



# Overview of Changes and Implementation Schedule

Presented at the  
Downtown Paris  
Business Forum

Paris Revitalized

October 16, 2024

# Introduction

1. Outline Master Plan Process
2. Outline Changes from Master Plan
3. Provide Construction Schedule and Details



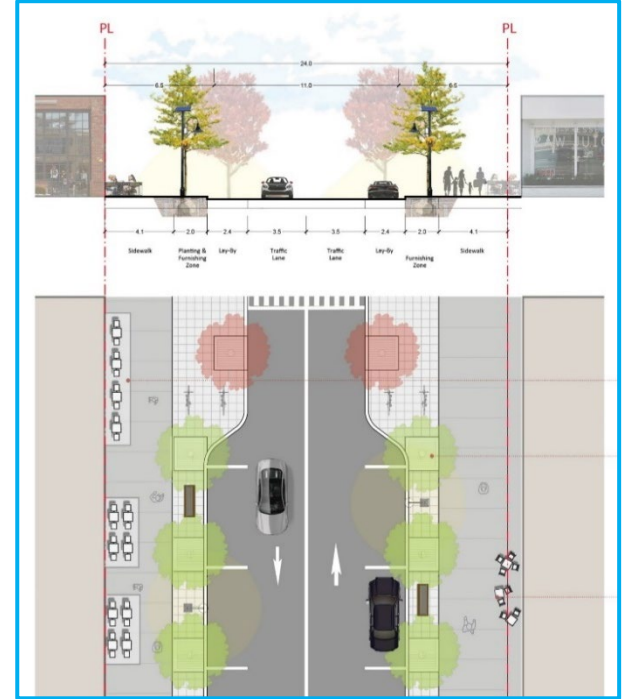
# The Downtown Paris Master Plan

- The Downtown Paris Master Plan was completed throughout 2018 and 2019, and approved by Council in November 2019
- The Master Plan was developed to provide a guide for how the Downtown Core could be re-shaped concurrently with necessary reconstruction projects
- Focused on identifying issues with current downtown design and setting goals for the entire downtown core during detailed design process for reconstruction projects



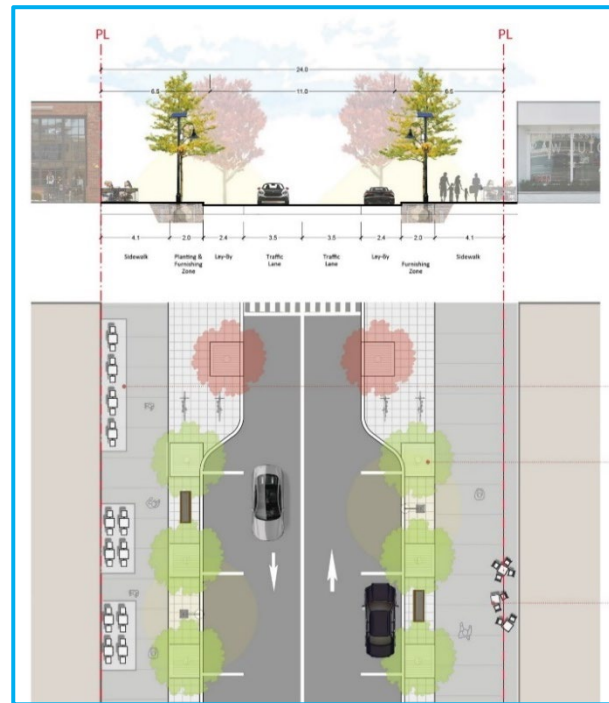
# Why are we doing this?

- The Paris Master Servicing Plan outlined needed upgrades to existing infrastructure, including that in the downtown core
- While the watermain and stormwater infrastructure along Grand River St. N. was reconstructed in 1995, the existing sanitary infrastructure dates back to the construction of the Paris Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1963, nearly 62 years ago.
- All infrastructure is further undersized for current conditions and requires replacement.



# Why are we doing this?

- Knowing that the reconstruction will reshape the downtown core, the County initiated the Master Plan in 2017 as a way to engage the public and downtown businesses on improvements
- The resulting Master Plan provides guidance towards the development of detailed designs required for the construction projects
- The reconstruction provides an opportunity to modernize all infrastructure, and County staff have coordinated the replacement of non-municipal infrastructure with utility providers (hydro, natural gas, communications) to ensure finishes remain in place



# How did we get here?

- 3 design charettes held over the course of 2018 & 2019 to identify current issues, and potential opportunities
- Designs seek to address greatest challenges & concerns including vacant or unattractive storefronts, site furnishings, and traffic in the downtown core
- Public consultation vital to informing other County priorities such as more opportunities to access the river(s)



- **Vacant or unattractive storefronts (32)**
- **Site furnishings (benches, waste receptacles, bike racks) that are outdated or inadequate (30)**
- **Lack of opportunities to access the river (30)**
- Gaps in trail in sidewalk connections to destinations
- Not enough public washrooms
- Lack of signage and wayfinding to important destinations
- Not enough to do in the evening
- Not enough parks and plazas
- Aging or damaged sidewalks
- Street trees and plantings
- Loss of or not enough civic spaces (libraries, community centres, churches, etc.)
- Not enough things to do in all seasons (winter/fall/spring activities)
- Not enough parking



- **Downtown traffic (44)**
- **Vacant or unattractive storefronts (39)**
- **Keep the library downtown (28)**
- Downtown parking
- Street trees and plantings
- Sidewalks and Trails
- Opportunities to access the river
- Access to public washrooms
- Accessibility/Disabilities/Barrier Free Access
- Outdated/inadequate site furnishings
- Not enough to do in the evening
- Inadequate Transit
- Accessible/all ages community
- Direct pedestrian traffic south of Mechanic Street to remaining businesses



- **Future developments should match/compliment existing and heritage character (56)**
- **More/improved opportunities to access the river (34)**
- **Improved traffic downtown (34)**
- Sidewalk and Trail Improvements (connections and conditions)
- Flower Baskets, banners and other streetscape amenities
- Infrastructure improvements such as lighting and street furniture
- Accessibility/Disabilities/Barrier Free Access
- Improved parking downtown
- Additional/improved street trees and plantings

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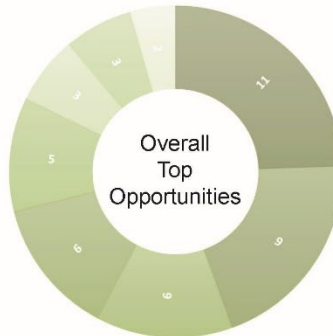


■ **Improving vacant or unattractive storefronts (71)**

■ **Sidewalk and Trail Improvements (connections and conditions) (63)**

■ **Access the river (57)**

- Traffic
- Not enough to do in the evening
- Site furnishings (benches, waste receptacles, bike racks) that are outdated or inadequate
- Inadequate Transit
- Lack of signage and wayfinding to important destinations
- Parking
- Not enough parks and plazas
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■ **Improving vacant or unattractive storefronts (11)**

■ **History / character (9)**

■ **Infrastructure Improvements such as lighting and street furniture (9)**

- Flower Baskets, banners and other streetscape amenities
- Pedestrianisation make Grand River car free in downtown
- Access the river
- Improve view of back of buildings along Grand River (a boardwalk per
- Sidewalk Patios and Parkettes

- Implementation plans attempt to incorporate the greatest priorities and opportunities
- Public works project intended to spur private revitalization of vacant or unattractive storefronts in line with existing character
- Improvements to infrastructure and street furniture
- Flower baskets and banners planned for streetlight poles
- Street trees and planting beds to beautify area

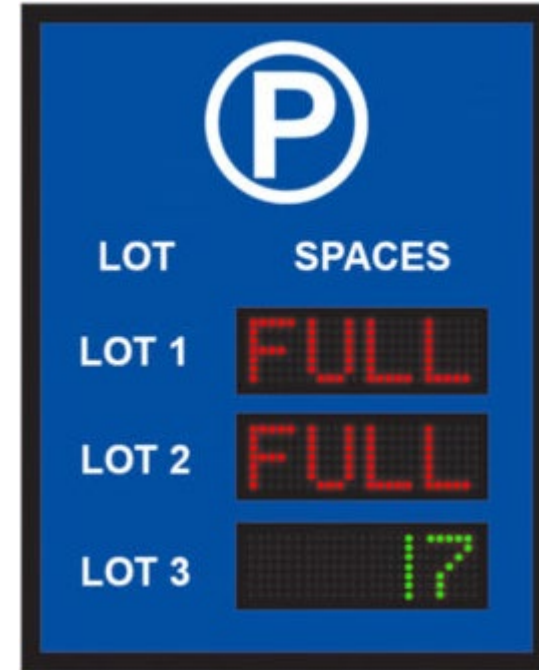
# How did we get here?

- While the Master Plan was approved by Council in November 2019, the implementation planning phase was largely dormant until mid-2023 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on local business and County business operations
- Detailed design for Grand River St. N. has been developed over the course of 2024
- First reconstruction project will commence in 2025, and will be undertaken in separate phases over the course of 4 years



# Future Elements / Goals of Master Plan Implementation

- Parking:
  - Consideration of Additional Parking Lots / Parking Structure
  - Master Parking Study to cohesively identify parking trends and needs
  - Consideration of Parking Trackers and Enhance Signage on entrances to downtown to easily locate available parking spaces
  - Future work on main parking lot to improve current layout and needed renovation



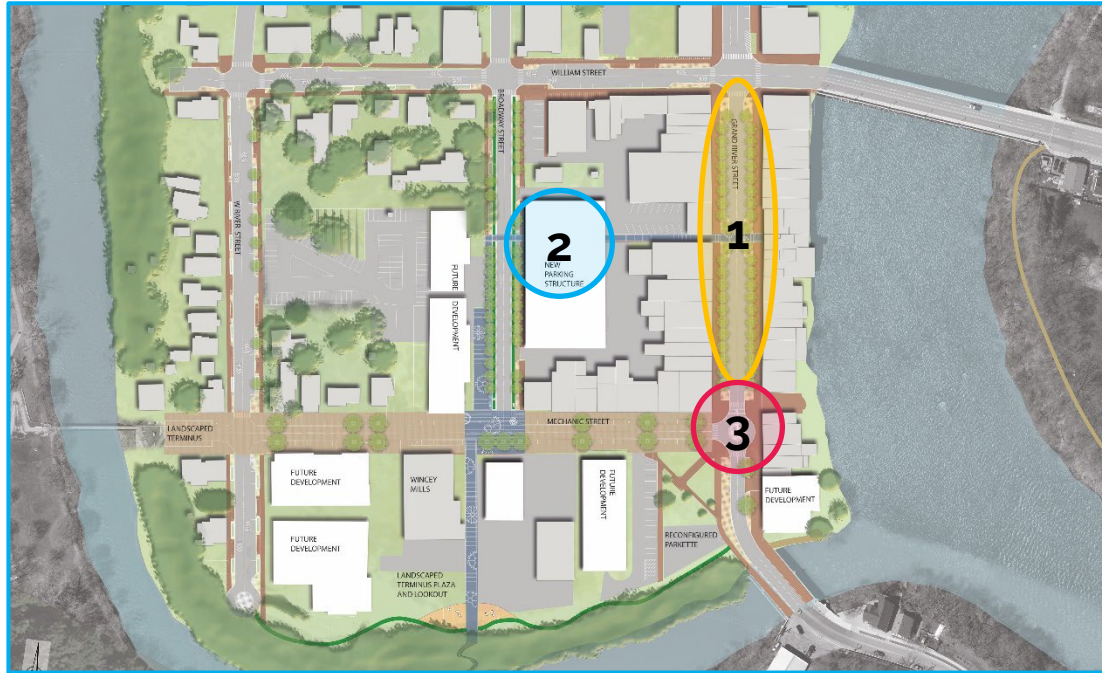
# Future Elements / Goals of Master Plan Implementation

- Enhanced Walkability:
  - As parking volumes move away from Grand River St. N., the reconstruction of Mechanic St., Broadway St. W., and William St. will focus on enhancing pedestrian safety and improve the walking experience
  - Decorative paths re-tracing the former mill races and interpretive signage in the downtown core

# Future Elements / Goals of Master Plan Implementation

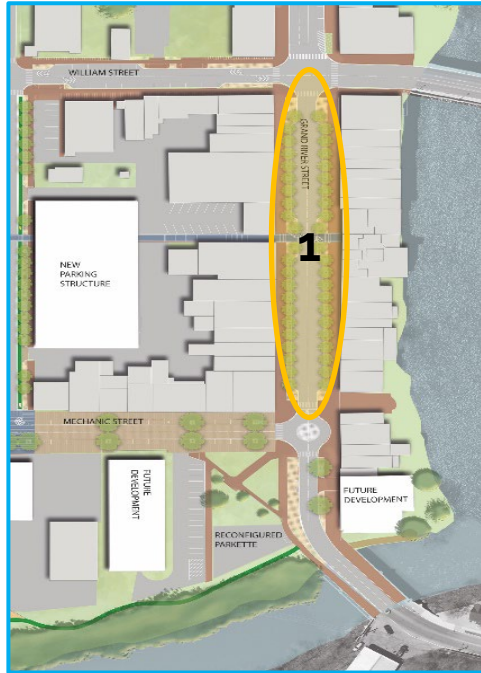
- Connection to the River:
  - A one of the top 3 main issues identified from the public consultation from the Master Plan was access to the river(s)
  - County will investigate waterfront connection Grand River St. N. from the Nith River Bridge towards West River St. and onwards towards Lions Park pedestrian bridge in line with Paris Flood Mitigation Strategy

# Main Changes from Master Plan

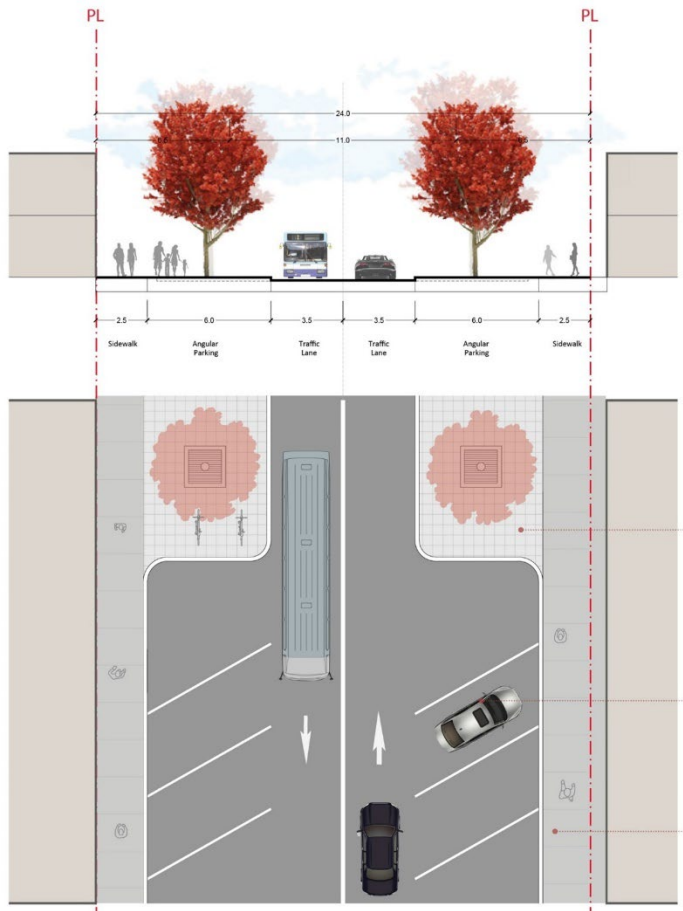


1. Confirmation of Parallel parking on Grand River St. N.
2. Re-evaluation of proposed parking structure on Broadway St. W.
3. Removal of mini-roundabout at Mechanic St. and Grand River St. N. Intersection

# Main Changes from Master Plan

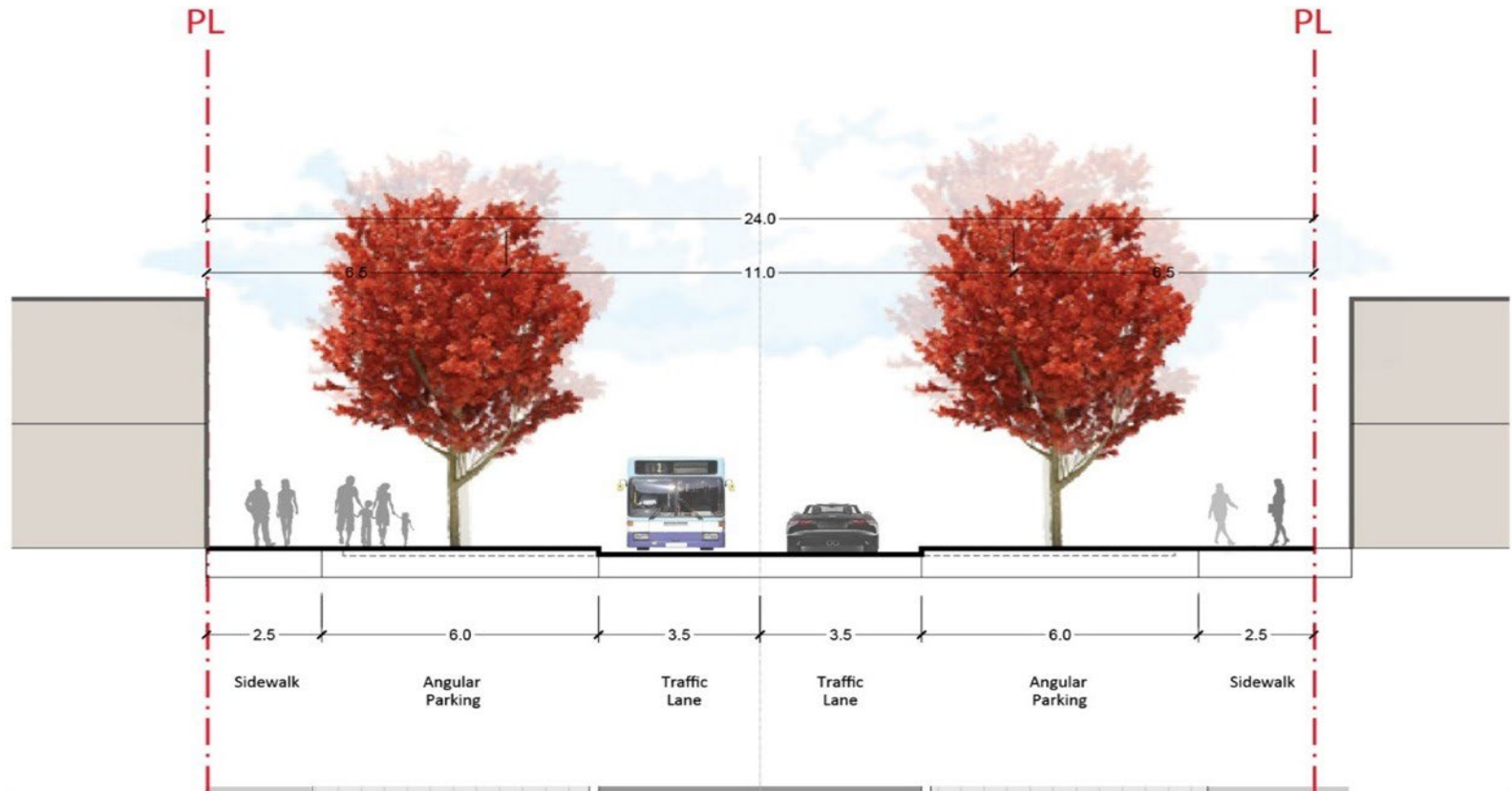


1. Confirmation of Parallel Parking on Grand River St. N.
  - Master Plan outlined 2 options:
    1. Angled Parking
    2. Parallel Parking
  - Angled parking would see more space for vehicles and parking spaces
  - Parallel parking would see more space for pedestrians and business activity
  - Final direction based on staff recommendation to Council in 2023 to proceed with detailed design with parallel parking

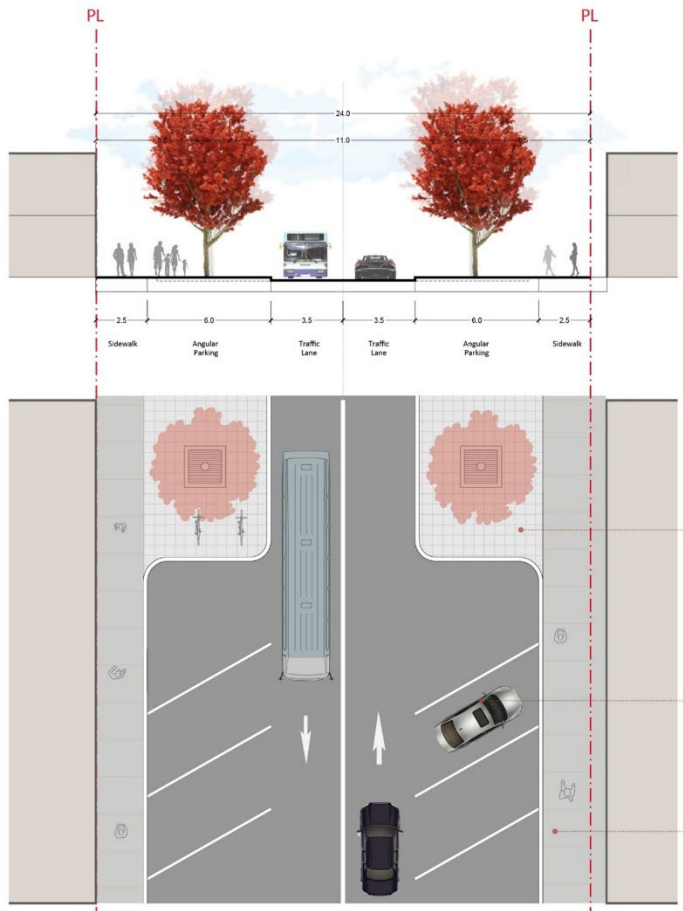


# Main Changes from Master Plan

1. Confirmation of Parallel Parking on Grand River St. N
  - Average of ~23m building to building on Grand River St. N.
  - Angled parking would account for more than 50% of all space in downtown, and combined with the roadway, nearly 80% of all spaces would be dedicated to vehicles
  - Reduces space for business activity, pedestrians, benches, waste receptacles, and greening features (plantings, trees)



Cross-Section of Angled Parking – Master Plan Document

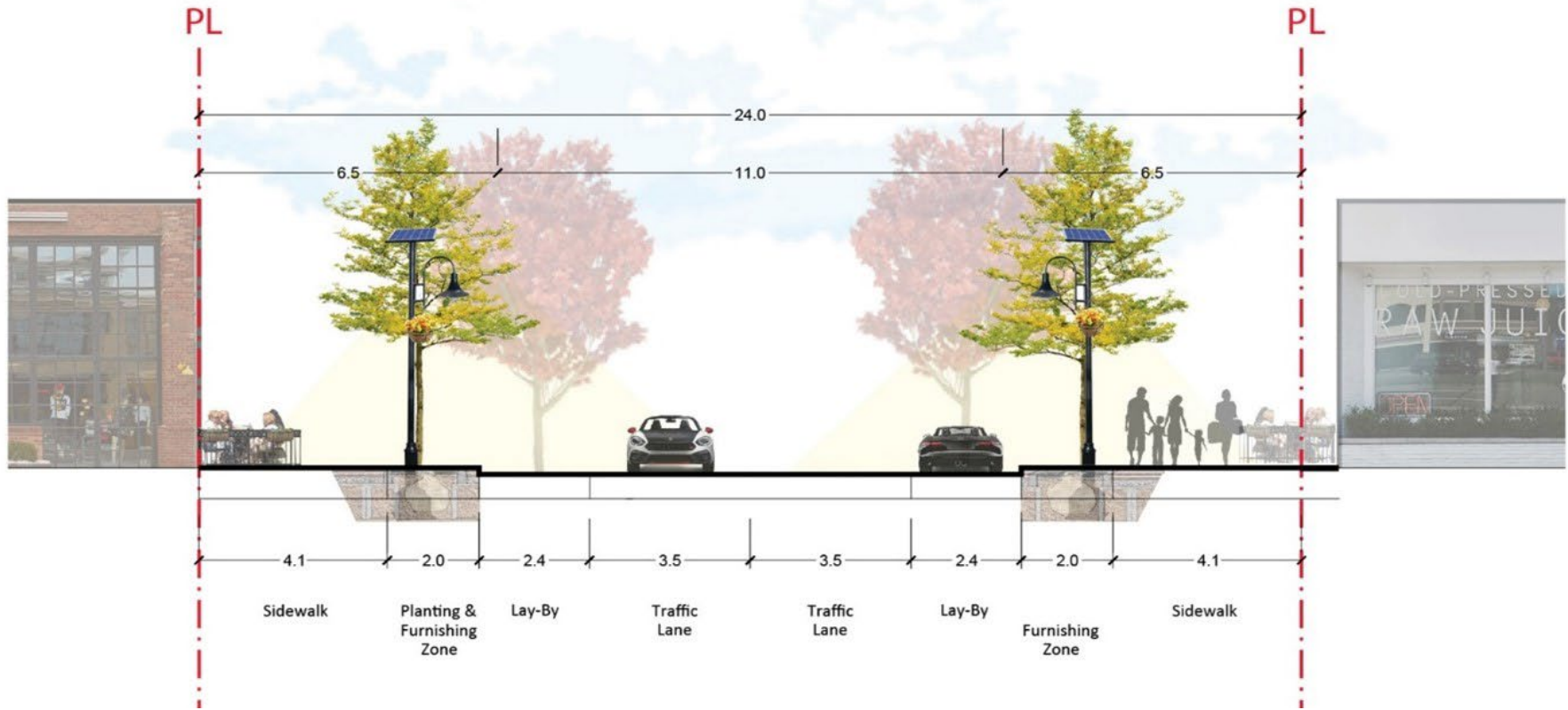


# Main Changes from Master Plan

1. Confirmation of Parallel Parking on Grand River St. N
  - County has or will add 117 parking spaces in downtown since approval of Master Plan in 2019 (71 spaces to former OPP Station site in 2022, 46 spaces in temporary parking lot behind Wincey Mills) to account for the loss of 32 parking spaces on Grand River St. N. (58 to 26)
  - Parking Limits will increase away from core to encourage long-term parking in areas further away, and increase short-term and accessible parking on and closer to Grand River Street North



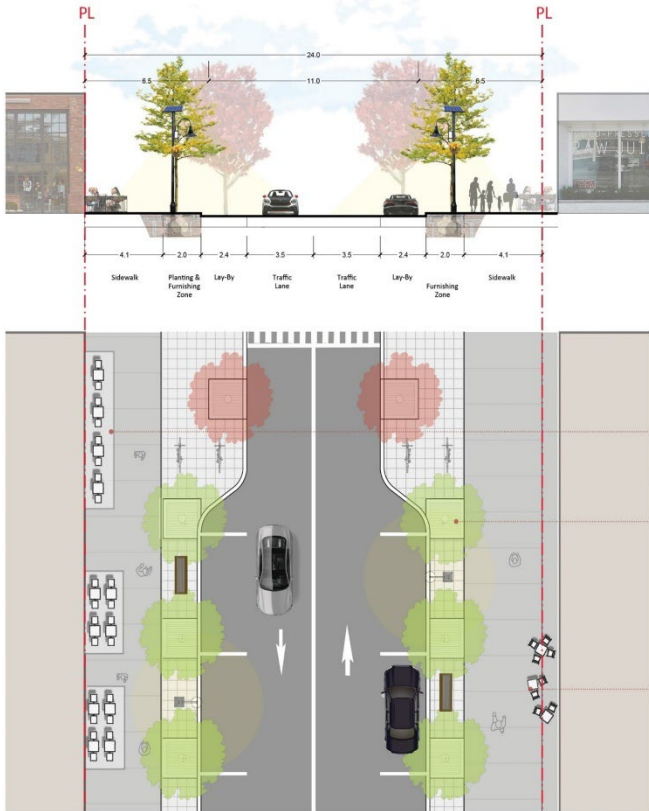




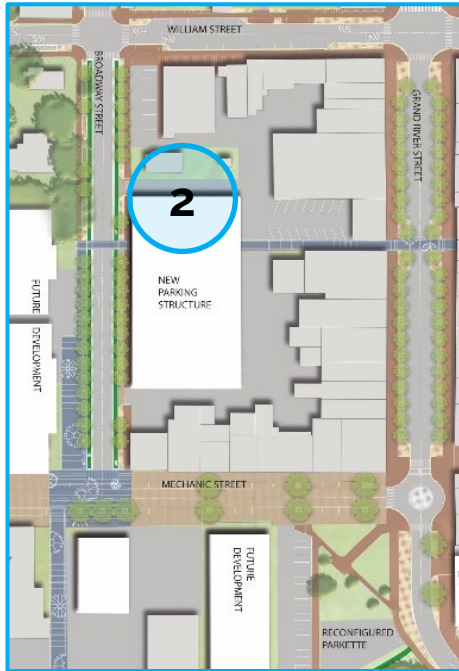
Cross-Section of Parallel Parking – Master Plan Document

# Main Changes from Master Plan

1. Confirmation of Parallel Parking on Grand River St. N
  - Parallel parking splits the available right-of-way more evenly, with more room for pedestrians, street furnishings and business activity, with parking and vehicle traffic still retaining the majority of the street
  - Allows for soft roll over curb to enhance accessibility
  - Allows for greening features (plantings, trees)



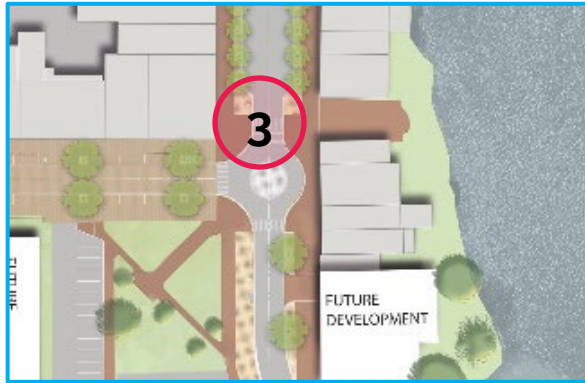
# Main Changes from Master Plan



## 2. Parking Structure

- Original intent of parking structure was to add significant amount of parking in downtown core closer to Grand River St. N., and to improve Broadway St. W. frontage
- Business concerns expressed during Master Plan development associated with removing parking spaces from Grand River St. N. while adding complication of navigating parking structure, further reducing easy access to businesses
- Parking structure in other location remains under consideration to ensure sufficient supply of parking in downtown core

# Main Changes from Master Plan



3. Removal of mini-roundabout at Mechanic and Grand River St. N Intersection
  - Originally included to resume left-turn from Mechanic St. to Grand River St. N.
  - Originally planned to have flower bed as beautification piece
  - During detailed design process, truck movements (particularly fire trucks) could not be accommodated with raised garden bed as originally planned
  - Would completely remove current parallel parking spaces between Mechanic St. and Nith River

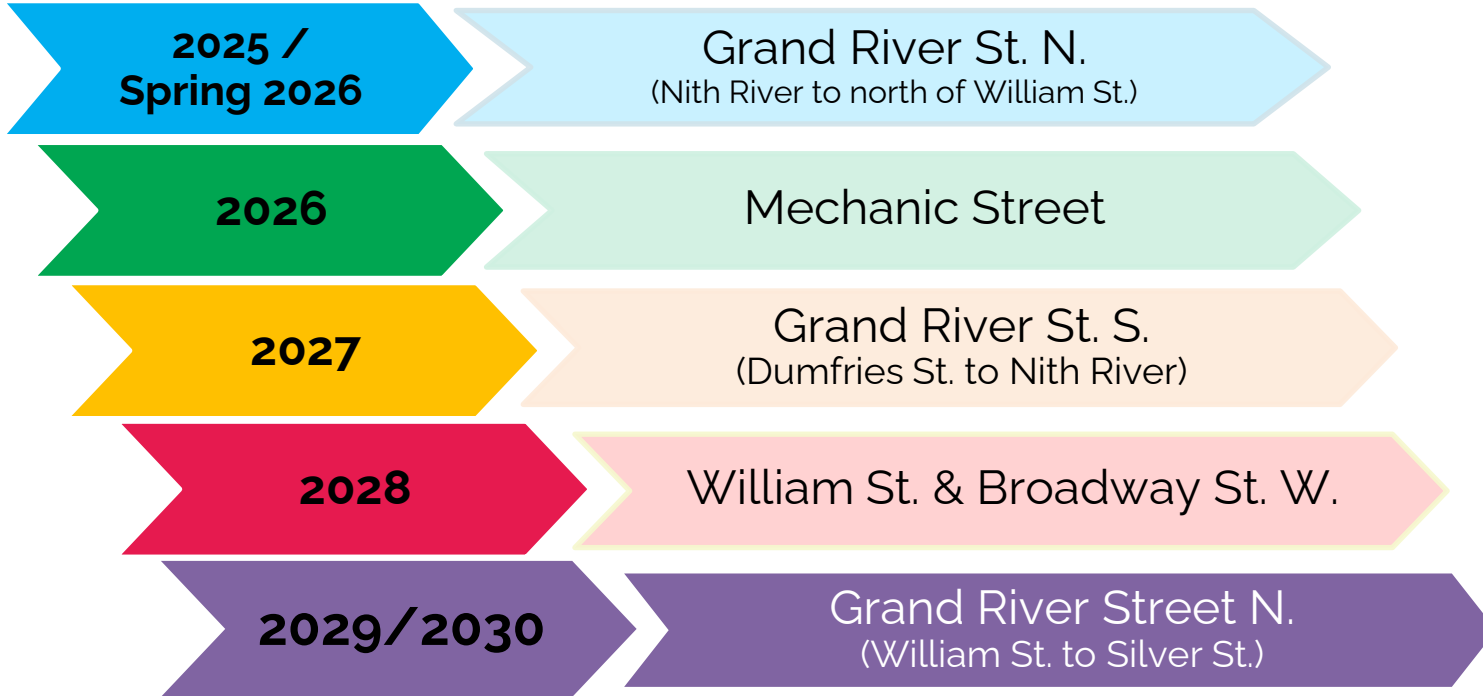
# What to Expect: Overall Design

- With parallel parking, wider sidewalks to enhance pedestrian and business activity space in public areas
- More accessible parking spaces and short-term parking limits
- Raising the existing street and sidewalk to match existing building entrances as close to grade as possible
- New streetscape elements including street furniture, planters and trees, new benches, and light posts





# Proposed Overall Reconstruction Timeline



# Proposed Reconstruction Timeline

Grand River Street North – 2025 / Spring 2026



# Proposed Reconstruction Timeline

## Mechanic Street - 2026



# Proposed Reconstruction Timeline

Broadway Street West - 2028

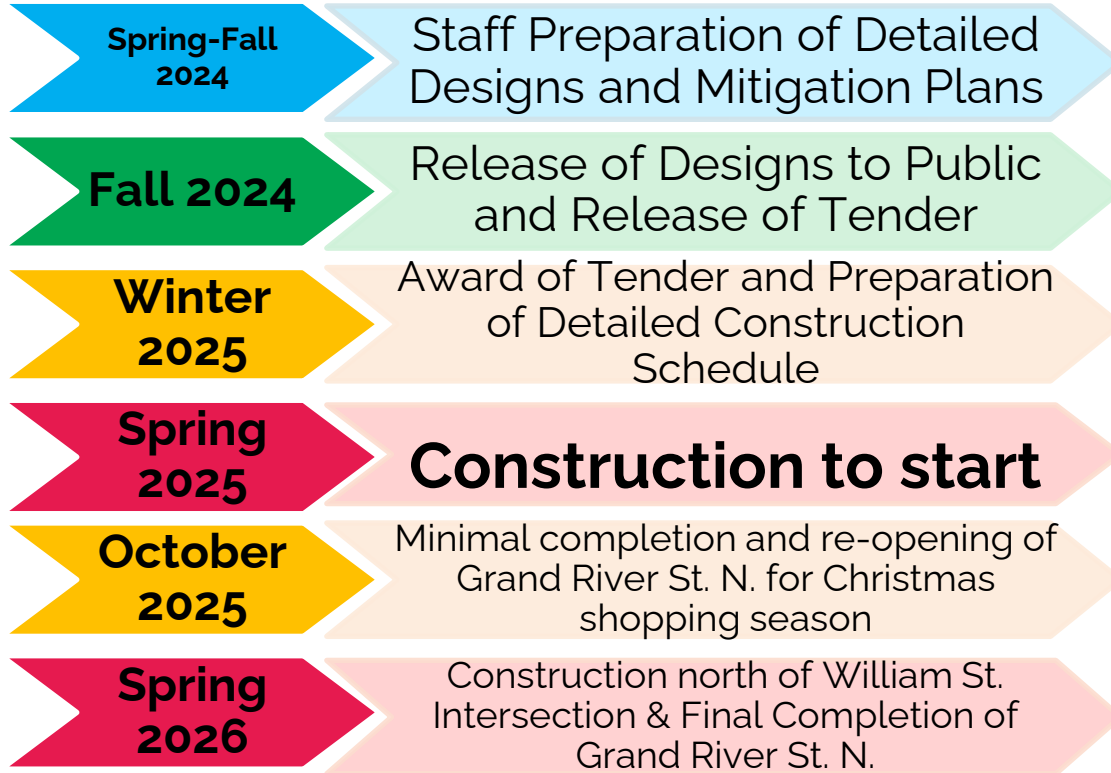


# Proposed Reconstruction Timeline

William Street - 2028



## Proposed Timeline for 2025 / Early 2026



# What to Expect

- Final details about construction timelines are expected by end of February following selection of contractor
- County will initiate discussions with business owners regarding individual needs (delivery logistics, business access)
- The County has developed Business Mitigation, Business Communication, and Community Communication Plans which will outline a plan for keeping partners informed
- This includes retaining a Construction Liaison (subject to Council budget approval) to communicate and dialogue between downtown business owners / residents, and the County and its contractor



# What to Expect

- Construction will require Grand River St. N to be closed to vehicle traffic during construction
- Access to downtown will remain open at all times, with detours as necessary
- Pedestrian access will be maintained aside from direct construction impacts
- Direct contact for business owners to contact with questions, and to provide individualized information regarding construction interruptions
- Fulsome detour planning for town as construction begins
- Free window washing



# Opportunities for getting involved



- Over the next month, the County is encouraging businesses and residents to vote on the styles of furnishings and street lighting heads that will be installed
- These elements will be consistent throughout the downtown core for future reconstruction projects
- Visit **Engage Brant** to learn more, ask questions, and subscribe for updates.
- Resources for businesses will be shared on the **County of Brant website**.

# Concluding Thoughts

- While approved in 2019, the implementation of the Downtown Paris Master Plan largely begins in 2025 through a multi-year revitalization project of downtown Paris
- Planning emphasis on both major construction elements, and mitigating impacts of construction on businesses / residents
- Main impact on Grand River St. N. to be completed within the next 18 months with majority completed by October 2025
- County committed to working with business community to mitigate daily impacts (logistics, deliveries) and major impacts (business resource support, Construction Liaison – pending Council budget approval, CIP)

