SIZE OF THE SQUARE

IDEAS TO INCREASE THE SIZE

During public engagement phase 1 we heard from a number of respondents that the existing space is too small, and some would like to see the size of Chinatown Memorial Square enlarged – 60% of respondents strongly agree and 23% somewhat agree with this idea. There are opportunities to enlarge the square by reconfiguring the existing road space. The ideas presented below will be refined at the design process.

1



Through the redesign we are able to close the lane to the north of the square because it is no longer needed. We are also able to remove the tourist bus stop as there are alternative tour bus stops available nearby. This results in an increase of 570m^2 (approx. 80%). The main considerations for this idea include:

- Existing traffic circulation patterns will remain the same.
- No parking is impacted.
- Pedestrian access to the square remains the same.

2



This idea expands the square into the existing road space while maintaining existing traffic circulation and site access. The increase in space would be achieved by reducing lane widths, shifting lanes and moving curbs. This results in an increase of 900m^2 (approx. 130%). The main considerations for this idea include:

- Improvement of pedestrian safety by decreasing crosswalk distances and encouraging vehicles to slow down around the square.
- Existing traffic circulation patterns will remain the same.
- No parking is impacted.
- The tourist bus stop will be removed as there are other stops nearby, and the lane on the north side of the square will be closed because it is no longer needed.

OTHER IDEAS CONSIDERED

Staff explored a number of ideas leading up to phase 2 public engagement. One idea that was considered was technically feasible but resulted in neighbourhood traffic circulation changes and didn't meet project goals. As a result, this idea is not being advanced (see diagram to right).

This idea expands the square further into existing road space by removing a lane of traffic from Keefer St. Keefer would become a one-way street with westbound traffic removed. This idea would increase the size of the square by 1130m2 (approx 165%).The traffic impacts under this option, given the modest size increase, led staff to recommend that this idea not be advanced further.

