



Downtown SUDBURY STREETSCAPE PROJECT

Phase II: Site Amenity Design Specifications and Costing



July 15, 2008

Prepared for:
DowntownSUDBURY

Prepared by:
J.L. RICHARDS & ASSOCIATES LIMITED
Consulting Engineers, Architects, & Planners





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Downtown Sudbury is a unique part of the City shared by all residents. During the daytime, it bustles with workers and shoppers taking time to enjoy the outdoors or browse local specialty shops. In the evening, the cafés and restaurants are filled with folks of all ages – especially when there's a hockey game, a great movie playing or a new play at the Theatre.

The workers, shoppers, and those drawn to culture and activity are being attracted to the character, walk-ability, and atmosphere of the City's downtown core. Though it is a functional area for business and services, it is its physical identity built over time that has made it a gathering place for citizens and visitors alike.

Our Downtown is not static; it is a dynamic environment where change is occurring every day. This year, Greater Sudbury celebrates its

125th anniversary, and certainly a lot has changed since that time. The Downtown, in particular, has experienced major changes in its physical form. In the 1960s, Downtown was the focus of a major urban renewal project, which resulted in today's Rainbow Centre and many of the surrounding streets and residential high rises. Major street improvement projects have included the Brady Street extension, and the connection of Paris Street and Notre Dame Avenue. More recent major buildings have included the YMCA Centre for Life, and the Downtown Farmers Market. There are a number of proposed projects that will positively effect the downtown core by bringing residential development (eyes on the street), 24 hour activity and additional daytime visitors. These include the Northern Ontario School of Architecture, the proposed Performing Arts Centre and a proposed condominium conversion. The Downtown core is changing.

Today's instruments of downtown change include the Economic Development Strategic Plan for Greater Sudbury (2003), which led to development of A New Vision Downtown Sudbury (2005), the City's recently enhanced Community Improvement Plan (amended 2007), and the newly-adopted Official Plan for the City of Greater Sudbury (2007). These documents,



and the people behind them, are evidence of a strong commitment to change and improvement upon the strengths of our Downtown. The overall Vision for Downtown is:

'To develop and sustain the Downtown as the vibrant hub of a dynamic city by preserving its historical built form, promoting arts and culture, improving linkages to neighbourhoods and amenities, integrating natural features, development of residential uses and creating unique urban spaces through innovative design.'

The City's new Official Plan provides a new direction for land use planning for the next 20 years. The Official Plan has been shaped through staff involvement, public review, and Council debate, and

provides a measuring stick for all land use decision-making within Greater Sudbury. It sets goals for the Downtown, specifically that:

'High quality urban design in the Downtown will be promoted, compatible with the existing character and scale. A special focus on public spaces is intended, utilizing such design elements as street trees, landscaping, street lighting and furnishings, public art, gateway entrances and playgrounds that are wheelchair and stroller accessible (policy 4.2.1.2.2).'

'Area streetscapes are to be improved over time through appropriate upgrades, such as landscaping, lighting, sidewalks, paving, and public art. These treatments should complement adjacent built form and open spaces, addition to a neighbourhood's character (policy 14.2.2).'





The City of Greater Sudbury has also taken steps to improve the 'walkability' of the City - the extent to which walking is readily available as a safe, connected, accessible and pleasant mode of transport.

The Council for the City of Greater Sudbury has adopted a Healthy Community Strategy (2005), based on four pillars including the Active Living / Healthy Lifestyle pillar. Under this pillar, recommendations for implementation include construction and physical improvements to trails, sidewalks and bicycle paths. Council has also encouraged the planning and development of walking opportunities by endorsing the Municipal Pedestrian Charter (2006), hosting a Walkability Roadshow (2007), and adopting the International Charter for Walking as part of Walk 21 (2007).

The Greater Sudbury Community Physical Activity Action Plan 2005-2010 recognizes the need to remove and reduce barriers to physical activity by improving infrastructure in order to support pedestrians.

The City's new Official Plan identifies active transportation and a pedestrian and bicycle



THE STUDY AREA



network as an element of the Sudbury transportation system, and recommends protecting and expanding the existing pedestrian and bicycle network in the City as essential to creating quality of place. The Official Plan also identifies that sidewalks, bikelanes, bike paths and walking trails need to be fully integrated components of the overall transportation system, providing safe access for pedestrians and cyclists supported by good urban design principles, and that opportunities to engage in recreational and leisure activities are also tied to the transportation network.

Overall, the City of Greater Sudbury has accepted the challenge to become the most pedestrian friendly city in Ontario by 2015, and to consider this challenge in future planning, transportation, infrastructure and leisure decisions.

Enhancement of the Downtown streetscape will not only improve the aesthetics and character of the neighbourhood, but will also assist in meeting the City's goals of achieving the social benefits of a more walkable environment.

It is within this policy framework, and within the context of previous Downtown-focused projects, that the current document is being brought forward.

DOWNTOWN SUDBURY STREETSCAPE PROJECT - PHASE I

Phase I of the project resulted in the development of a Streetscape Conceptual Plan. This Plan put forth eight themes to guide future downtown developments and projects:

Winter City - Through innovative design and its application, become a world leading winter city; addressing winter aesthetics, experience and livability.

Multicultural Heritage - Celebrate our multicultural heritage by incorporating multicultural heritage design, motifs and artefacts into the urban design fabric.

Natural Heritage - To create a strong and unique sense of place by depicting our strong physical and spiritual connection to the natural environment (flora, fauna, geography, geology, waterways and astronomy) through urban design elements.

Industrial Heritage - To show the importance of our industrial heritage by physically or symbolically highlighting industrial products, materials, fabricating methods, companies and personalities in urban design.



Fun Children's Spaces - To create special children's places and spaces in the downtown as part of a community wide strategy to develop successful leadership.

Landscapes as Art/ For Art - To create a distinct sense of place by: designing every element in the urban fabric as art or with the utmost respect for beauty; creating places to promote visual arts; and treating human interaction as an art form.

Green Community - To use the downtown to showcase Sudbury's commitment and leadership to green technology and sustainable development.

Community History - To recognize and share our rich and diverse history as a lumber, railroad and mining community, particularly as it relates to the formation of Sudbury's first neighbourhood.

Phase I also included suggestions on how to apply these themes to the design of the Downtown public realm. Recommendations were made for the conceptual design of Downtown streetscape amenities such as light fixtures, signage, street furniture, planters, trees/gardens, parkettes, art installations and gateway markers.

DOWNTOWN SUDBURY STREETScape PROJECT - PHASE II

This document forms Phase II of the Downtown Sudbury Streetscape Project. The overarching vision of the Streetscape Project is to promote the growing vitality of the downtown core by enhancing the image of Downtown, while attracting investment and people.

Beginning with the concepts outlined in Phase 1 of the project, the design for Phase II is founded upon the following guiding principles:

Landscape - We are located in the heart of the Canadian Shield within the boreal forest. There are 330 lakes within the City of Greater Sudbury. Our natural setting is one of our greatest assets and should be celebrated in everything that we do within our City, throughout all seasons.

Mining Heritage - We live in a place that has been extracting rock from the earth for over 120 years. Our citizens work for, with and adjacent to the mining operations throughout the region. We were once known as the worst industrially destroyed landscape in the world. As a result, we have



undertaken the largest re greening effort in the world. We should celebrate mining heritage within our City while continuing our efforts in sustainable design and development.

Community History - Our City has its own story that speaks of where we came from, how we got here, and where we are going. This story includes the railroad, lumber, mining, immigrants, entrepreneurs, adventure seekers, and all sorts of other characters; all of which played a part in shaping our community. We should honour this history within the community and express it to tell our story

The Phase II Design seeks to strengthen the downtown as a distinct neighbourhood within a broader quilt/fabric of the City of Greater Sudbury. In order to do this, we must clearly define/strengthen the edges and boundary of this neighbourhood. After we do that, we must then consistently strengthen the identity of the neighbourhood. This is a type of branding of the neighbourhood. These two tasks will be achieved through the following design alterations/elements:

1. Gateway Markers

- Defines neighbourhood by marking the major and minor entrances/connections to and from the neighbourhood.

- Brands the neighbourhood by consistent use of materials and treatment.

2. Sidewalk Zoning (Paving Pattern)

- Brands neighbourhood by formalizing a consistent approach to organization of the sidewalk.
- Defines neighbourhood through consistency.

3. Tree Planting (Alternating Tree Species)

- Brands neighbourhood by consistent planting of streets and consistent effect throughout the year.
- Defines neighbourhood through consistency.

4. Palette of Materials (Street Furniture & Elements)

- Brands neighbourhood by unifying all pieces of street furniture and elements through a consistent palette of materials.
- Defines neighbourhood through consistency.



5. *Street Lighting (Vehicles and Pedestrians)*

- Brands neighbourhood by using a consistent light standard and suitable light levels for both vehicles on the street as well as pedestrians on the sidewalk.
- Defines neighbourhood through consistency.

6. *Edge Buffers (Trellis Wall / Boreal Forest)*

- Brands neighbourhood by consistent use of materials.
- Defines neighbourhood by buffering edges of the neighbourhood from undesirable or unsightly neighbouring conditions.

The approach to each of the elements above has been informed by the three guiding principles. The net result of this design will strengthen the identity of downtown Sudbury and invite visitors, businesses and residents into the core.



2.0 STREETScape DEFINITION AND SPECIFIC GOALS

The term 'streetscape' as utilized throughout these guidelines, typically refers to exterior public spaces located between street curbs and building façades. Inclusion of pedestrian crosswalks and traffic calming measures located within vehicular zone are two exceptions to this definition.

Greater visual continuity will be achieved through use of similar streetscape components throughout the Downtown area. Specific streetscape enhancement budgets, coupled with a desire to maintain distinctive neighbourhoods, require slight variations on common streetscape objectives.

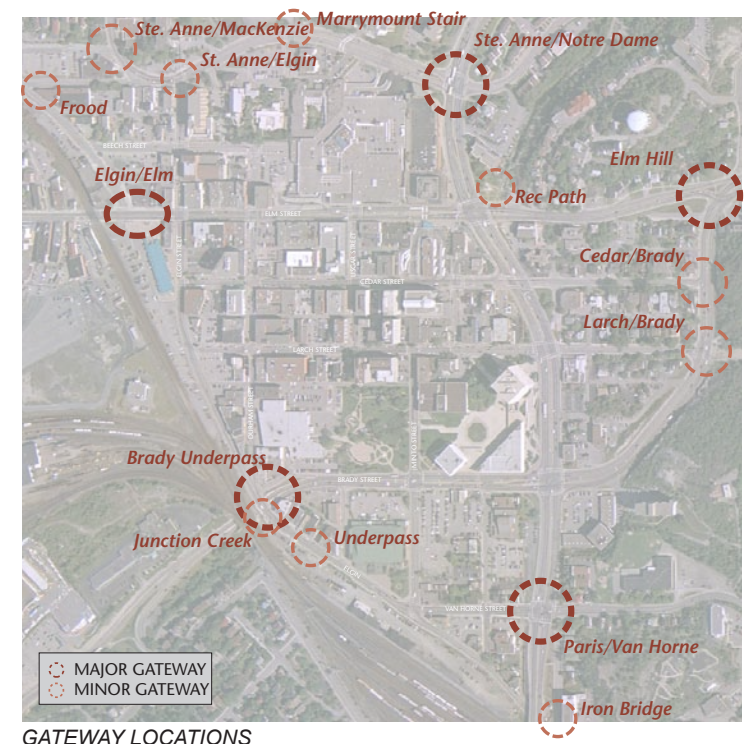
For this reason, these Guidelines provide several options for many of the basic streetscape components.



3.0 GATEWAYS

The streetscape should create a sense of arrival at key intersections entering Downtown. This goal is accomplished by establishing entry points, or gateways, at key intersections along the main circulation route.

These entry points are highlighted by special landscaping treatments, entry markers, signage, special lighting, public art, or other special enhancements that signify changes in location or direction, thereby creating “gateways” into Downtown.



The following is a concept for gateway treatments for major automobile entry points into Downtown:

Elm Street (Sample Major Gateway)

Key details include:

- a vertical public art piece centred on the street in a planted median (minimum 2 metres wide)
- two white pines flanking the planted median on either side of the street
- a six metre wide scored concrete pattern in line with the planted median (as shown in Figure 5)
- container planters around the white pine trees to soften the area
- the public art piece and both pines are to be uplighted to showcase the gateway location.

Minor gateway entries would include the six metre scored concrete pattern with the planted median.

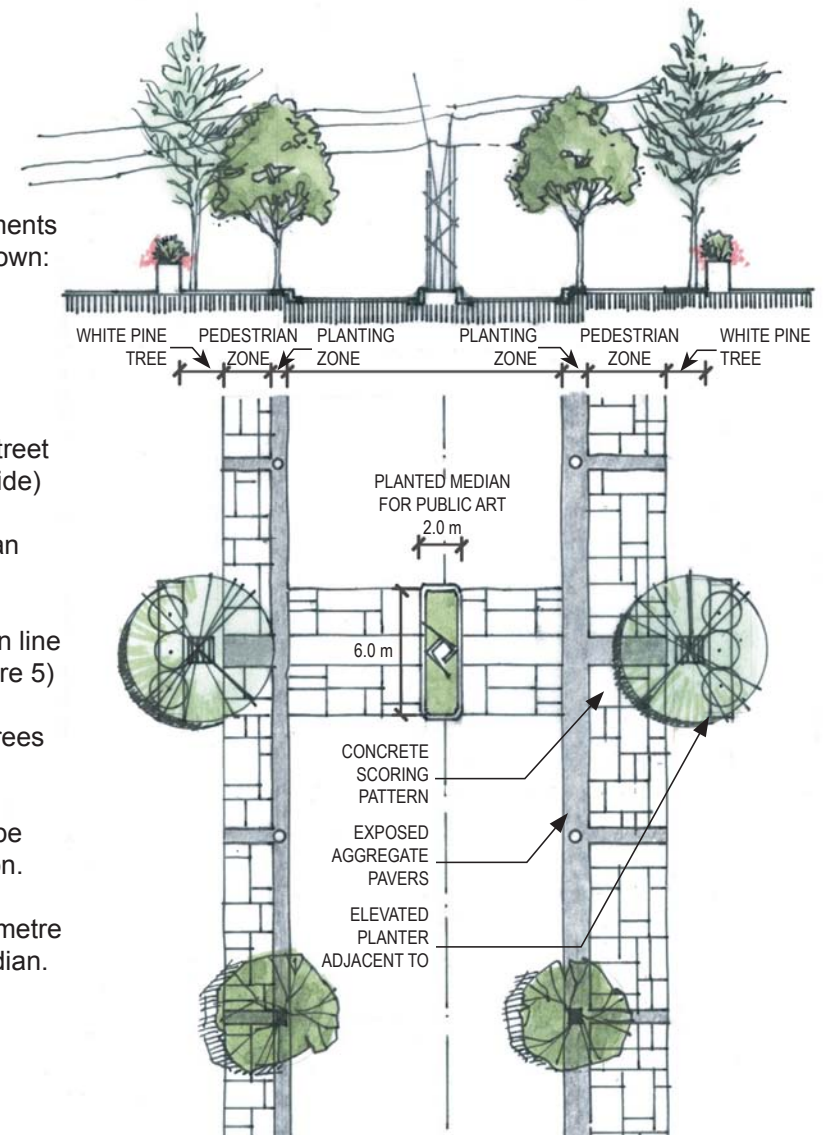


FIGURE 5 MAJOR GATEWAY