

City Council, Standing Committee and Commission / Conseil, comités permanents et commission

Motion

Meeting date / Date de la réunion : 11 March 2026 / 11 mars 2026

Agenda No. / Ordre du jour no : 34

Item Title / Titre du point de l'ordre du jour : 12.3, Advancing the ByWard Market: A Revitalization Framework and Coordinated Redevelopment Program

Re / Objet : Pedestrianization and bollards

Moved by / Motion de : Councillor S. Plante

Seconded by / Appuyé par: Councillor L. Dudas

WHEREAS the ByWard Market Public Realm Plan was approved unanimously by City Council in January 2021 and establishes a long-term vision for transforming the streets and public spaces into vibrant, people-focused civic places in accordance with the Official Plan; and

WHEREAS Council has reaffirmed its commitment to the revitalization of the ByWard Market and downtown recovery through the City of Ottawa's Strategic Plan and the Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan; and

WHEREAS the ByWard Market Redevelopment Program implements Council direction by advancing a long-term framework for streets and public spaces that prioritize pedestrians, public gathering, and high-quality civic spaces while maintaining necessary access for businesses, residents, deliveries and emergency services; and

WHEREAS the ByWard Market functions as a mixed-use district that relies on a balance of transportation modes and operational flexibility to support local businesses, residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS opportunities exist to test temporary and adaptable approaches to the use of streets and public spaces in advance of permanent capital investments identified in the redevelopment program; and

WHEREAS the report identifies that the York Street Plaza will proceed to the design phase, which will include consideration of safety measures and operational efficiencies to better support regular use and programming, including the potential use of bollards and other access management tools; and

WHEREAS the report identifies a district-wide placemaking initiative in 2026, to be delivered in partnership with the ByWard Market District Authority (BMDA), which will activate plazas and underutilized public spaces using temporary and adaptable elements; and

WHEREAS testing temporary people-focused uses of streets and public spaces during peak periods can provide ByWard Market-specific data and operational experience to inform the design phases of future permanent public realm investments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. Staff be directed to work with the ByWard Market District Authority (BMDA) to develop a flexible plan for temporary and pilot initiatives that allow for the safe, full or partial pedestrianization of key streets and public spaces within the district, including but not limited to George Street, York Street, William Street and ByWard Market Square, during high-impact weekends, holidays and events where operationally feasible.**
- 2. Placemaking initiatives be implemented on a temporary and adaptable basis during the 2026 season, including weekends between Canada Day and Labour Day, in order to test pedestrian-focused programming while maintaining appropriate access for businesses, residents, deliveries and emergency services.**
- 3. Staff collect ByWard Market-specific data and operational experience across different seasons and programming conditions, including impacts on mobility, business operations, visitor experience and safety, to help inform the design phases of future permanent public realm investments within the district.**
- 4. Amend the report recommendation directing staff to report back to the Finance and Corporate Services Committee and Council in 2027, as described in this report, and including as follows:**
 - a. The results of the options analysis for 70 Clarence Street and recommended next steps;**

- b. An update on the design of 55 ByWard Market Square and York Street Plaza**
 - c. A recommended parking and access strategy for the ByWard Market;**
 - d. A recommended financing model for the redevelopment program;**
 - e. A recommended project sequencing schedule;**
 - f. That staff report back on placemaking and pedestrianization pilot initiatives;**
- 5. Staff report back to Council on the findings and lessons learned from these pilot initiatives, including feedback from businesses, residents and visitors, as part of the planned 2027 reporting on the ByWard Market revitalization program.**
- 6. As future capital projects proceed, including the York Street Plaza project, staff evaluate appropriate long-term approaches to access management through the detailed design process, which may include measures such as timed access, removable or retractable bollards where appropriate, and other design tools that support pedestrian-priority spaces while maintaining necessary operational access for businesses, residents, deliveries and emergency services, consistent with Council approved plans.**
- 7. Staff continue to engage local businesses, residents and stakeholders throughout planning and design processes to ensure that curbside access, loading, deliveries, emergency access and business continuity remain integral considerations as redevelopment advances.**