

## Downtown Moves Newsletter January 2013

### Public Open House Three - January 17, 2013

Downtown Moves is an urban design and transportation study that will identify ways to create vibrant, safe, and accessible streets for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders by pursuing a balance among street users and by improving the streetscape environment. A draft city document has been released, and the project is moving towards completion.

### New Street Design Framework

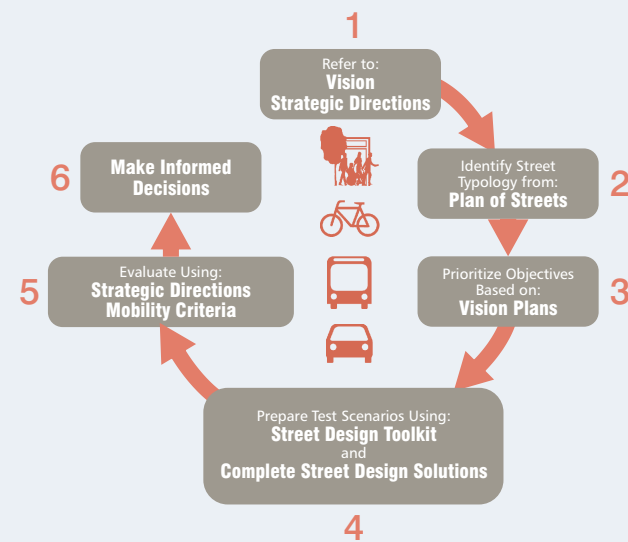
Downtown Ottawa is about to undergo a transformation brought about by a major investment in light rail transit, the Confederation Line. The Confederation Line will impact the needs and priorities of people who use downtown streets, which already face a variety of competing interests for space within the right-of-way. Through the Downtown Moves study, the New Street Design Framework has been developed to guide future decision-making on the design of downtown streets.

The Downtown Moves study is organized around the **New Street Design Framework**, which begins by providing a clear **Vision and Strategic Directions**<sup>1</sup>, and identifying street design objectives through the **Plan of Streets**<sup>2</sup> and **Vision Plans**<sup>3</sup>.

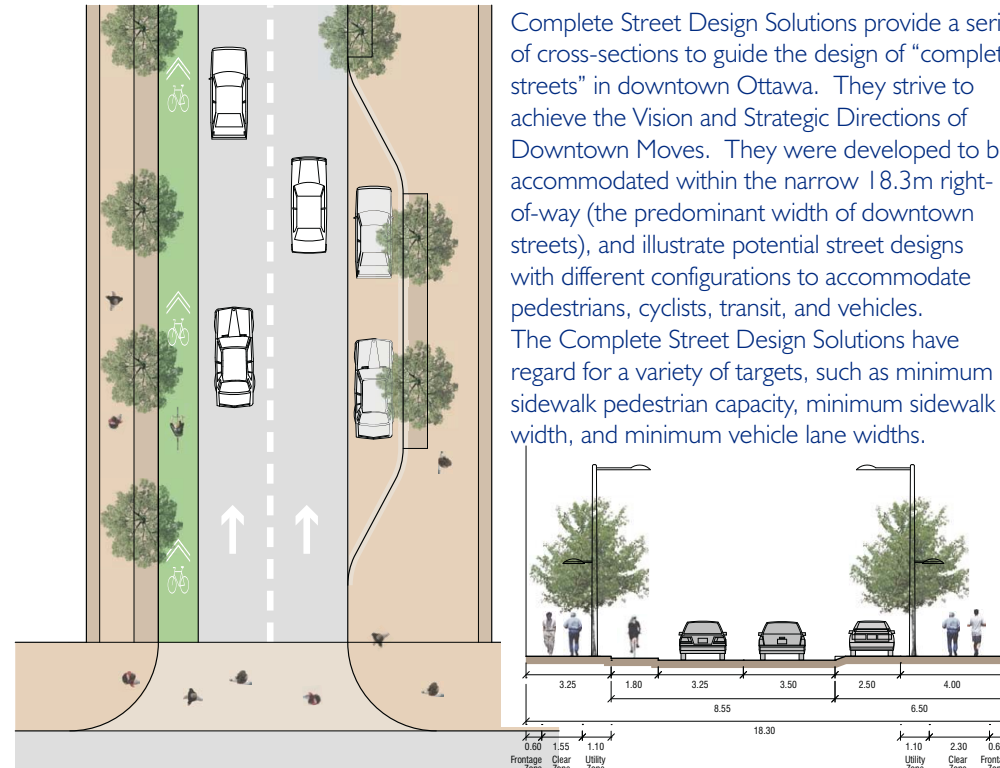
The Plan of Streets places downtown streets into one of six categories based on their planned function. The Vision Plans provide additional analyses of downtown streets in order to guide their planning and design, according to the distinct needs of pedestrians, cyclists, transit, and vehicles.

Subsequently, the **Street Design Toolkit**<sup>4</sup> identifies a range of best practises and creative solutions that provide tangible guidelines for street design. Within the Street Design Toolkit are **Complete Street Design Solutions**<sup>4</sup>, which illustrate potential street cross-section designs responding to the constraints of downtown Ottawa's streets.

Finally, the **New Street Design Framework** indicates that potential street design options are to be evaluated using **Mobility Criteria**<sup>5</sup> provided in the Downtown Moves study, leading to **Informed Decisions**<sup>6</sup> regarding preferred street design choice that best enables the planned function of the adjacent community to be achieved.



### Complete Street Design Solutions



Complete Street Design Solutions provide a series of cross-sections to guide the design of "complete streets" in downtown Ottawa. They strive to achieve the Vision and Strategic Directions of Downtown Moves. They were developed to be accommodated within the narrow 18.3m right-of-way (the predominant width of downtown streets), and illustrate potential street designs with different configurations to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, transit, and vehicles. The Complete Street Design Solutions have regard for a variety of targets, such as minimum sidewalk pedestrian capacity, minimum sidewalk width, and minimum vehicle lane widths.

### Implementation

The implementation section proposes a strategy to support the realization of the Downtown Moves Vision and Strategic Directions. This strategy includes estimated cost figures for 'basic' and 'enhanced' potential renewal initiatives for downtown streets, and the translation of the Downtown Moves initiative into a number of individual projects to facilitate the requirements of Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act. It also outlines a Downtown Moves Action Plan, which are a variety of recommended actions ranging from Official Plan modifications to suggested collaborations to enable the long-term, incremental achievement of the Downtown Moves Vision.



### Going Forward

The Downtown Moves study will be presented at the Transportation Committee on March 6, 2013, and at also at an upcoming City Council meeting. Thank you for your involvement with Downtown Moves.

For further information, questions, and comments, please visit [ottawa.ca/downtownmoves](http://ottawa.ca/downtownmoves) or e-mail the project team at [downtownmoves@ottawa.ca](mailto:downtownmoves@ottawa.ca), questions and comments are encouraged to be submitted by January 31, 2013.

### Vital Moves

Building upon the analysis and stakeholder consultation that was undertaken as part of Downtown Moves, thirteen (13) Vital Moves were identified as potential projects requiring physical changes that address the Downtown Moves Vision and Strategic Directions. These Moves are distributed across the downtown area, and represent significant opportunities to improve the public realm for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users, in addition to all residents, employees, and visitors to the Capital.

#### The Vital Moves are:

- A Secure Wider Sidewalks Near Transit Station Entrances
- B Transform Queen Street into a Transit Showcase Street
- C Revitalize Albert and Slater Streets
- D Connect Downtown to Lowertown
- E Enliven Sparks Street
- F Complete an Inter-provincial Bike Loop
- G Integrate Town and Crown Across Wellington Street
- H Embellish Metcalfe Street
- I Connect Downtown to LeBreton Flats
- J Enable Mid-block Connections Serving the Transit Stations
- K Repurpose Mackenzie King Bridge
- L Confirm Rideau Street as a Main Street
- M Improve the Mackenzie King/Nicholas/Waller Intersection

