

Pedestrian Zones and The Main Street BIA District: COVID-19 Response

June 2, 2020 Special BIA Meeting

Introduction

- Mayor Taylor

Purpose of Today

- Seek the BIA's input into an expanded patio and sidewalk occupancy program in the BIA District
- Come to a decision regarding moving forward with an expanded sidewalk occupancy program
- Examine preliminary funding mechanisms

What we've heard in Economic Development/Executive Office



- Desire to support the vibrancy of Main Street (both retail and restaurant)
- Looking for ways to preserve the feasibility of doing business in the downtown core
- Mindful of managing social distancing and not creating a “gathering” place and the need for our local businesses to be able to adapt to major changes from COVID-19
- Need to move quickly –ready for potential provincial announcement

Discussions to Date:



- Restaurants with existing patios— looking for ways to increase space and make patio dining economically feasible
- Restaurant owners without patios- looking for ways to increase occupancy once patios are allowed to re-open
- Retail – important to consider how to support and increase ability to offer services
- Open to continued conversations throughout the summer about street closures as the situation evolves.

Potential Opportunity



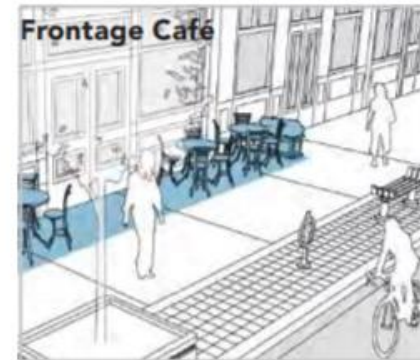
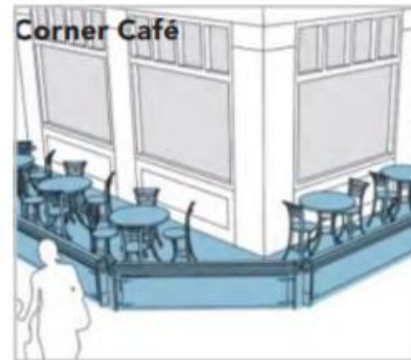
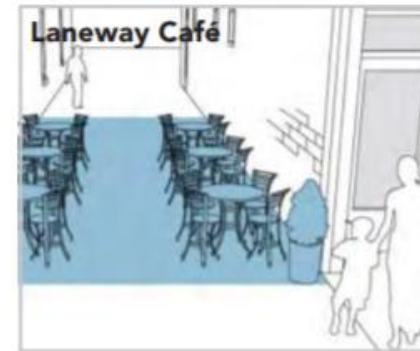
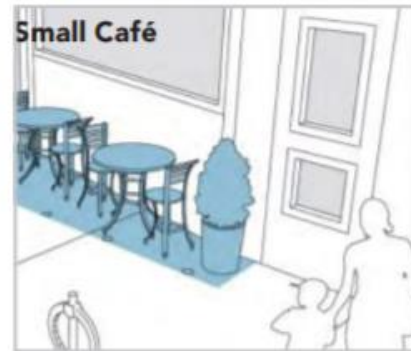
- Expand current patio/sidewalk occupancy program – encouraging all BIA restaurants and stores to consider some kind of sidewalk occupancy to expand their space
- Businesses would have to submit an application to the Town with desired location
- Would require Jersey barriers for safety, sidewalk ramps for accessibility and fencing for physical distancing/safety

Potential Opportunity



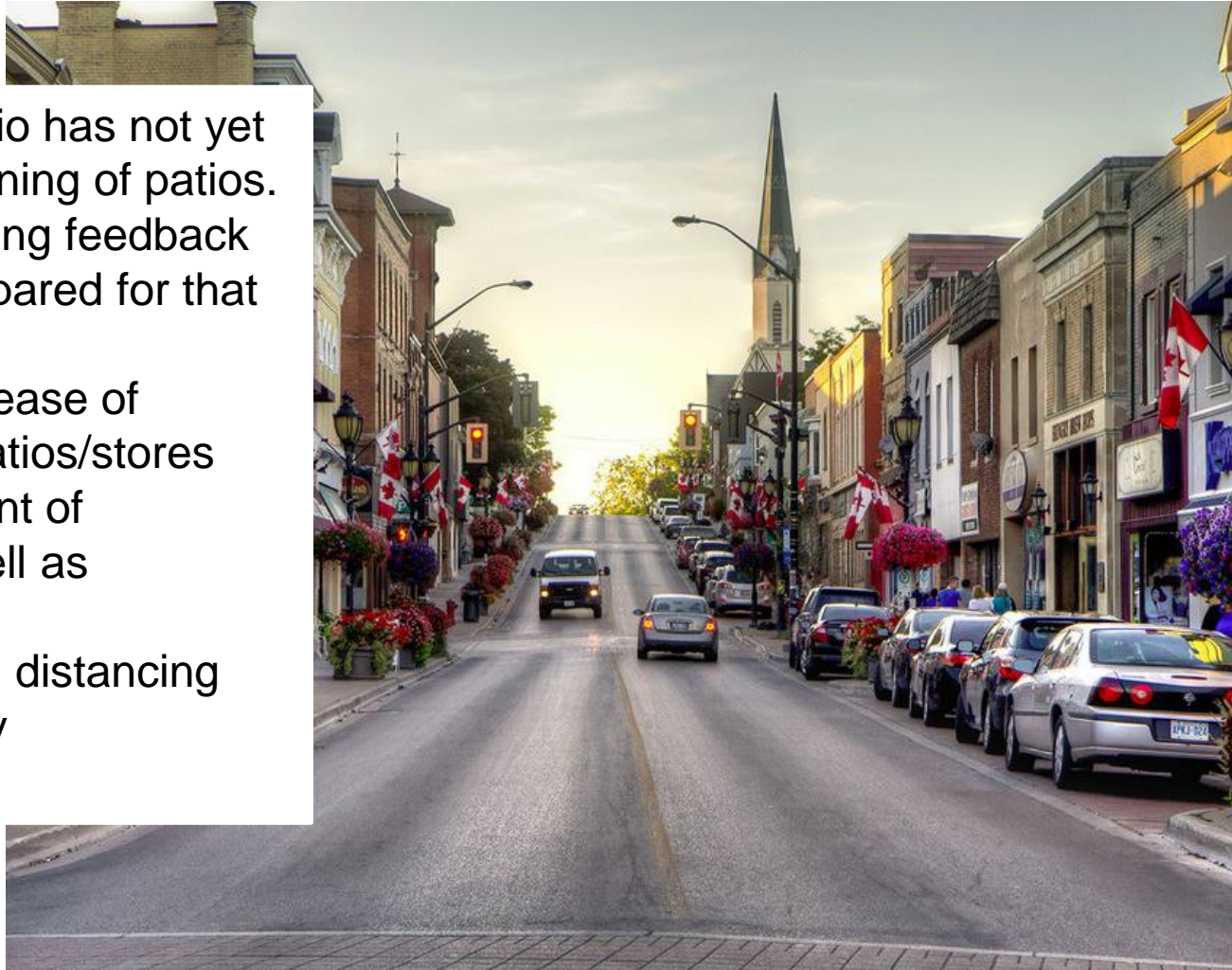
- Would include removing parking spaces in front of participating businesses to allow pedestrians enough space for physical distancing
- Need for accessibility modifications to the street, temporary fencing and chairs/tables etc.

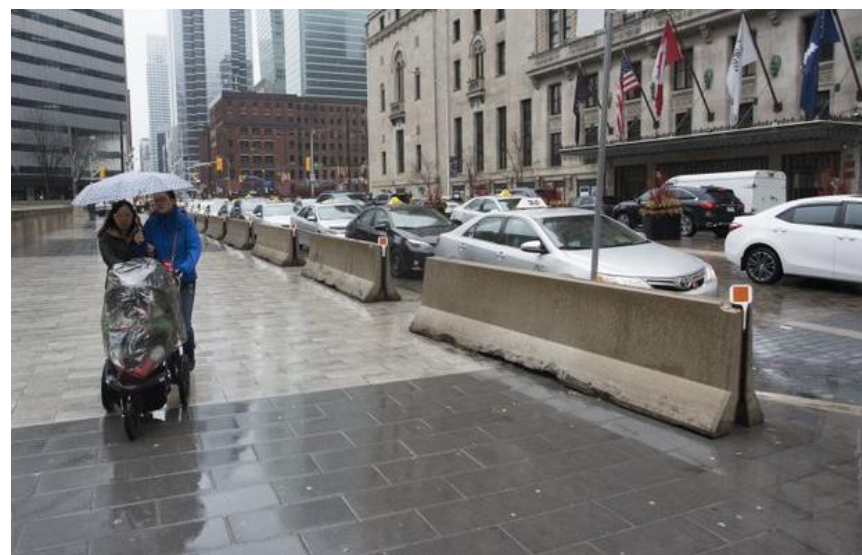
Potential Opportunity



Considerations:

- Province of Ontario has not yet permitted the opening of patios. The Town is seeking feedback in order to be prepared for that time.
- Accessibility and ease of access into the patios/stores
- Expanding footprint of stores/retail as well as restaurants
- Maintaining social distancing
- Maintaining safety







Regulatory Environment



- A relaxed temporary outdoor patio program is being explored to facilitate bars, pubs, and restaurants with revised occupancy loads due to COVID-19 restrictions (such as 2m physical distancing)
- Basic requirements will include:
 - Temporary AGCO extension licence (up to 8 weeks permitted);
 - A revised letter to AGCO with indoor/outdoor occupant loads;
 - Drawing of temporary patio proposal;
 - CYFS inspection; and
 - Compliance with the Temporary Outdoor Patio Guidelines provided by the Town

Questions for Discussion



- Is the BIA Board in support of:
 - an expanded patio/sidewalk occupancy program as a short-term measure during physical distancing due to COVID-19?
 - an expansion of the program to include retailers, to increase potential occupancy? I.e.: Daily sidewalk displays within given parameters
 - a program that would temporarily (to meet physical distancing timelines laid out by the province) remove some of the on street parking spaces in the downtown core?
 - cost sharing portions of the program such as fencing/ramps for accessibility?