

REPORT NO. 346 of the
ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE
of its meeting held January 20, 2016

Present: Councillor Fred Francis
Councillor Chris Holt
Councillor Bill Marra (Chair)
Councillor Hilary Payne
Councillor Paul Borrelli

That the following recommendations of the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee **BE APPROVED**:

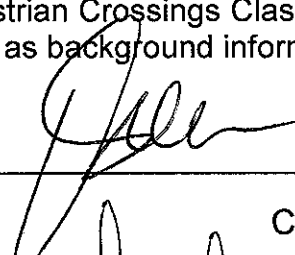
Moved by Councillor Payne, seconded by Councillor Francis,

- I. THAT Council **ENDORSE** the completed Riverside Drive Pedestrian Crossings Class Environmental Assessment report as a planning document with recommendations supporting the Preferred Solution identified by Landmark Engineers (the City of Windsor project Consultant); and,
- II. THAT Administration **ISSUE** the Notice of Study Completion for the Riverside Drive Pedestrian Crossings Class Environmental Assessment as per the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Planning Process to commence the 30-day review period immediately following finalizing the Environmental Assessment; and,
- III. THAT these recommendations **BE APPROVED** subject to non-commitment for construction.

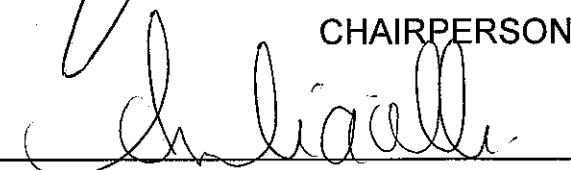
Carried.

S 74/2015 APM/4691 ST2016

Clerk's Note: The report of the Project Administrator dated January 20, 2016 entitled "Riverside Drive Pedestrian Crossings Class Environmental Assessment (EA)" is **attached** as background information.

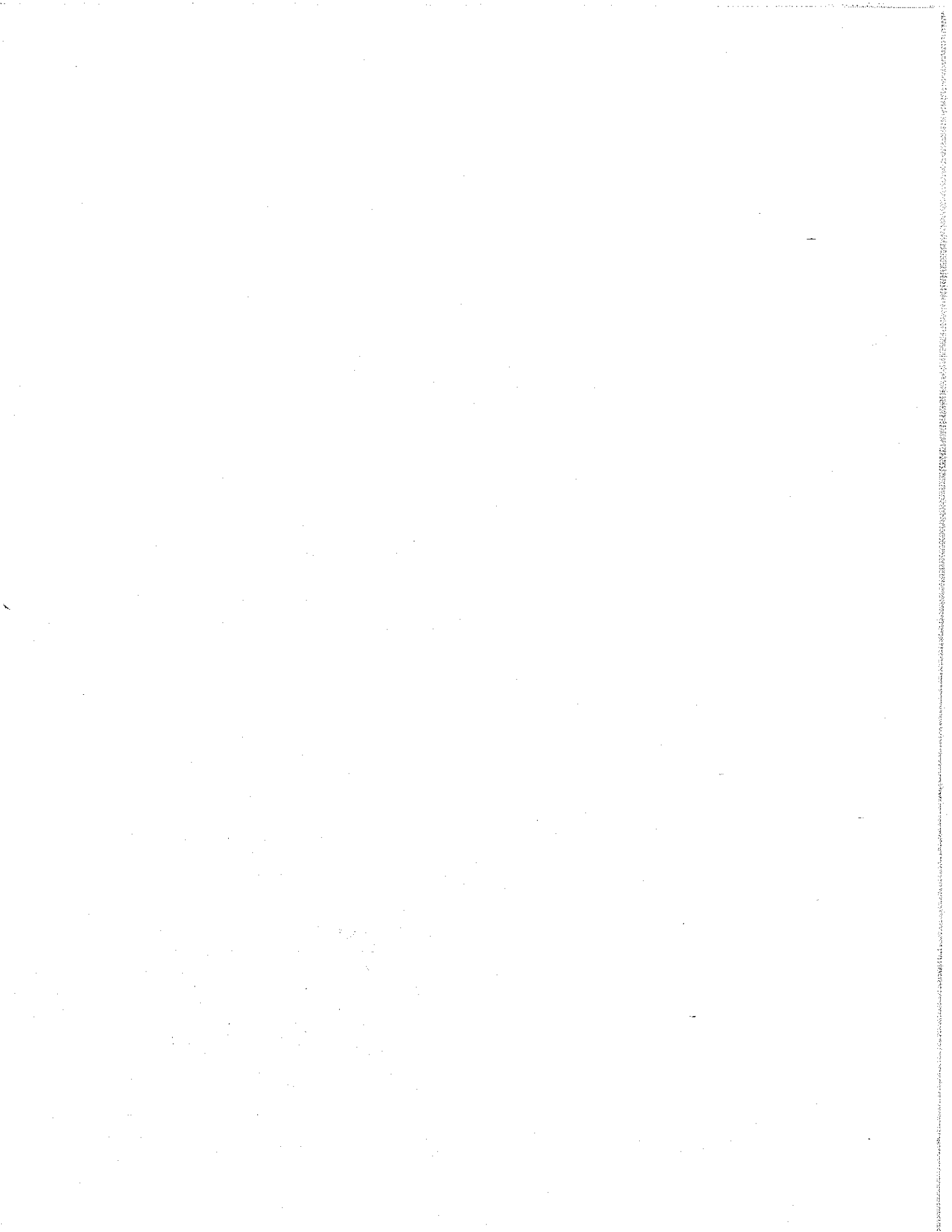


CHAIRPERSON



SUPERVISOR OF COUNCIL SERVICES

NOTIFICATION:	
NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION





Development, Projects & Right-of-Way

MISSION STATEMENT

"Our City is built on relationships – between citizens and their government, businesses and public institutions, city and region – all interconnected, mutually supportive, and focused on the brightest future we can create together"

REPORT #: S 74/2015	Report Date: 12/21/2015
Author's Contact: Paul Mourad Project Administrator (A) 519-255-6100 ext 6119 pmourad@citywindsor.ca	Date to Council: January 20, 2016
	Clerk's File #: APM/4691 ST2016

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

Subject: Riverside Drive Pedestrian Crossings Class Environmental Assessment (EA) - Ward 3

RECOMMENDATION:

- I. THAT Council **ENDORSE** the completed Riverside Drive Pedestrian Crossings Class Environmental Assessment report as a planning document with recommendations supporting the Preferred Solution identified by Landmark Engineers (the City of Windsor project Consultant); and
- II. THAT Administration **ISSUE** the Notice of Study Completion for the Riverside Drive Pedestrian Crossings Class Environmental Assessment as per the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Planning Process to commence the 30-day review period immediately following finalizing the Environmental Assessment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: N/A

BACKGROUND:

In September of 2000, City Council adopted the Central Riverfront Implementation Plan (CRIP), which is a master plan whose purpose was to provide an implementation strategy and design guidelines that will assist the City in attaining the vision that Windsorites have for the riverfront. The plan is intended to guide the design of park

lands, open space, buildings, circulation networks, and public infrastructure within Windsor's Central Riverfront district for the subsequent 25 years. The original CRIP document included a recommendation to construct a pedestrian grade-separated crossings of Riverside Drive in order to link the Riverfront Park with the neighbourhoods to the south, including one to be located immediately west of the Art Gallery of Windsor.

On March 4, 2013, as part of the 2013 Capital Budget deliberations (B26/2013), \$1.4 million was set aside as a placeholder under Riverfront Trail for access across Riverside Drive initially targeted for a pedestrian underpass. Additionally, in the 2014 Capital Budget deliberations, \$2 million was approved as a placeholder for the Riverfront (B38/2013), of which \$1.35 million was earmarked for the pedestrian underpass.

On September 9, 2013, City Council, through CR177/2013, engaged the firm of Landmark Engineers Inc. who partnered with Bezaire & Associates Ltd. with input from Architectura Inc., to initiate city-wide public consultations for discussion and input on the Central Riverfront Implementation Plan. Out of the public meetings and comments, it was determined that either pedestrian bridges or underpasses crossing Riverside Drive should be considered where warranted by the volume of pedestrians. Such locations may include: the area behind the Festival Stage (connecting to the Civic Esplanade), the area north of the Aquatic Centre and Art Gallery, and a location near the University of Windsor. It was also recommended to consider the use of a pedestrian underpass rather than a pedestrian bridge.

On August 5, 2014, Council approved CR200/2014, which authorized Administration to retain an Engineer to conduct the necessary next steps of the Environmental Assessment process.

Administration provided a Communication report to Council at the August 24, 2015 council meeting (Item 21), which outlined the proposed work, budget, and consulting fees. This report was approved by Council (M352-2015).

Further to City Council direction on August 24, 2015, the CAO authorized administration through CAO3208 to retain a Consulting Engineer to complete a Class Environmental Assessment for a pedestrian underpass crossing of Riverside Drive and report back to Council the recommended option and budget requirement to construct the necessary works. Landmark Engineers Inc. was retained for this endeavour.

DISCUSSION:

Public consultation is an important part of the EA process. Project related information and updates have been maintained on the Project Website (www.WindsorEAs.ca) throughout the study. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) were conducted for this study.

Public Information Centre (PIC) #1

PIC #1 was held on October 15, 2015 at 400 City Hall Square, Room 407 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and 6:00pm to 8:00 pm to provide information about the EA process and the project, including problems and opportunities identified at proposed locations and issues related to the alternative solutions, design opportunities and options, environmental considerations and evaluation criteria.

Interested parties were invited to attend the open house forum to:

- Meet the project team
- Become informed about the project and the EA process
- Learn about the problems and opportunities identified at proposed locations
- Discuss issues related to the alternative solutions, design opportunities and options, environmental considerations and evaluation criteria
- Provide written and/or verbal comments and input
- Register to be added to the project mailing list and kept informed of the project progress

Feedback related to the study area from this PIC pertained to the following:

- Most responses were in favour of an underpass crossing
- Most responses preferred an elaborate design
- Safety (lighting, cameras and music) is a major concern

Public Information Centre #2

PIC #2 was held on November 25, 2015 in the lobby of the Windsor International Aquatic and Training Centre at 401 Pitt Street West from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and 6:00pm to 8:00 pm to provide information on the Class EA study process, the evaluation of design alternatives, the recommended design alternative and the potential impacts and associated mitigation measures.

Interested parties were invited to attend this open house forum to review and provide input on the following:

- EA study process to date
- Evaluation of design alternatives
- Recommended design alternative
- Potential impacts and associated mitigation measures
- A summary of the next steps in the process

Feedback related to the study area from this PIC pertained to the following:

- The majority of responses agreed that there should be an enhanced crossing of Riverside Drive.
- The majority of responses preferred that the crossing be an underpass.
- The majority of responses favoured a very elaborate crossing.
- The majority of responses favoured features that included plantings, decorative lighting, green space and art.
- Safety (lighting, cameras and music) is a major concern

The recommended design would be a pre-cast concrete underpass with preference given to the Civic Esplanade location. The Civic Esplanade is the preferred location at this time as it is in proximity to the Festival Plaza which sees a higher pedestrian traffic volume in this area of Riverside Drive relative to the Aquatic Centre site. The EA Report discusses this in more detail.

Next Steps

Pending Council endorsement of the completed Class EA report as a planning document, the Notice of Study Completion will be published in the Windsor Star and on the Project Website (www.WindsorEAs.ca) and provided by direct mail-out to the directly affected property owners and those whom have requested to be included on the project contact list for the Class EA report. A copy of the Notice of Study Completion will be provided to the Mayor and Members of Council and included as a Communication Item at the next regularly scheduled meeting of Council following publication. The Class EA report, which will be provided to Council under separate cover due to its lengthy nature, will be available at City Hall in Council Services during the 30-calendar day review period.

RISK ANALYSIS: There are no significant risks associated with this report.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Council approved \$120,000 for the cost of the Class Environmental Assessment work. Though not all costs are in as of the writing of this report, it is expected that final costs will be within budget.

CONSULTATIONS:

Victor Ferranti, Manager of Capital Budget & Reserves
Michael Dennis, Financial Planning Administrator

CONCLUSION:

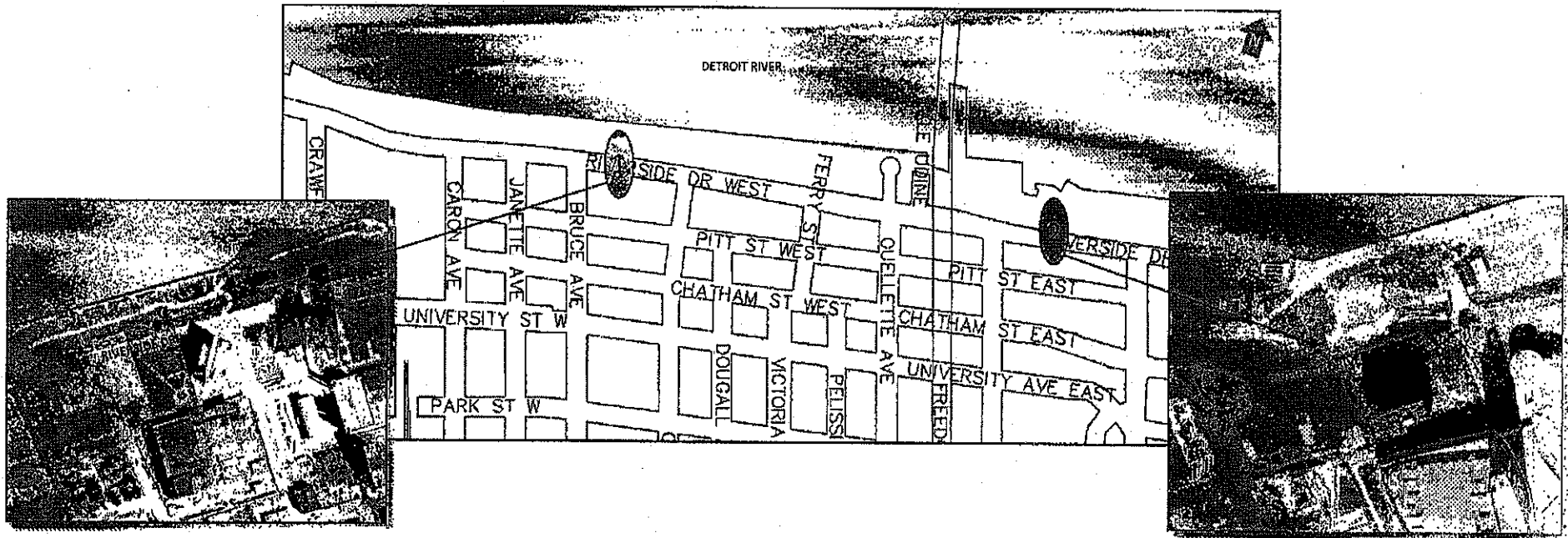
Several criteria and factors were utilized in the assessment of the design alternatives including natural environment, socio-economic environment, cultural environment, transportation, costs and technical considerations.

Pending Council endorsement of the completed Class EA report as a planning document, Administration recommends that the Notice of Study Completion be published in the Windsor Star and on the Project Website (www.WindsorEAs.ca) and provided by direct mail-out to the directly affected property owners and those whom have requested to be included on the project contact list for the Class EA report. A copy of the Notice of Study Completion will be provided to the Mayor and Members of Council and included as a Communication Item at the next regularly scheduled meeting of Council following publication. The Class EA report will be available at City Hall in Council Services during the 30-calendar day review period.

PLANNING ACT MATTERS: N/A

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Riverside Drive Pedestrian Crossings Class EA – Potential Locations Map



Site 1: Aquatic Centre Site (between Bruce Ave. and Church St.)

- This site is in close proximity to the Aquatic Centre and the Art Gallery.
- Located adjacent to the Central Riverfront downtown core.
- Proposed future marina site on the waterfront.
- Private parking located adjacent to the site (south-east corner of Riverside Drive and Bruce Avenue).
- The site is located near the bus station.
- The site is approximately 25 metres wide at its most narrow section on the south side of Riverside Drive.

Site 2: Civic Esplanade Site (between Goyeau St. and McDougall St.)

- This site is in close proximity to two of the biggest draws to the downtown area; the Casino and the Festival Plaza.
- Located in the Central Riverfront downtown core.
- Parking is located to the west of the site on the riverfront side of Riverside Drive.
- Parking lots are located on the south side of Riverside Drive off Pitt Street.
- The site connects south to City Hall plaza, Charles Clark Square skating rink and passive park areas.
- The site is approximately 25m wide and 60m long (from Riverside Drive to Pitt Street).