

Imagine Spring Garden Road

Working together to develop a shared vision for a great street in Halifax

Public Meeting September 17th 2018



Imagine Spring Garden Road is a conversation between the public, designers and the city of Halifax to design and build an enhanced streetscape for the city. Over the summer the idea of widened sidewalks was tested thru a “stoplet”. Public engagement took place over the summer thru a Shape Your City survey and on street engagement at the Stoplet. The first public event was held at the City Centre Atlantic on September 17. The purpose of the meeting was to:

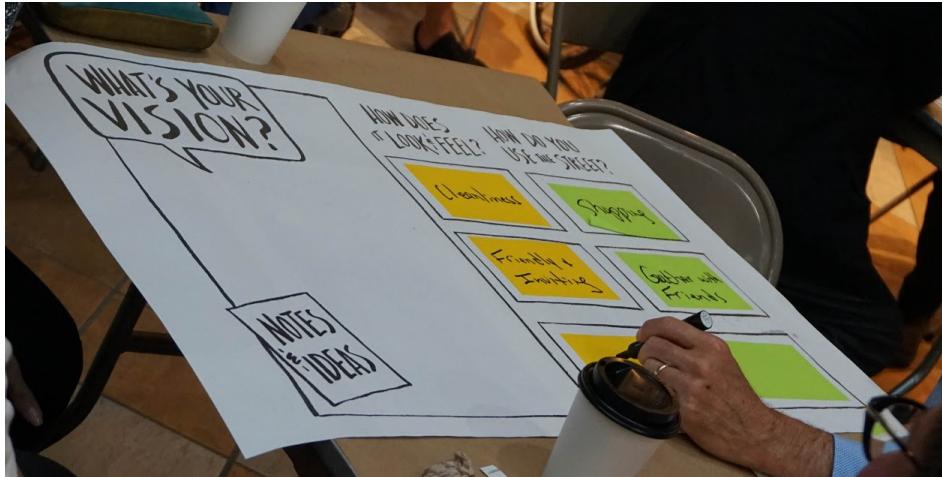
- Orient the public to Imagine Spring Garden Road
- Share relevant context and information to inform public
- Imagine a renewed destination and shape the vision
- Dig Deeper into key issues & streetscaping priorities

The meeting was opened by Wayne Mason, Councilor, District 7, overviewing the current council priorities influencing this project. Elora Wilkenson, Project Lead shared a presentation on the background and timelines for the project. You can find the slideshow [HERE](#).

Vision

We shared a VIDEO of Joe McGuinness, owner of Dirty Nelly’s Irish Pub and Stubborn Goat Gastropub sharing his experience of streetscaping on Argyle St. and the importance of having a shared vision to guide streetscaping.

From there participants were invited to share at their tables around the question “what is your best Spring Garden Road story?” and from there to write down key elements of their vision for the street, answering the questions “how does it look and feel?” and “how do you use the street?” We heard the following themes from the tables.



How does it look and feel?

Visual Congruence

- Cohesive facades and urban elements. Ex. buildings at the same depth, cohesive signage and lighting for businesses
- Keeping with the feeling of the whole city- don't want a really modern street in the middle of the city
- Current- scattered and disorganized. Future- friendlier, warmer design better- more welcoming

Public Art

- Charming colorful signs and place for signage- not blocking sidewalks
- Calming, street musicians, few food and craft vendors, colourful
- Connection to water- water feature, mural

- Current- doesn't feel like a place to be. Future- safety, more open, music

Welcoming, inclusive and Lively

- Inviting and welcoming
- Friendly and inviting
- Comfortable- less crowded, welcoming/ warm, elegant/edgy
- People friendly (make it easier to walk up and down)
- Like a neighbourhood, the Stoplet helps
- Everyone feels welcome- including panhandlers
- Inclusive
- Lively and interactive

Cleaner

- Most important street in Halifax, have to do it right, I want it to be clean and beautiful
- Cleanliness
- Brighter, cleaner, happier
- Clean (panhandlers, cig butts, garbage). More police

Lighting

- Lights- natural, street lights, strung lights

Safety and Security

- Safer pedestrian experience. More distinguished crosswalks, wider sidewalks, better lighting for people
- Non-criminal activity
- More security (lighting, foot patrol, police, crosswalks)

Wider Sidewalks and No Wires

- No wiring, wide sidewalks
- Wider sidewalks and wider green spaces
- Pedestrian friendly with wider sidewalks and limiting traffic
- Wider sidewalks

Transit priority and Fewer cars

- Quieter (less bus noise)
- Sweeter smelling (less diesel)
- Public transit corridor
- Streetcar transit or better transit
- Public transit corridor (with taxis) due to immense traffic during school hours
- Maybe more open to motor vehicles on weekends
- No cars/ motorcycles, too much sound- taxi's ok

Move Buses or Fewer Buses

- No more noisy traffic and bus
- No more stinky from buses
- Move buses out of core zone or restrict stops
- Spacious for active transit users
- Greener, brighter, less buses
- Maintain local vehicles traffic

Reduce Congestion

- One way streets on North/ South streets
- Create zones (loading, panhandler zones) and restrict times

Quality

- High end quality, keep diversity of heritage, feel safe/ clean
- First class quality



How will you use the street?

More Green Space

- Plan towards no cars on Spring Garden- planting more trees
- Build up use of tourism economy- connect heritage and green space
- More trees, more nature and birds, more color
- More inviting green space or trees like the ends (park, library, church etc.)
- Connected to side streets. Better atmosphere on side streets, trees, light, gardens
- Future- green space, streets need to be cleaned
- Garden- extend public gardens, lots of trees, no power lines
- Green- landscape architecture, park feel
- Spring- water fountain, public play fountain. Garden- year round green

Fun, events, social, gather

- Enjoyable place where people have fun, food, ice cream, drinks!
- Allowance for more public activities and events and versatile design
- Social interactive spaces serendipitous to its users
- People watch from the library
- Socializing, play
- Gather with friends
- To watch people, to meet friends

Meeting and Sitting

- More seating- formal and informal
- More people watching opportunities
- Outdoor seating for cafes and resto's
- Stop and sit- need seating/ drinking spilling onto the street)
- Not just a place to walk through- places to sit, benches and tables
- Cafes, seating, meeting places
- Student and friendly/ inclusive sitting areas- creating a space to make people more prompted to stay

Parking

- Valet service for parking (off street)
- Need accessible parking
- Parking while attending gardens, visiting friends who live there
- Creative distribution of accessible parking- coexist with bike lanes etc.

Signage and Wayfinding

- Interactive map (multiple)
- Signs- wayfinding, parks/ public spaces, library, businesses

Transit/ Bus Stops and Walking

- Active transport/ taking a weekend stroll
- Biking and walking to everything
- Between DAL campuses- bus/ bus stops, bike, walk
- More comfortable areas to wait for the bus. Maybe sidewalk widening so there's a better pedestrian flow even when people are waiting for the bus
- Bicycle friendly

Destination

- Historical points of interest (tourists), to attend special events, parades, "Word on the Street"
- Entertainment and dining "The experience"
- Need a municipal museum- place, destination
- Places to stay for a long time (a destination). Ex. remove the vacant

house beside Tim Horton's and make a pocket park with seating

- Flagship street to show off/ discover
- Events all seasons
- As a destination (a place to be and hang out). Family friendly

Everything- 10 minute neighbourhood

- I live on Brenton Street and go to SGR almost everyday. Meet friends, shop, appointments (of all kinds- doctor, dental, eye, hair etc.), have lunch, visit library, public Gardens
- As a living space
- Work/ business/ live
- Living, resident, shopping, entertainment
- Groceries, shopping, socializing, playing, working, relaxing, showing off where I live
- Maintaining and enhancing the 10 minute community
- Banking, shopping, dining out, entertainment, attending church
- Quick easy shopping, yoga, movies. School work outdoors while people watching
- Use the areas services- retail, leisure, general enjoyment

Shopping

- Shopping
- Shopping in unique stores
- Shopping!

Digging Deeper - Poster Sessions

Once the table conversations were complete, participants were invited to contribute their thoughts to:

- **“Key Issues”** that had come up in the surveys (Parking and Loading, Street Involved People, Transit and Traffic, Pedestrian Experience and Accessibility)
- **Priorities for Streetscaping Elements** (Ex: bus shelters, trees and flowers, places to sit, pedestrian lighting, etc.). Everyone was given 6 dots when they arrived the dots were color coded by people's main relationship to the street - (business owners [yellow], employees [red], residents [blue], community members/customers [green]. They were then invited to participate in a dot-mocracy and vote on their top 6 priorities for streetscaping.
- **Vision Statements** that may have emerged at their tables. Participants were also invited to vote on the vision statements that they liked best.

Key Issues

Parking and Loading

- Increase fines for parking in accessible spaces to \$200
- More accessible parking
- Equalize parking rates in parkades and on street to encourage equal use, less complaints
- Pedestrian Queen to South Park
- No drop-off areas. Clear signage to where nearby parking is located
- Loading/ trucks restricted to off-peak cars and pedestrian traffic

Street Involved People

- Please don't discourage street involved folks through design elements- like non-sleepable benches
- All users of the street should feel comfortable and welcome regardless of income or social situation
- Enforce panhandling laws, balanced with reality they will always be around. Pan zones? Sweep the street for \$ and agree not to pan that day

Transit and Traffic

- Indented bus stop by library and indented stop by public gardens only
- Pedestrian- no cars, buses
- Safer bike routes and bike parking
- Library is 3 years old but no sign out front
- Open new bus stop at old library
- Close bus stops between Dresden and Birmingham
- Only local car traffic- 8am-6pm weekdays
- What happened to 1 way for Dresden and Birmingham?
- Pedestrian April to October- bus at P. Gardens, bus at library
- More accessible and less interfering places to wait for the bus- keep foot traffic flowing
- Signs or app showing where parking is and how many available spots
- Too many bus stops
- Move taxi stand to a side street

Pedestrian Experience and Accessibility

- Integrating green spaces that is more than one tree-inclusive/everything green space
- Murals on ugly buildings on Dresden between SGR and Clyde (look them up! Ugly! Sad!)
- Street art- color- paint the street if you need to
- Paint lines so you can see them at crosswalks
- Audible pedestrian signals
- Time to go... Full pedestrian- April to October, less main st Moncton, more

- St. Laurent sidewalk sale & village, Montreal. Increased opportunities for SGR businesses. BBQ fest, community events
- Water bottle refill stations
- More places to sit/park, feel, to eat lunch/ chat with friends
- Tactile indicators at curbs and elevation changes
- Better lit and marked crosswalks not at streetlight intersections
- S. Park/ SGR pride rainbow gets painted but not the legal white crosswalks

Priorities for Streetscaping Elements



Based on the dot-mocracy, the we heard the following priorities

Element	Total	Business Owners	Employees	Residents	Community/ Customers
More trees and flowers	33	2	2	19	10
Places to sit	32	3	1	16	12
Extra commuter and Pedestrian Space	31	3	1	16	11
Better pedestrian lighting	29	4	3	14	8

More space for patios/sidewalk sales	25	1	0	9	15
Bus Shelters	20	1	1	11	7
Accessibility Improvements	18	1	0	7	10
Directional Signage	18	3	2	7	5
Public Art	18	0	2	11	5
Reduce Clutter	18	2	2	10	4
Drinking Fountains	17	2	0	11	4
Use high quality materials for street treatment	17	3	0	7	7
Additional Feature Lighting	16	2	2	6	6
Bury Utility Lines	16	4	2	6	4
Bicycle Parking	11	0	0	4	7
Relocate loading to side streets	11	0	0	7	4
Restrict loading of certain times of day	8	0	0	4	4
Nearby Off-Street Parking	7	1	0	3	3
Nearby On-street Parking	5	1	0	3	1
Additional Item A: Street Art Murals	2	0	0	1	2
On-street loading on Spring Garden Road	2	1	0	1	0
Notice Boards	2	1	0	1	0
Additional Item B: Play Elements (fun)	1	0	0	0	1

Vision Statements

- Atlantic Canada's Main Street (3)
- Where Halifax rolls out the red carpet (1)
- Downtown's Garden Grove (2)

- Transit Hub of the City (aka Truro of Halifax) (0)
- People Watching HQ (2)
- Centre of the South (End) (0)
- The Hub of Everything (5)
- Where Community Meets Culture (4)
- Halifax's Patio (2)

Thank you to everyone who came out to help shape the future of this great street. You can stay informed on www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca