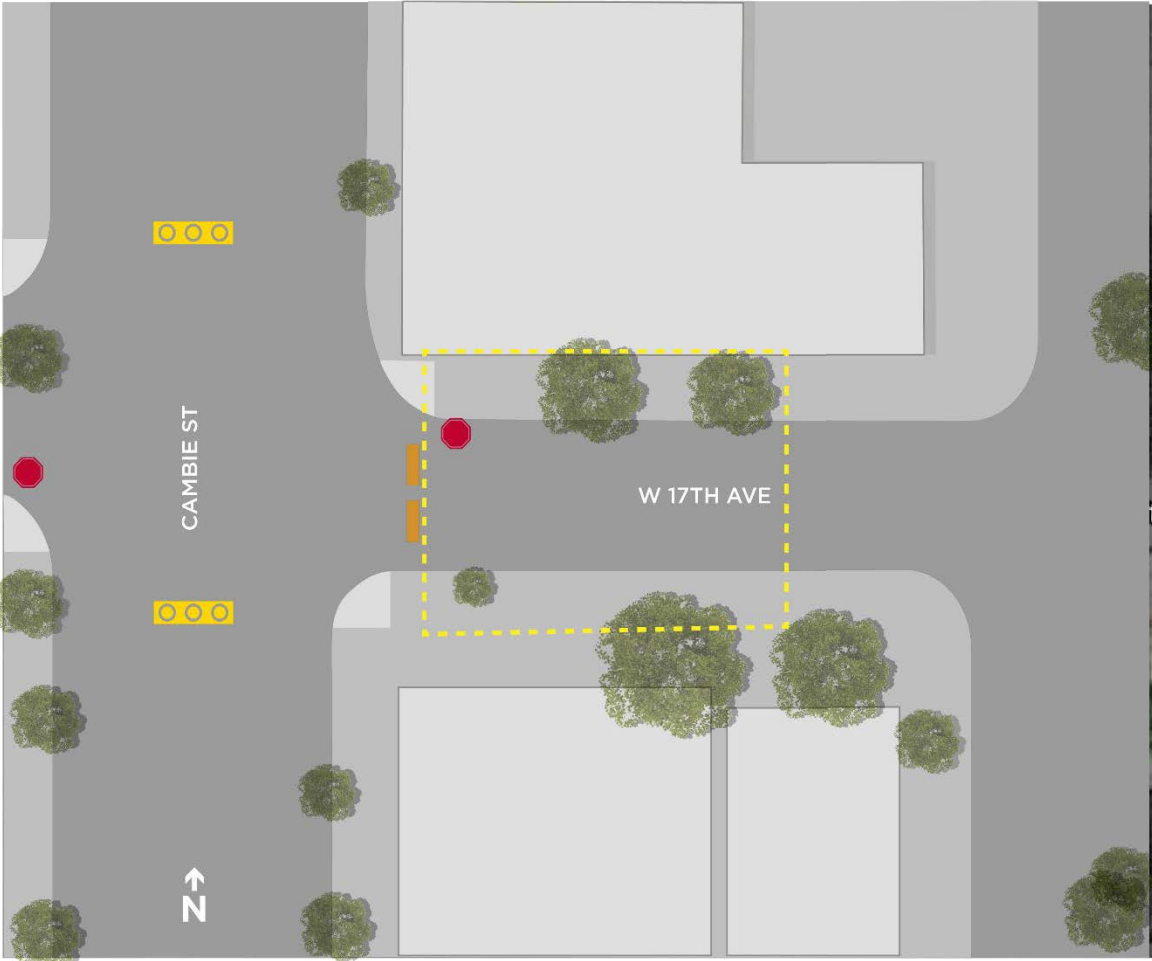
[APPENDIX A]

Schedule I
City Land Where Liquor May be Consumed

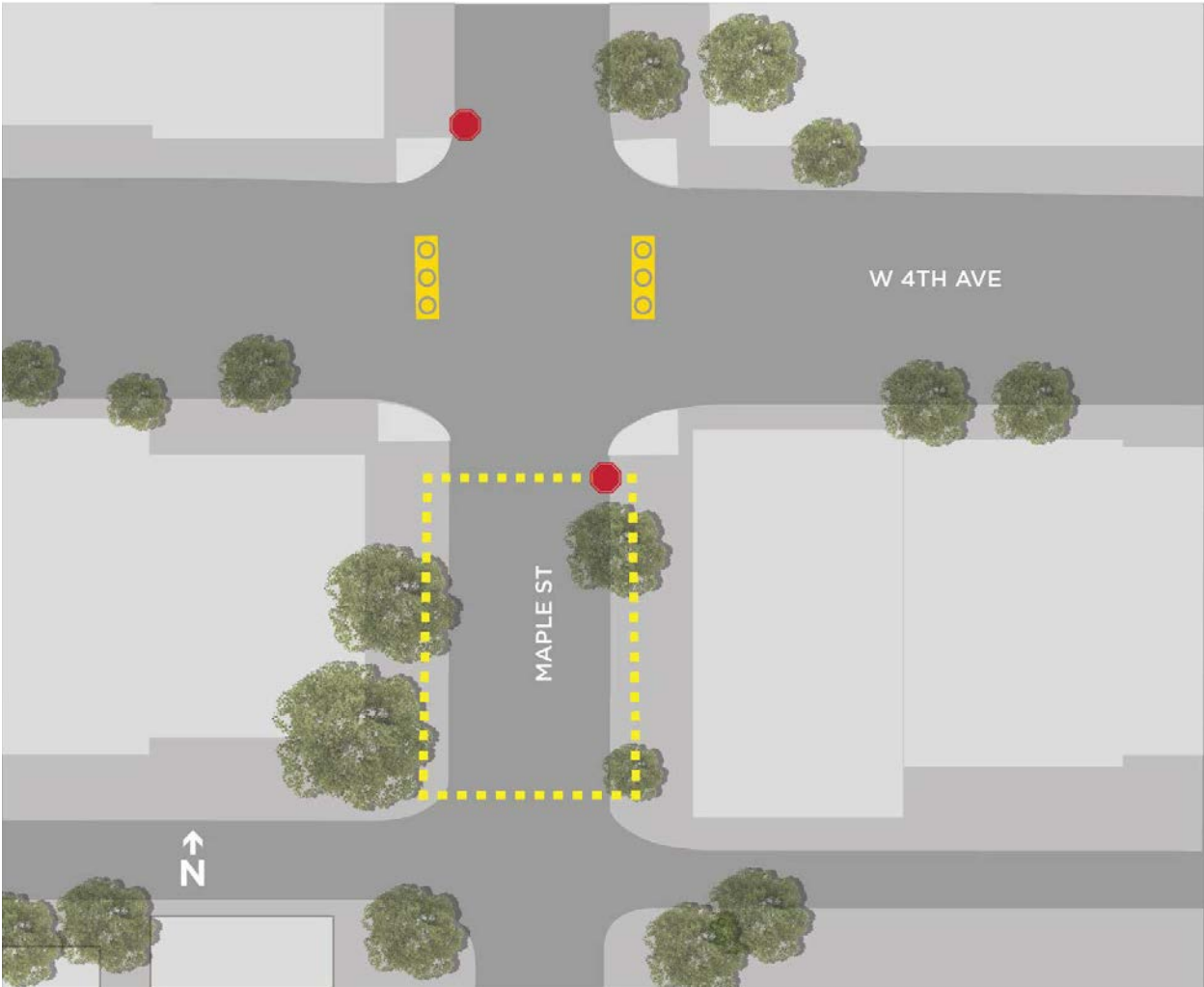
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Designated area 2



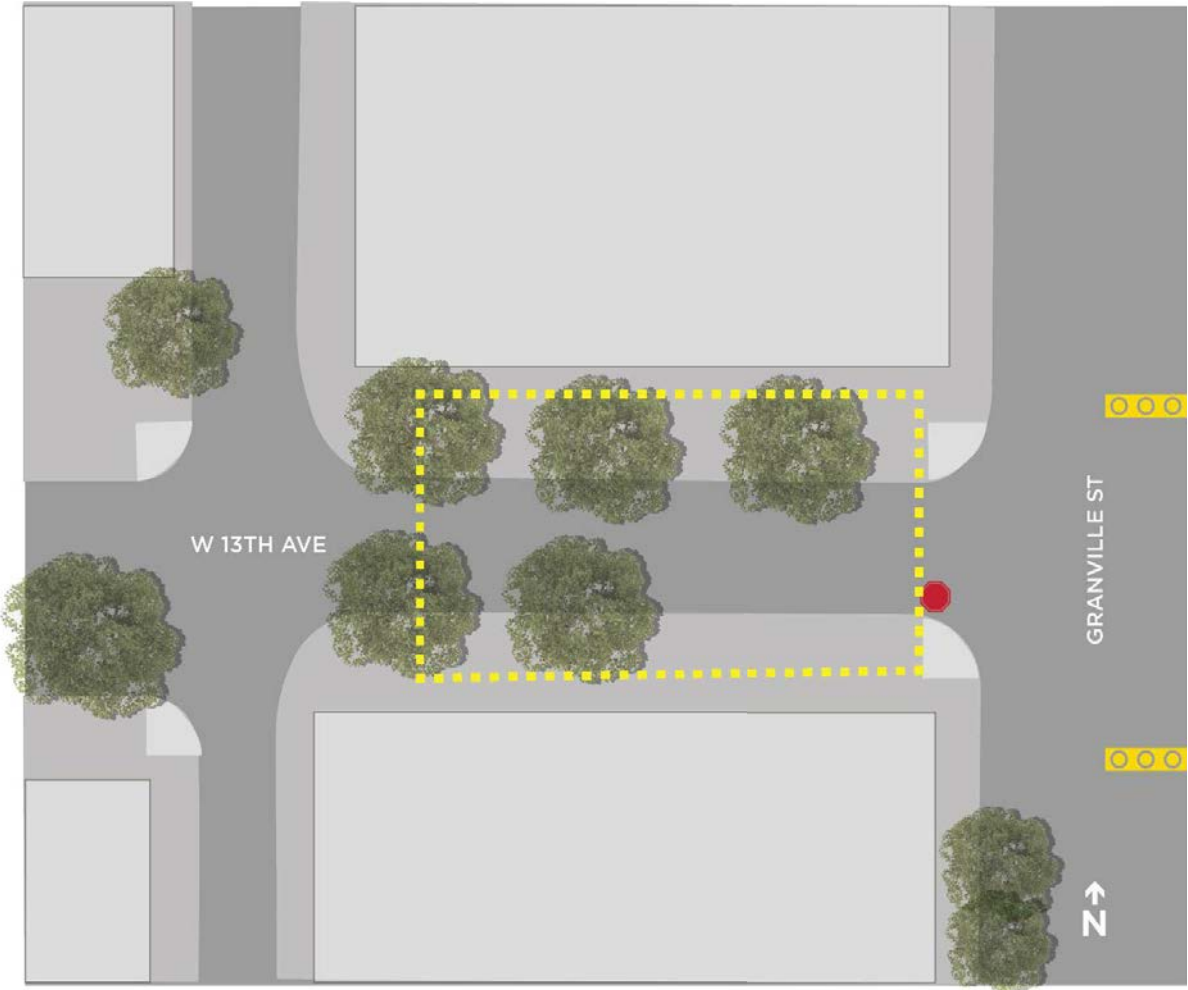
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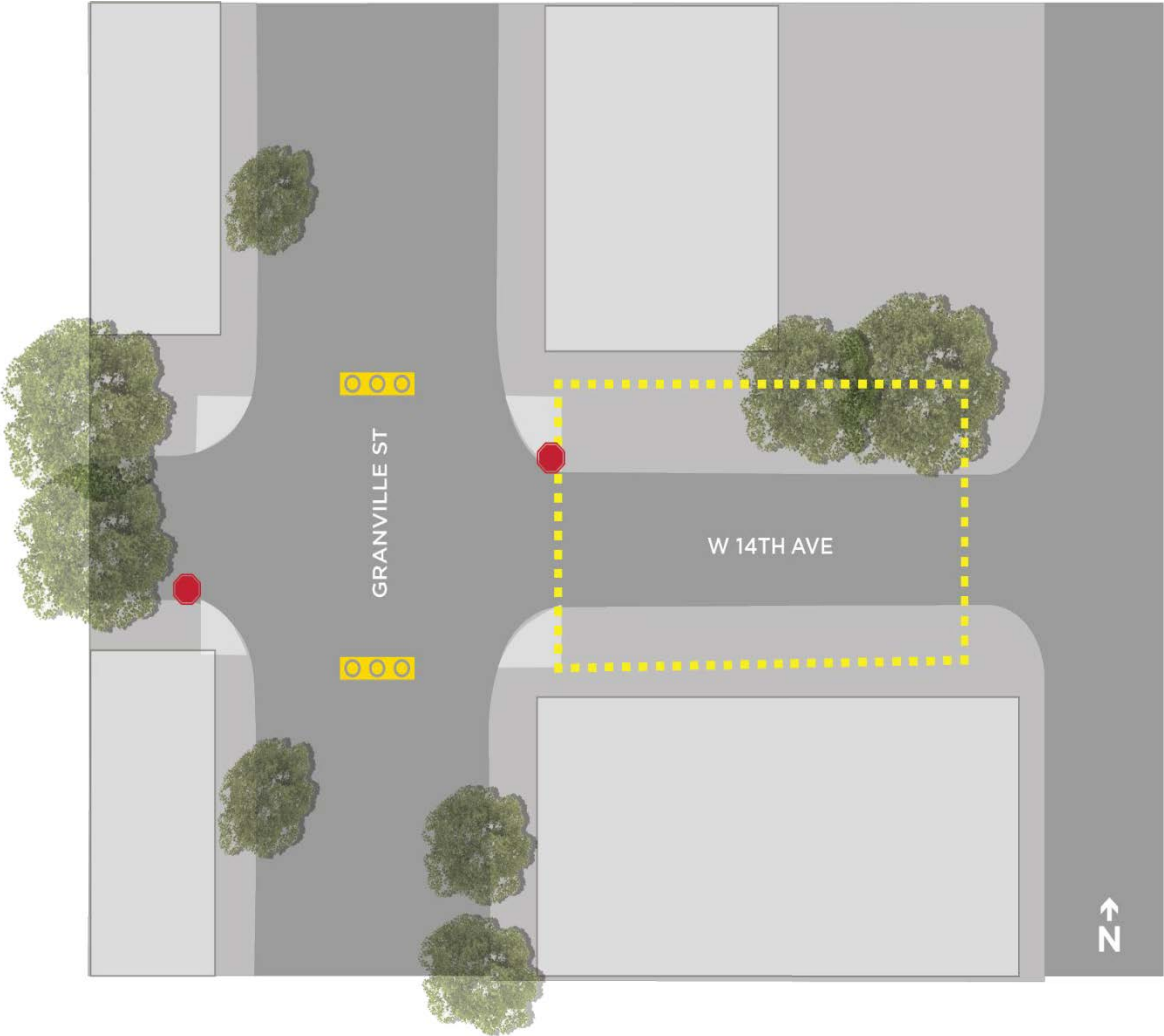
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Designated area 5



Designated area 6



Designated area 7

