

# Broadway as a Great Street

## Vision for Broadway

With the completion of the Broadway Subway, Broadway will be reinforced as the key transportation and economic corridor connecting the city and region to its distinctive neighbourhoods of Kitsilano, Fairview and Mount Pleasant. In October 2019, Council endorsed the following guiding principle to “Enhance Broadway as a Great Street”.

*‘Broadway should be enhanced as a street of special significance—a Great Street—with a series of unique and vibrant places to live, work, visit and play. Street design, new development, public spaces, and businesses should contribute to a delightful experience for everyone and lively gathering places, and help create distinct character areas along Broadway that also serve the local neighbourhoods.’*



Enhance Broadway as a Great Street

## What is a “Great Street”

‘Great Streets’ are streets that people enjoy spending time on. They are memorable and recognizable, safe and comfortable, and easy to get around by walking, rolling, cycling, and using transit. These streets dedicate as much space to people walking/rolling and slower movement as to the faster vehicular through-movement. Slower movement spaces are defined by unique and accessible streetscape designs, lighting, landscaping and trees, and people gathering which contribute to the unique character and beauty of these streets.

Great Streets also have a citywide and civic importance. They play a critical role in supporting economic activity, house landmark buildings, tell stories about local history, and are public living rooms for people to live, work, play, and connect.

### Key Elements of a Great Street

- » Protection - safety for all users
- » Comfort - physical experience and ease
- » Legibility - easy navigation
- » Enjoyment - delightful experience



# Broadway Street Design

## The Broadway We Want

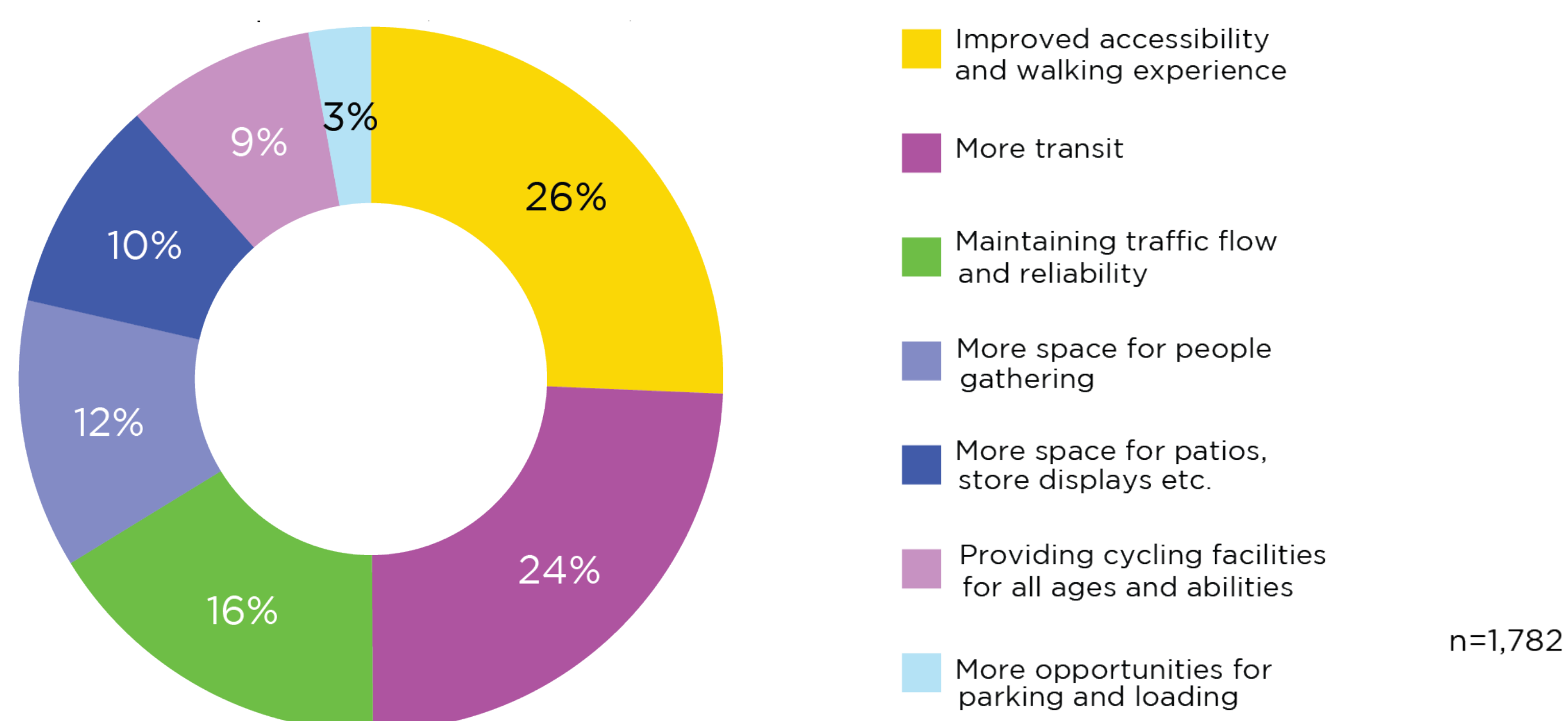
### Context

The Broadway Subway Project will significantly increase the people moving capacity of the corridor by extending the Millennium Line SkyTrain to Arbutus Street. The Broadway Subway will have 2-3 times the capacity of the existing 99 B-Line buses on opening day (with the potential to increase to 10 times the capacity of the B-Line in the future), which currently operate in peak period bus lanes. With the increase in people moving capacity and potential for the subway to reduce motor vehicle trips, we have an opportunity to reallocate travel lanes to public space and achieve a Great Street on Broadway. In addition, this reallocation of road space to space for walking/rolling provides the best opportunity to accommodate the subway station vents and the large number of people expected to use the subway stations.

Converting Broadway to a Great Street will be achieved over the long term, in coordination with utility, development and other construction works. However, the city blocks where the subway stations are located will be reconstructed within the next few years. This provides an earlier opportunity to realize the Great Street concept along these blocks.

### What We Heard

The community provided its top priorities for the future of Broadway earlier in the planning process, as shown below.



### Walkable

A Great Street needs to be walkable, but people noted that Broadway is not a friendly and welcoming walking/rolling environment. There is a desire for wider, more accessible sidewalks, a clean and well-maintained public realm, and more public seating, patios and plazas, and green space.

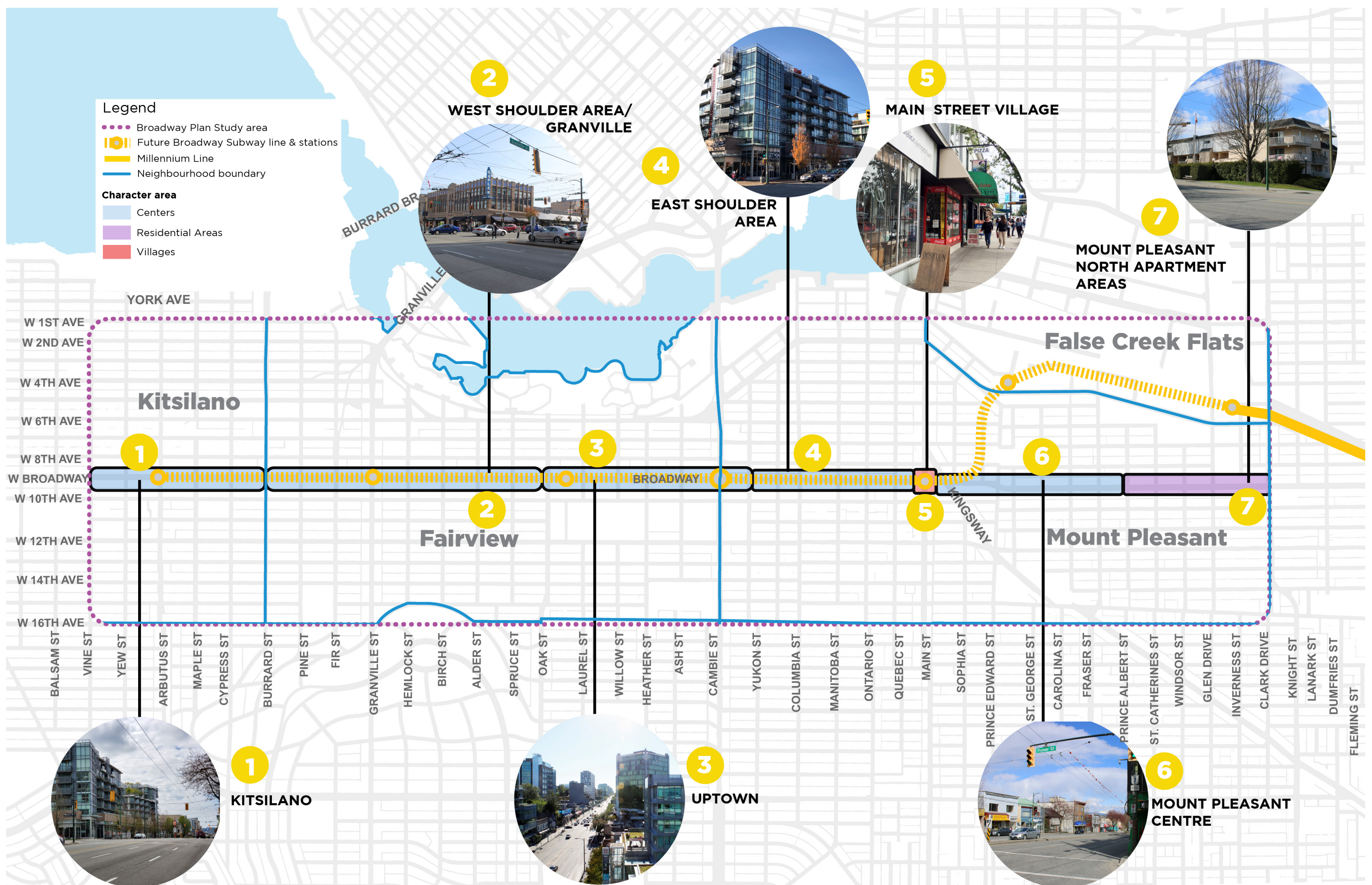
### Excellent Transportation Options

In addition to a desire for a more walkable Broadway, people suggested a need for better transportation options. It was noted that it is difficult to bike to/from Broadway. Buses on Broadway are often overcrowded and delayed by congestion. These issues will in part be resolved with the Broadway subway, which will greatly increase corridor capacity and offer decreased transit travel times, particularly for longer trips. It was also noted that maintaining traffic flow and reliable travel time is important.

# Distinctive Character Areas

## Broadway's Character Areas

The Broadway corridor passes through multiple neighbourhoods and each one has its own distinctive character. The future of Broadway should reflect these character areas and requires us to take a neighbourhood-based planning approach. One size will not fit all.



Note: Based on Character Areas and Neighbourhood Sub-Areas.

# The Vision for Broadway

Broadway will be enhanced to be safe, comfortable, and accessible for everyone to walk/roll and gather. Residents, workers and visitors will be able to easily access a range of shops and services, socialize in pleasant public spaces, and enjoy a vibrant public life.

## Subway Station Areas

The Broadway Subway stations will be important public spaces and the subway will generate significantly more activity around the station areas. However, the subway station areas have special requirements. For example, they must:

- » Incorporate subway-related infrastructure, such as emergency exits, vents in the ground, and mechanical equipment
- » Accommodate large volumes of people walking/rolling
- » Consider access to/from the subway by bus, walking and rolling, cycling, and driving, and space for pick up and drop off and shared mobility.

The public realm enhancements to achieve a Great Street will need to be balanced with the above space requirements unique to the subway station areas.

## GREAT STREET ELEMENTS

The Broadway Plan is looking at converting the curb lanes along Broadway to public space to include Great Street elements, such as:

**Wide sidewalks** with continuous awnings

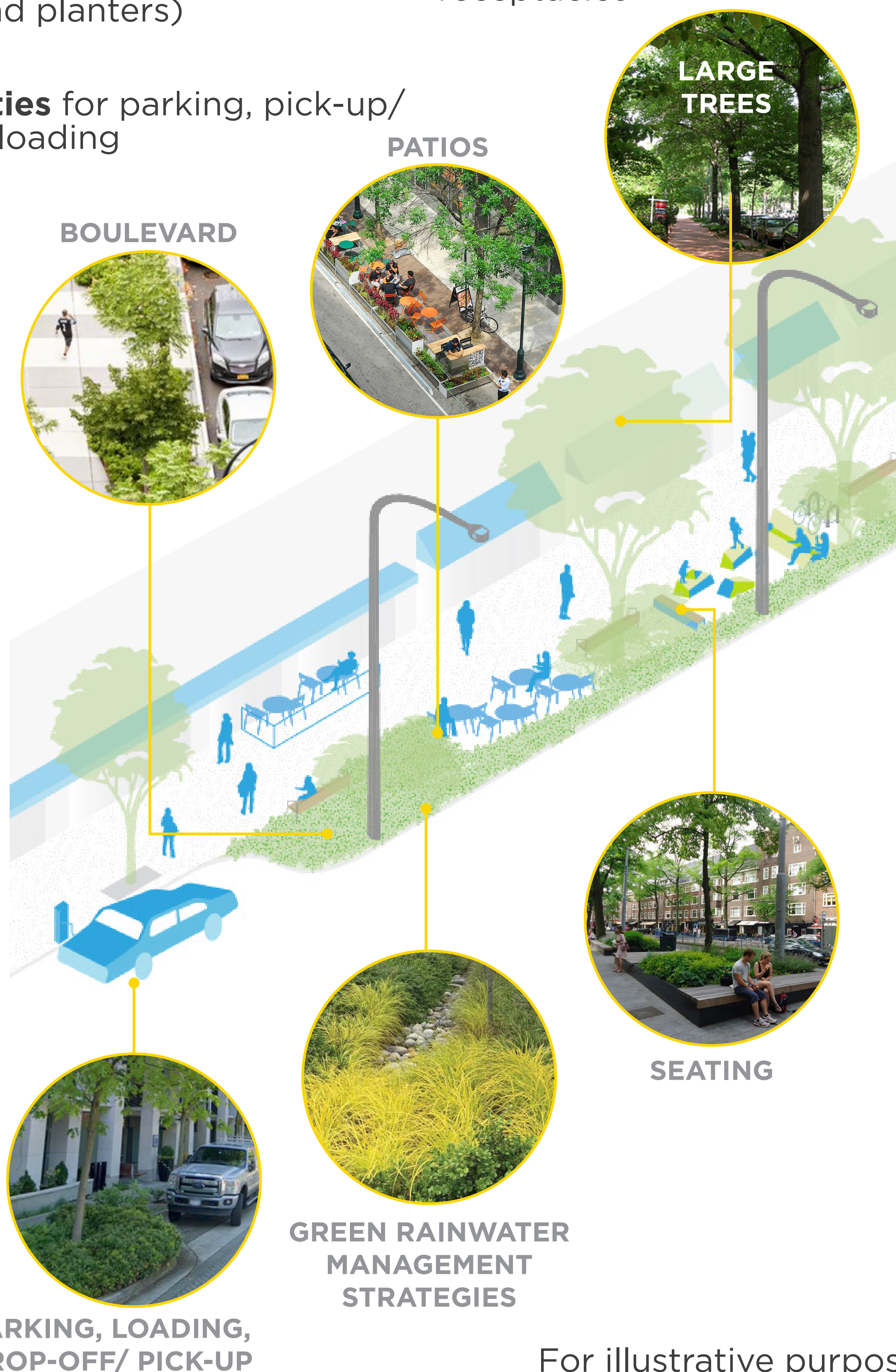
**Patios & Parklets** for flexible public spaces and restaurant patios

**Seating & Site Furnishings** (such as benches and planters)

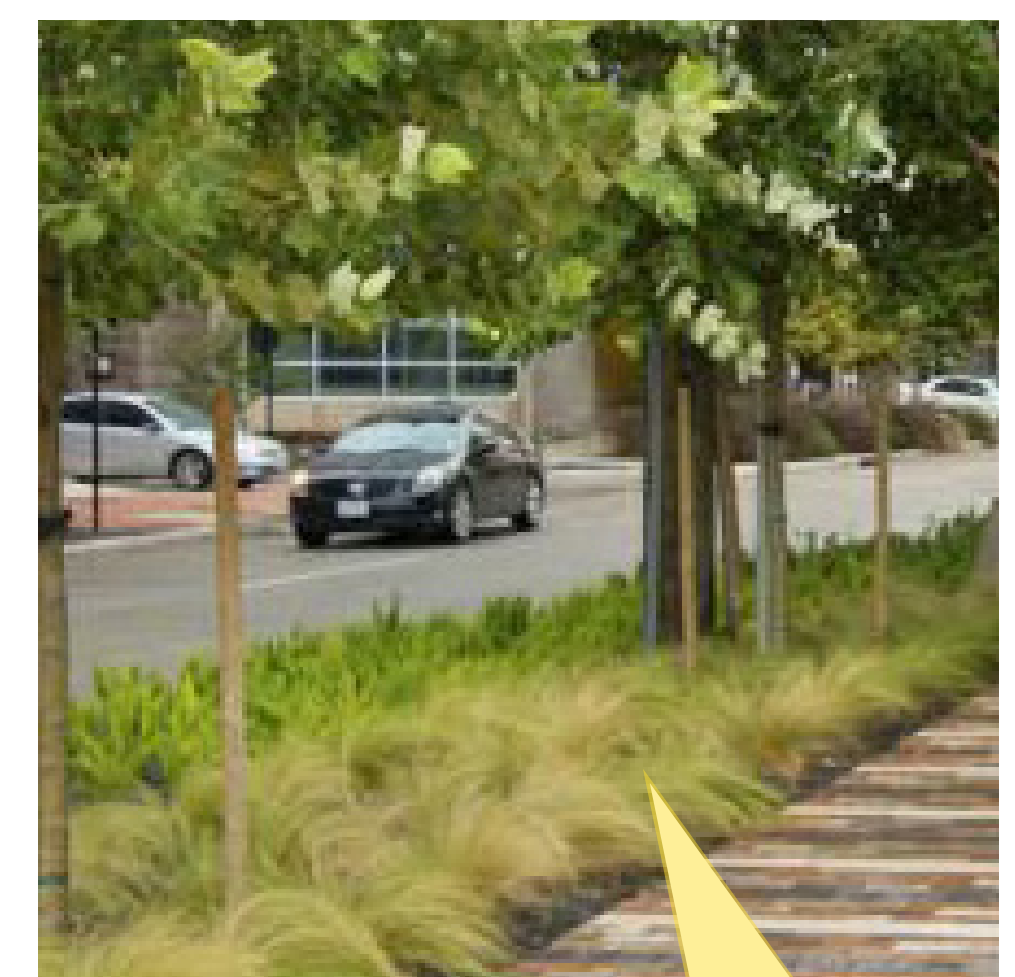
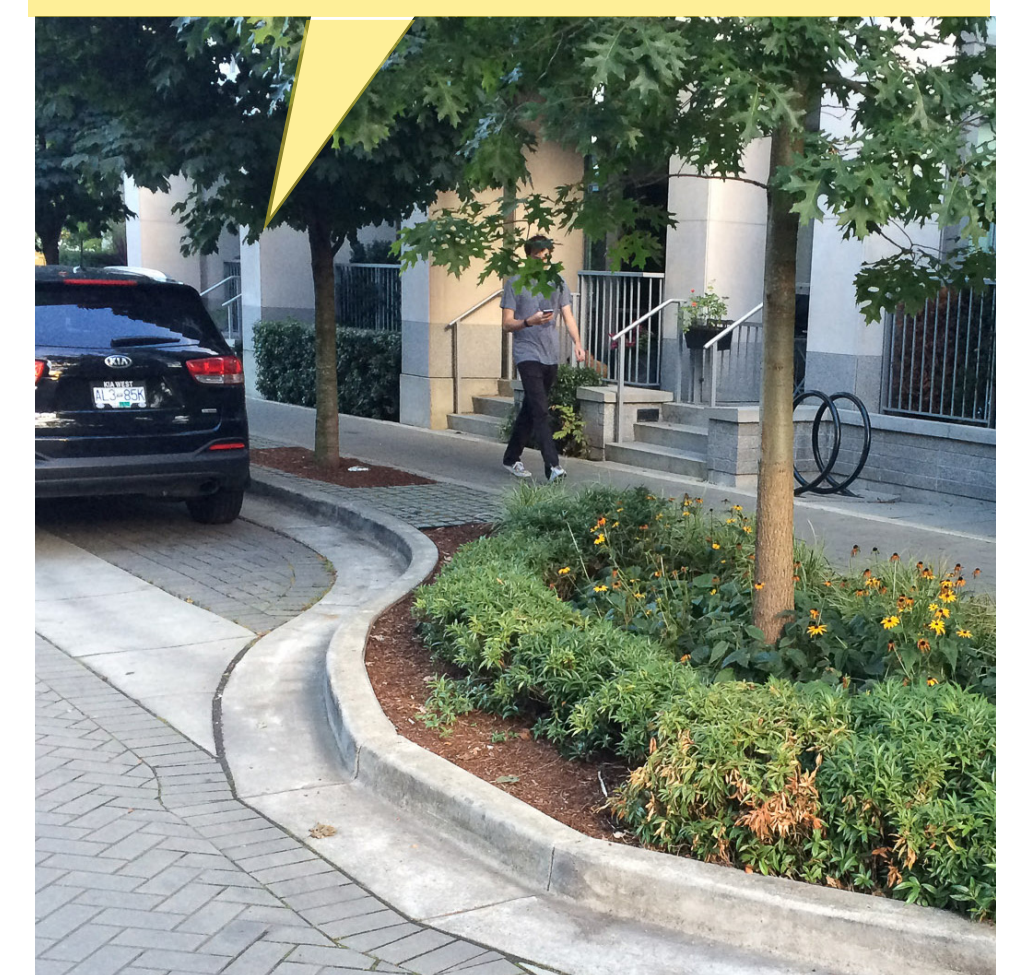
**Opportunities** for parking, pick-up/drop-off & loading

**Planted Boulevards** with diverse planting, large street trees & green rainwater management strategies

**Streetscape Components** such as bike racks and waste & recycling receptacles



parking, pick-up/drop-off and loading



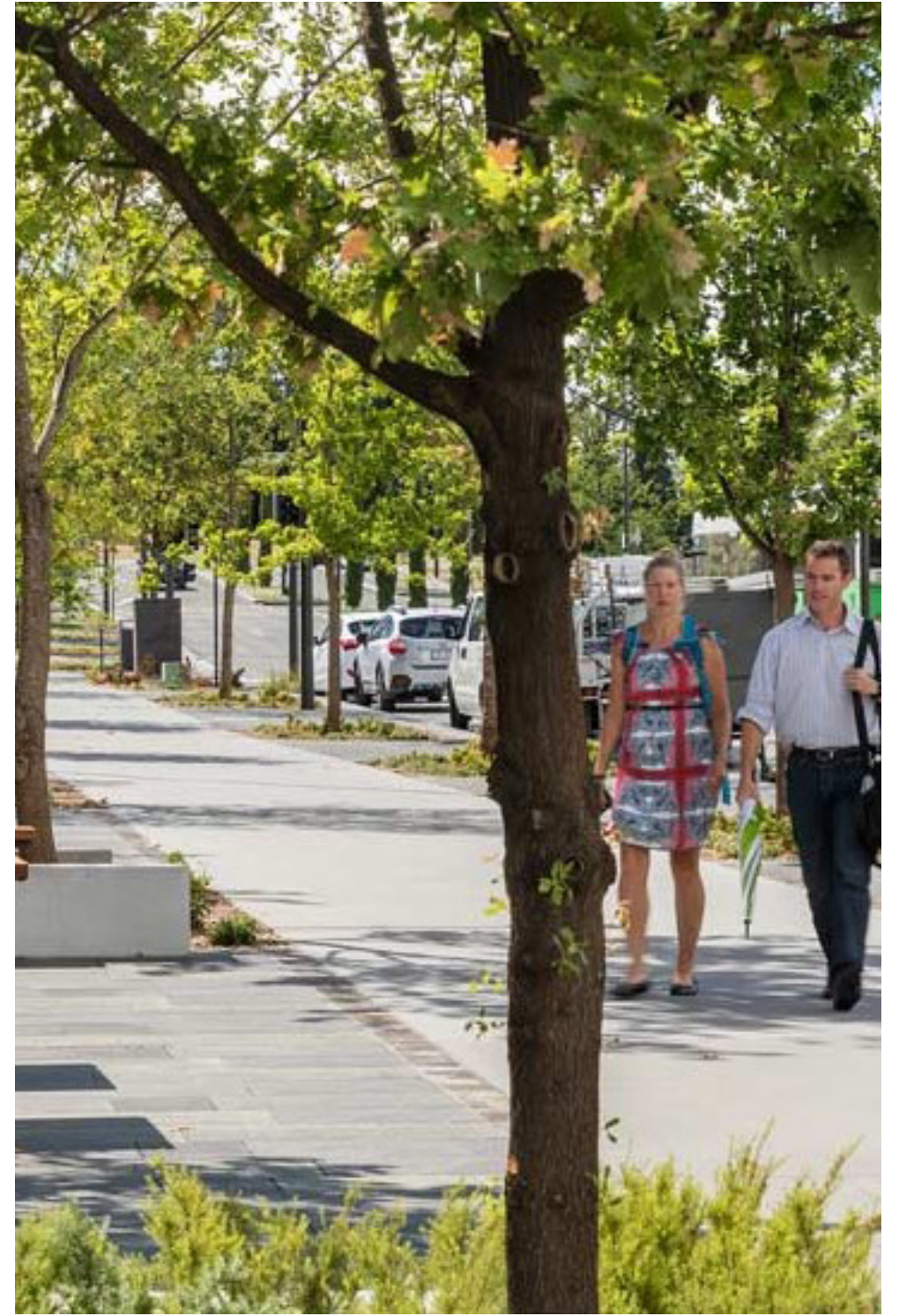
diverse planting and rainwater management in the boulevard

parklets & patios next to the sidewalk



For illustrative purposes only

# The Vision for Broadway



## EMERGING DIRECTIONS

### Connectivity

- » Enhance Broadway as a Great Street to provide opportunities for improved connections to and through the area, as well as to be a welcoming, interesting and desirable street for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy (e.g. design spaces to be universally accessible).
- » Ensure Broadway continues to play an important regional role in moving goods and people, particularly through low-carbon and sustainable modes of travel.
- » Create strong walking/rolling linkages to businesses, adjacent residential areas, and new and existing rapid transit stations.
- » Ensure emergency vehicles and people seeking medical services can easily access hospitals and other medical offices.

### Streetscape

- » Seek community-inspired opportunities to create distinct character areas along Broadway.
- » Enhance the public realm with wider and accessible sidewalks, significant street trees, greenery and rainwater management features to absorb stormwater, continuous weather protection, pedestrian lighting, seating, busking, and opportunities for small businesses to animate the adjacent space (i.e. patios, store displays, public art, etc.).
- » Include other amenities such as bike parking and electric vehicle charging stations.
- » Minimize the impacts of the subway infrastructure, such as vents, on people walking/rolling.

### Transit

- » Explore measures to provide transit priority within the four-lane cross-section to ensure that surface transit continues to be fast and reliable.
- » Improve visual and physical connections to the existing and future rapid transit stations, including elements that support public life, such as seating, plazas, wayfinding, lighting, busking, etc.

### Parking and Loading

- » Look for opportunities to re-purpose curb space to focus more on supporting active transportation and shorter term loading needs for residents and businesses in the area, and integrate these uses into a more appealing and comfortable public space.

### Other

- » Ensure easy access for emergency vehicles to and from the Vancouver General and Mount St. Joseph hospitals.
- » Support the installation of public parklets, business patios, and plazas to facilitate public life.
- » Maintain and seek new public space partnerships between local community groups and City staff, to ensure spaces are lively, well-programmed and managed, and responsive to unique neighbourhood needs.
- » Ensure City assets and infrastructure are well-managed and resilient.
- » Enhance public wayfinding opportunities.