

#21

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 1:24:11 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 2:11:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:47:23
IP Address: 24.80.118.57

Page 1

Q1

BIA Name:

Robson Street Business Association

Q2

Contact:

Teri Smith

Q3

Email:

teri@robsonstreet.ca

Q4

Project Title:

Public Life & Economic Recovery #onRobson

Q5

Category:

Partnerships & Advocacy,
Placemaking

Q6

Project Description:

In partnership with the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Mural Festival, the Robson Street BIA, collaborated to deliver various public space interventions within the three block district to promote pedestrian comfort and safety and support businesses post-COVID. Interventions included the installation of widened sidewalk areas, expanded parklets and seating areas, curbside patios, bus bulges and public art.

Q7**Audience:**

The public life and economic recovery efforts were directed at visitors to Robson Street, both within and outside of the local community and the businesses #onRobson themselves.

Q8**Implementation:**

The Robson Street BIA reached out to the businesses #onRobson to identify the needs and opportunities for public space interventions, such as additional space for dining, queuing, loading etc. and shared this information with the City of Vancouver Engineering Team to collectively develop various proposals for the area. After several meetings, drafts and weeks later, a finalized plan was developed that involved the strategic removal of parking spaces or use of loading and no-stopping zones or decommissioned bus stops to widen portions of the sidewalk where there were pinch points on the street or where businesses identified the need for the additional space. Concrete barriers were installed in the curb lane to open up more space in various locations along Robson Street, which allowed for more room to move, queue, sit and board transit. We also expanded one of the current parklets on the street to provide additional space for movement and dining, as well as accommodated temporary patios. A partnership was also formed with Vancouver Mural Fest to have artists beautify the concrete barriers with artwork. Each block had its own colour palette and theme. Planters and landscaping were also added to soften some of the curbside public seating spaces.

Q9**Results:**

In total, we were able to add 10 widened sidewalk areas, which supported 3 queuing and 4 new public seating zones, along with 1 expanded parklet, 3 temporary curbside patios, 3 bus bulges, as well as 13 tables, 26 chairs and 10 planters to accommodate the public seating areas.

We've had a lot of feedback from businesses, visitors, residents and via social media. Most of the public space interventions have been positively received, however, there has also been criticism over the removal of parking. In total, we preserved 70% of our pre-COVID parking. Observationally, we do see people utilizing the widened sidewalk areas as intended for queuing, moving and public seating. The public art aspect was very popular and also resulted in other neighbourhoods following suit.

Q10**Cost:**

RSBA contributed \$17,000 towards the public art aspect of this project and the City contributed the bulk of the infrastructure costs. Businesses paid for their own patios.
