



City Creating Physical Distancing on Local Streets

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City is creating more usable space for pedestrians along local streets to ensure people can practise physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We want people to be safe and comfortable when they are out and about,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “By creating additional designated pedestrian zones near important services, we can relieve pinch points and allow people to remain active.”

Starting this Thursday in James Bay, the City will be temporarily restricting on-street parking on Simcoe Street, between Government and Oswego, and for half a block of Menzies Street approaching the Five Corners retail complex. This will give pedestrians more space to practise physical distancing when out walking and shopping.

The zone will be defined with bollards, signs and paint markings to make it easy to locate. Letters are being delivered to all residents and businesses along the affected areas to make them aware of the temporary measures and to thank them for their cooperation. The City is also working with the neighbourhood association to help notify residents.

Following the first location this week in James Bay, temporary physical distancing zones will be established in other city neighbourhoods near areas with grocery stores, pharmacies and other essential services. Changes will also be introduced in Quadra Village, Cook Street Village, Fairfield and Vic West in the coming weeks.

City staff are prioritizing high-traffic locations with narrow sidewalks. Each location will have a customized plan that maintains transit stops and vehicle circulation and crosswalks.

The City’s transportation department is also working with private development sites to provide more space to pedestrians adjacent to construction zones and installing new signs at transit shelters and at the Johnson Street Bridge multi-use and pedestrian pathways promoting physical distancing.

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For More Information:

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