

New Public Spaces

By reconfiguring the two intersections into roundabouts, the new roadway geometry has created new areas for public space. Space previously used by vehicle traffic is now available for other public uses.

The major “found” spaces are the areas in front of the Halifax Armoury, the space alongside the remnant wall from the old Protestant’s Orphan’s Home; and at the foot of Citadel Hill. We are also gaining more green space for our boulevards and sidewalks on Cunard Street, North Park Street and Cogswell Street.

Q. How should the new ‘found’ public spaces be used?

a) As an aesthetic, landscaped space to move through.

The street corridor would function as a travel way for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. It would have a landscape treatment with park like greenery such as:

- Grassed boulevards and medians;
- Street trees to continue the tree-lined avenues of Cunard and Cogswell streets adjacent to the Common;
- Planting beds and ornamental vegetation
- Decorative street lighting

b) As a “people place” with opportunities to stop, sit, and socialize.

“People Places” enable the public life of our cities. They are the social spaces in our cities such as city streets, pedestrian plazas and parks where people socialize and interact with each other. They are places where people can enjoy being among people.

In addition to the landscaped treatment of the corridor, we would add amenities like defined seating areas, wider sidewalks, and pedestrian plazas that support social interactions. These spaces could support unstructured activities – strolling, enjoying coffee and conversation with friends.

The street evolves from being just a conduit for moving people and goods to a destination in its own right.

- c) As active gathering places for community events and celebrations.

A gathering place is anywhere that people can congregate, to allow group interaction, whether for entertainment, informal recreation, or simply camaraderie in sharing an event. In addition to being good people places, these spaces can accommodate larger numbers of people for more structured events – watching a parade, listening to music, or attending an event. Public gathering places can be larger outdoor spaces such town squares, pedestrian plazas and parks.

We would add infrastructure, like electrical service and larger spaces to support bigger crowds, tents, food vendors, live music and small performances.