



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: March 19, 2025
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: April 15, 2025
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Sites for 2025 Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Program

Recommendations

- A. 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.
- B. 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.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report outlines eight plaza locations recommended for the 2025 Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Program. Based on requests from community plaza partners, the program will operate on a year-round or seasonal basis at different locations.

Council Authority/Summary of Previous Decisions

See Appendix B for a full list of Council decisions.

- [2024](#): Council approved amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow liquor consumption in one public plaza seasonally, six public plazas year round, and one parklet for 3 years.

- **2023:** Council approved amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow liquor consumption in one public plaza seasonally and in six public plazas year-round.
- **2022:** Council approved the Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Policy and amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow alcohol consumption in six public plazas seasonally, and in one public plaza and one parklet year-round.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

Background

Directed by Council, staff piloted the Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Program to enable seasonal public alcohol consumption in public plazas in 2020 and 2021. In 2022 Council adopted the *Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Policy* based on positive public space monitoring, strong public support for the program (92% in a 2021 survey), reported benefits to community partners, and an absence of any health or safety issues observed or raised by stakeholders (VPD and VCH) in previous years. The Policy outlines a framework for the Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Program to operate, and the 2025 program follows this Policy's recommendations.

2025 Process

In early 2025, staff invited plaza partners to express interest in permitting alcohol consumption in the plazas. Plaza partners requested alcohol consumption at eight sites, and staff have reviewed them based on the criteria established in the *Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Policy*.

The ability to secure public access to washrooms was a critical criterion of site viability. All proposed sites will have access to washrooms: some will have a portable washroom in the plaza, and others will have signage directing visitors to a nearby park washroom, library washroom, or a publicly accessible washroom within a commercial property. Washroom service hours similarly determine which hours residents can consume alcohol in the proposed plazas, with permissible hours adjusted to the seasonal hours of nearby park washrooms, commercial property hours, and hours when community plaza partners are able to lock and unlock portable washrooms in the plazas.

Staff recommend continuing to offer two program streams for plazas: one for seasonal participation and one for year-round. There were no concerns or public feedback with this approach last year, and staff have no concerns with continuing this approach as long as it is done in accordance with the *Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Policy*, i.e. staff monitoring of plazas, washroom access is maintained, and community plaza partners are able to co-manage.

Recommended Sites:*Public Plazas – Year-round (May 15, 2025 to May 14, 2026):*

- Main & 21st Neighbourhood Plaza – *returning site*
Location: West block of E 21st Ave. at Main St.
Partners: Coco et Olive café, Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, residents
Washroom access: Prince Edward Park Public Washroom (400 metres away)
- Cambie & 17th Neighbourhood Plaza – *returning site*
Location: East block of W 17th Ave. at Cambie St.
Partner: Cambie Village Business Association
Washroom access: on-site temporary portable washroom
- Cambie & 18th Neighbourhood Plaza – *returning site*
Location: West block of W 18th Ave. at Cambie St.
Partner: Cambie Village Business Association
Washroom access: via on-site temporary portable washroom at Cambie & 17th Plaza (170 metres away)
- Granville & 13th Neighbourhood Plaza – *returning site*
Location: West block of W 13th Ave. at Granville St.
Partner: South Granville Business Improvement Association
Washroom access: Granville Park Public Washroom (350 metres away)
- Granville & 14th Neighbourhood Plaza – *returning site*
Location: East block of W 14th Ave. at Granville St.
Partner: South Granville Business Improvement Association
Washroom access: Granville Park Public Washroom (260 metres away)
- Lot 19 – *returning site*
Location: 855 W Hastings St.
Partner: Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association
Washroom access: publicly accessible washrooms in nearby food courts (20 metres away)
- Sasamat & 10th Neighbourhood Plaza – *new site*
Location: South block of Sasamat St. at 10th Ave.
Partner: Point Grey Business Improvement Association
Washroom access: Vancouver Public Library – West Point Grey Branch (100 metres away), West Point Grey Park (450 metres away)

Public Plazas - Seasonal (May 15 to October 16, 2025):

- Maple & 4th Neighbourhood Plaza – *returning site*
Location: South block of Maple St. at W 4th Ave.
Partner: Kitsilano West 4th Avenue Business Improvement Association
Washroom access: on-site temporary portable washroom

The draft by-law in Appendix A includes maps of plaza locations, designated areas where alcohol consumption is allowed and operating hours at each location. The program's hours mirror the operating hours of the nearby washrooms.

Discussion

Staff have no concerns regarding the suitability of any of the proposed sites for alcohol consumption. Staff will continue to work closely with the partners to ensure sites remain safe, welcoming, and well maintained. Staff will also continue supporting Drinker's Lounge partners throughout their 3-year alcohol consumption extended permit (2024 - 2027).

Similar to previous years, City signage in each plaza will clearly indicate public alcohol consumption hours, direct visitors to the nearest washroom, and invite residents to provide feedback to staff via 311 and email via plazas@vancouver.ca.

Financial Implications

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 cost will be reassessed if more plazas join in upcoming years and there is a need to increase the number of portable washrooms.

Legal Implications

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.

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APPENDIX A

DRAFT By-law to amend the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 Regarding Consumption of Liquor on City Land (2025)

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, in public meeting, enacts as follows:

1. This by-law amends the indicated provisions of the City Land Regulation By-law.
2. Council strikes out section 4C(a) and (b) and substitutes the following:

“

 - (a) from May 15, 2025 to May 14, 2026 in designated areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, between the hours of:
 - (i) 11:00 am and 9:00 pm from May 15, 2025 to October 16, 2025, and
 - (ii) 11:00 am and 5:00 pm from October 17, 2025 to May 14, 2026;
 - (b) from May 15, 2025 to October 16, 2025 in designated area 9, between the hours of 11:00 am and 9:00 pm.”.
3. Council strikes out Schedule 1 and substitutes a new Schedule 1 as attached to this by-law as Appendix A.
4. This by-law is to come into force and take effect on May 15, 2025.

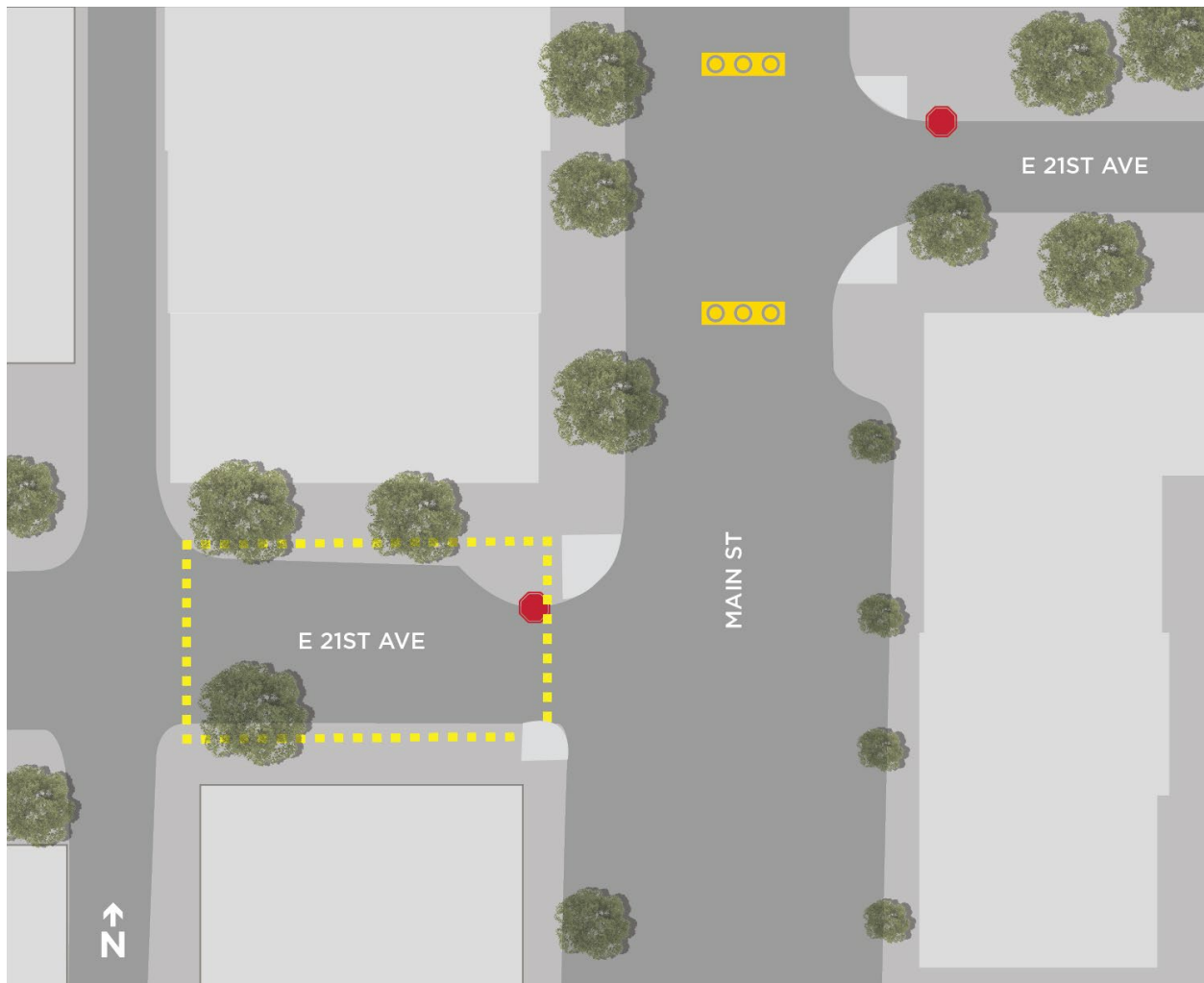
ENACTED by Council this day of , 2025

Mayor

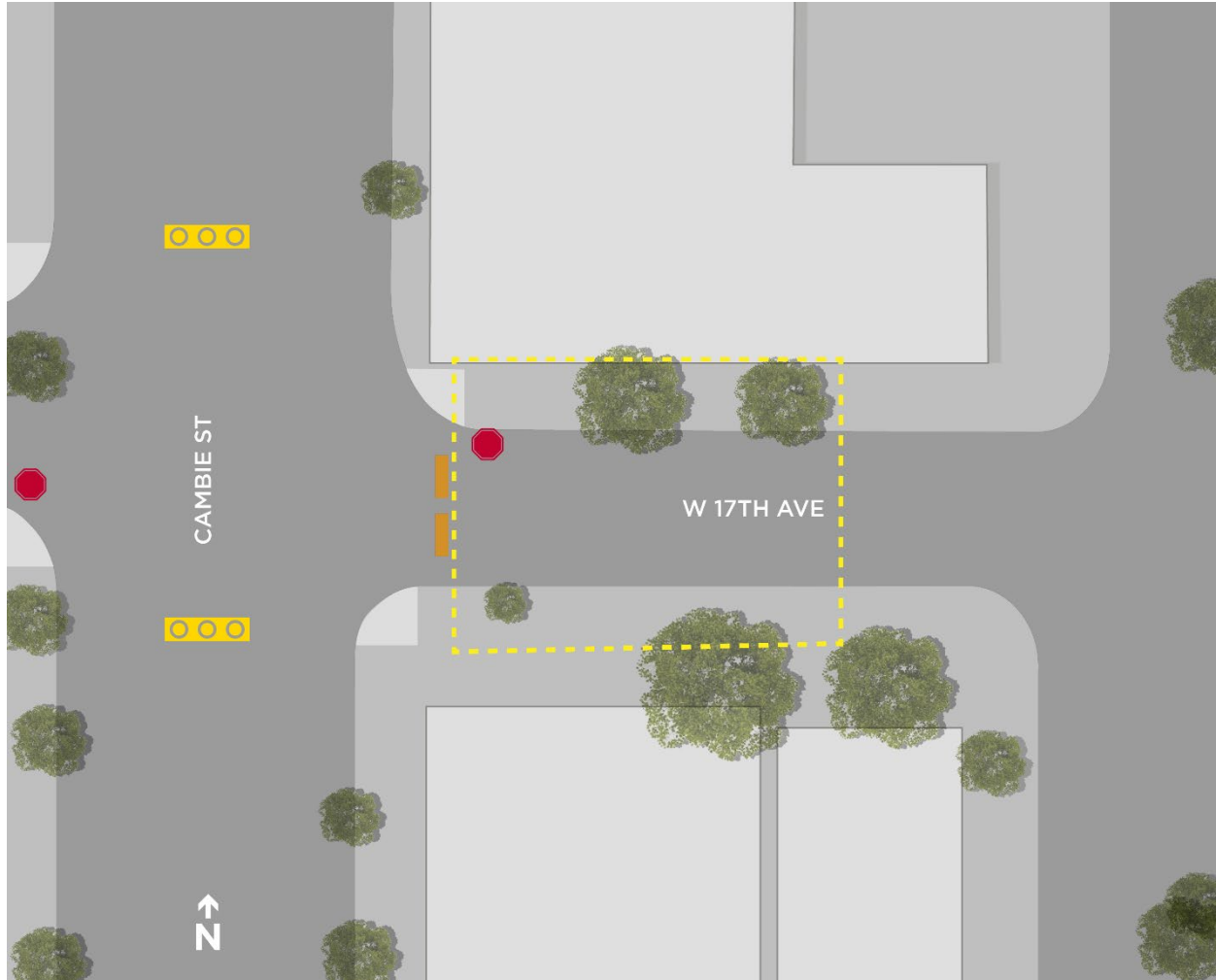
City Clerk

Schedule I
City Land Where Liquor May be Consumed

Designated area 1
Main & 21st Neighbourhood Plaza



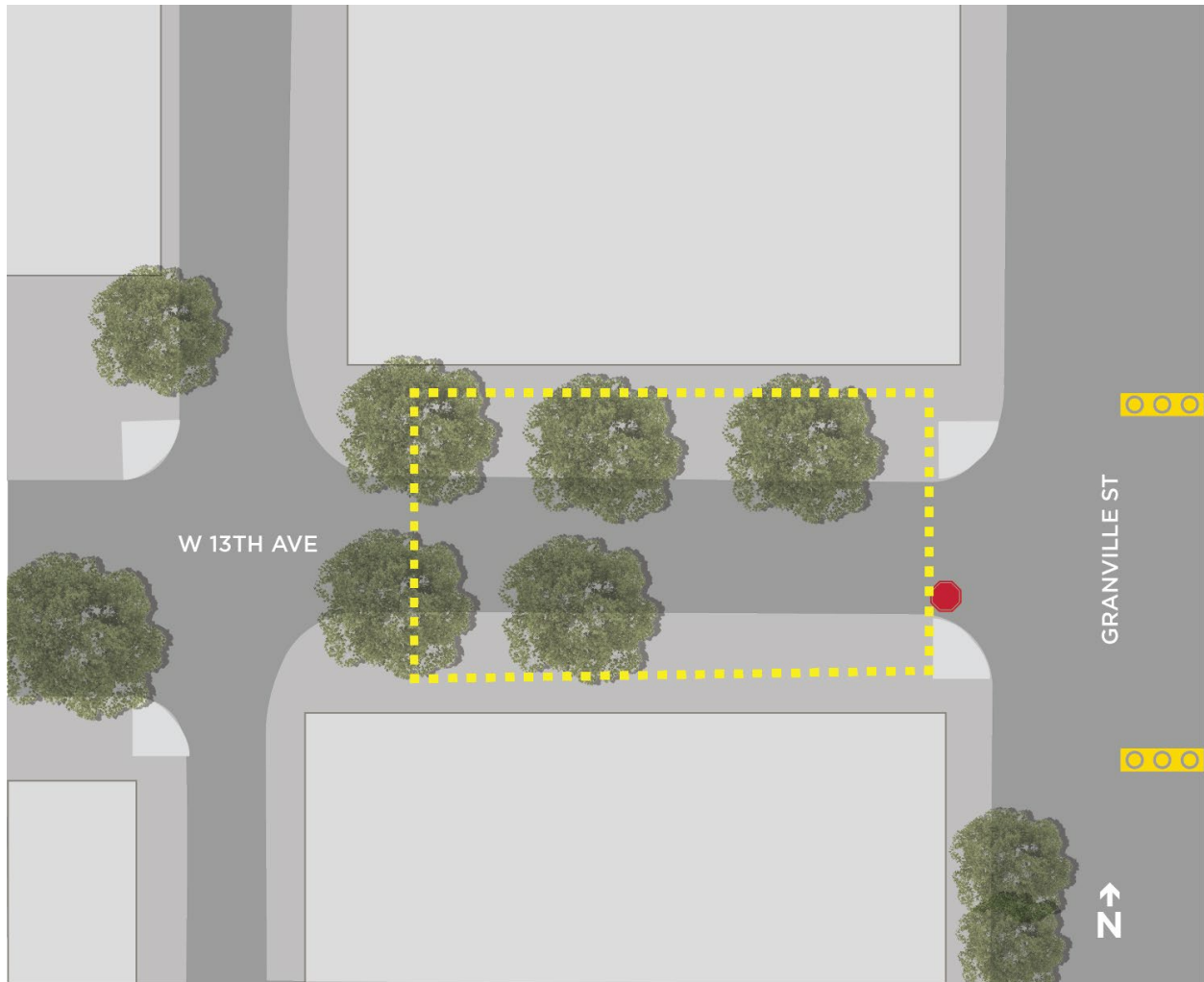
Designated area 2
Cambie & 17th Neighbourhood Plaza



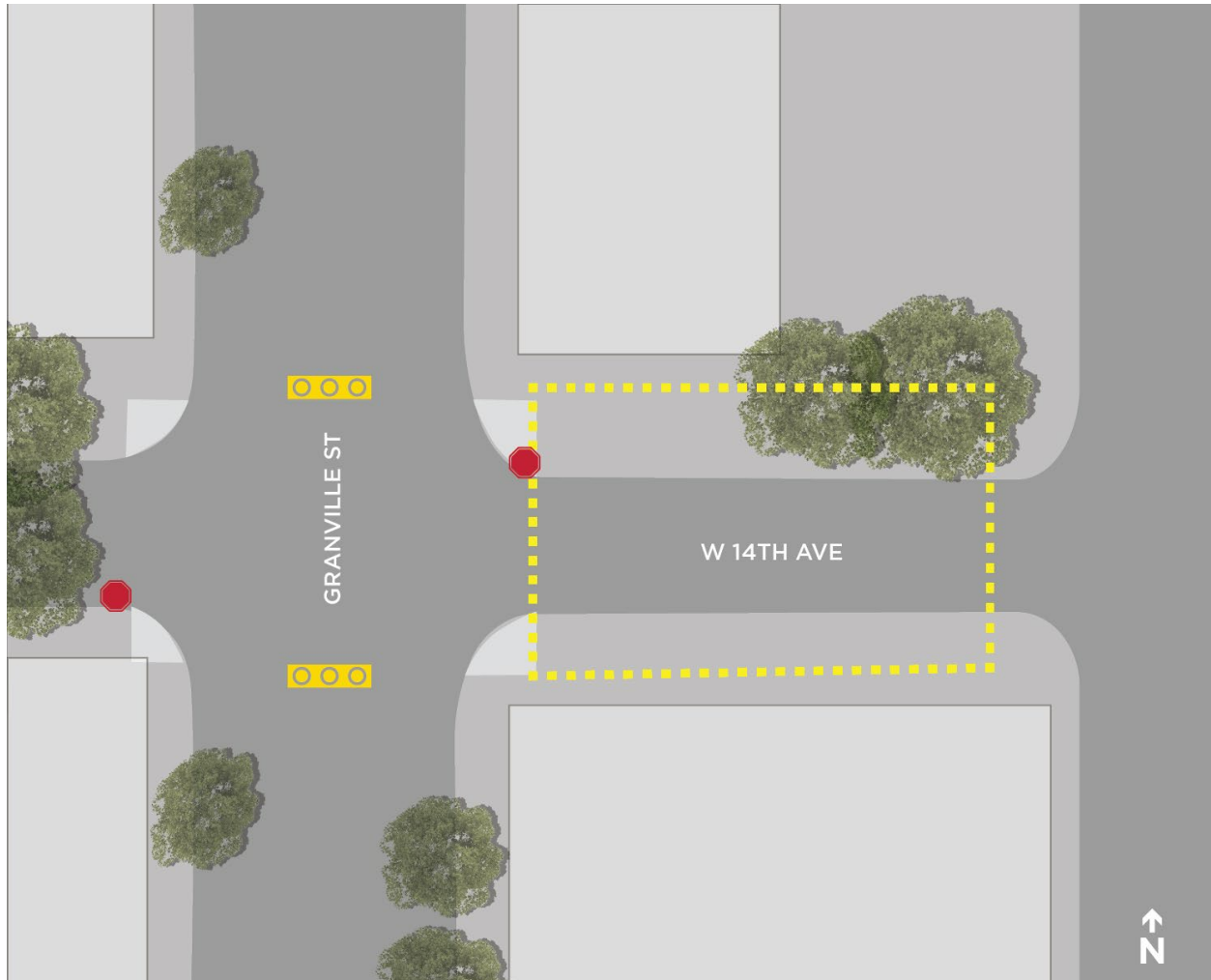
Designated area 3
Cambie & 18th Neighbourhood Plaza



Designated area 4
Granville & 13th Neighbourhood Plaza



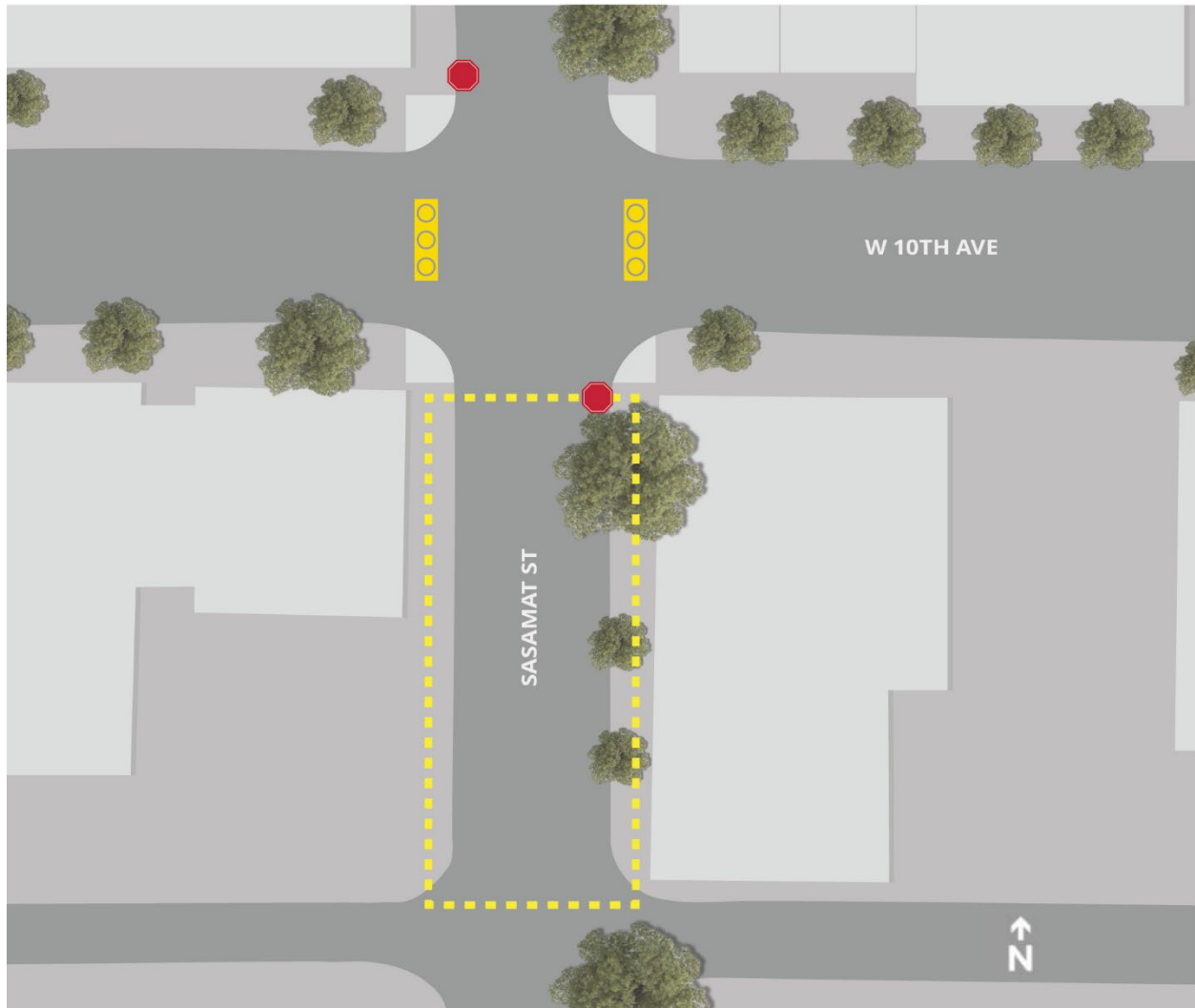
Designated area 5
Granville & 14th Neighbourhood Plaza



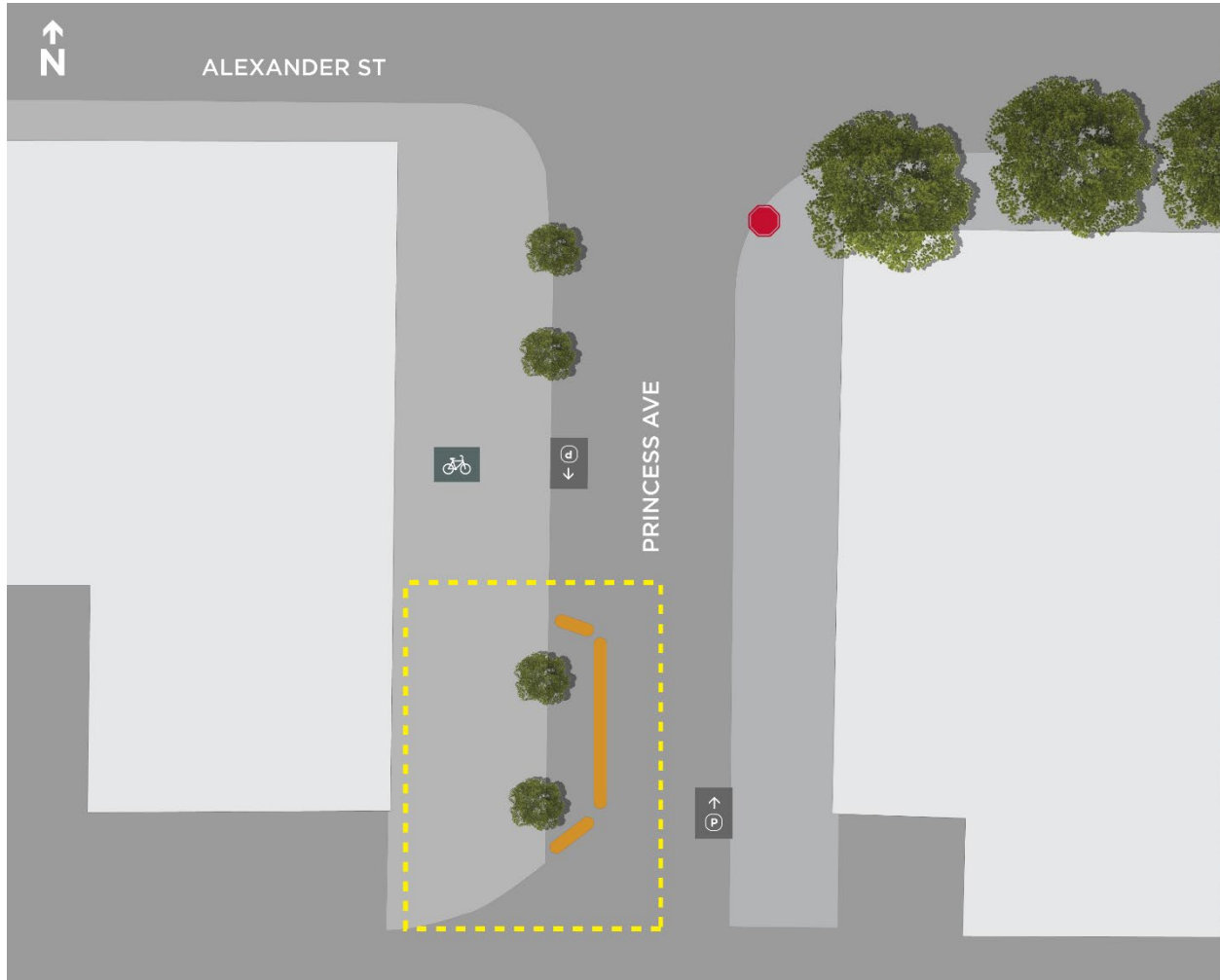
Designated area 6
Lot 19



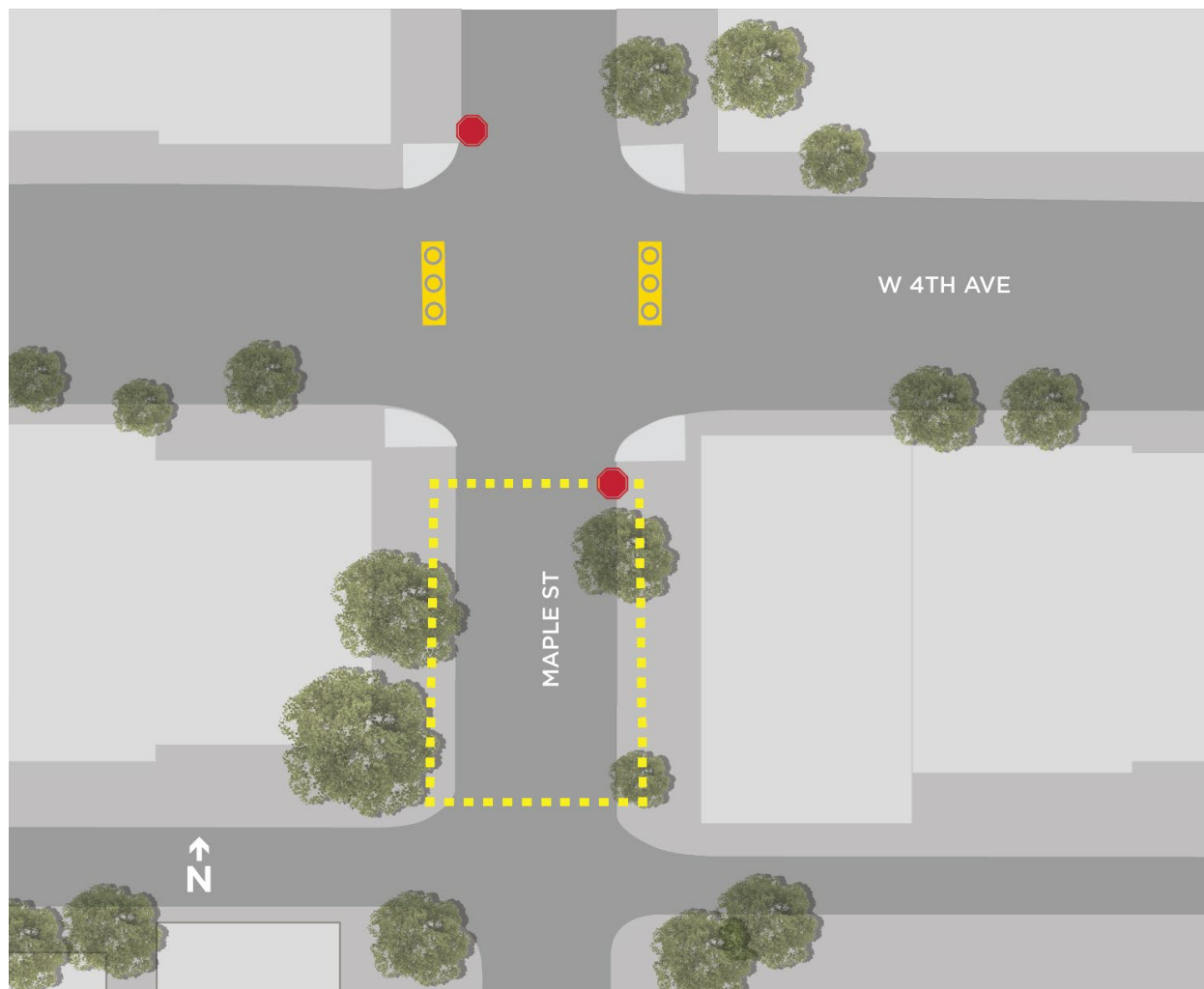
Designated area 7
Sasamat & 10th Neighbourhood Plaza



Designated area 8
111 Princess Ave



Designated area 9
Maple & 4th Neighbourhood Plaza



APPENDIX B

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

April 9, 2024: Council approved amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow liquor consumption in one public plaza from May 15 to October 16, 2023, in six public plazas year round, and to extend the Drinker's Lounge permitted alcohol consumption at 111 Princess to May 15, 2027, and instructed staff to bring the by-law forward for enactment.

April 11, 2023: Council approved, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow liquor consumption in one public plaza from May 15 to October 16, 2023, and in six public plazas year round, and instructed staff to bring the by-law forward for enactment.

May 24, 2022: Council approved, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow liquor consumption in six public plazas from June 15 to October 10, 2022, and instructed staff to bring the by-law forward for enactment.

March 30, 2022: Council approved the Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Policy and approved, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to extend the Drinker's Lounge liquor consumption at 111 Princess to March 31, 2024, and instructed staff to bring the by-law forward for enactment. Further, council 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.

December 8, 2021: Council approved, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to extend the Drinker's Lounge pilot at 111 Princess to March 31, 2022, and instructed staff to bring the by-law forward for enactment.

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 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 to extend the Drinker's Lounge pilot to 7 days a week until December 31, 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.

February 24, 2021: Council approved, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow a pilot for liquor consumption at a proposed parklet at 111 Princess (Drinker's Lounge) from March 1 to July 31, 2021, and instructed staff to bring the by-law forward for enactment. Council also approved a Social Policy grant totalling \$25,000 to the PHS Community Services Society to support the pilot, and directed staff to report back in Q2 2021 on the implementation and considerations for extension.

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.