



City Charter Section 9.06

Case # 2022-00002

Temporary Closure of the Unit Block of King Street and the Northern Portion of the Strand to Vehicular Traffic

City Council

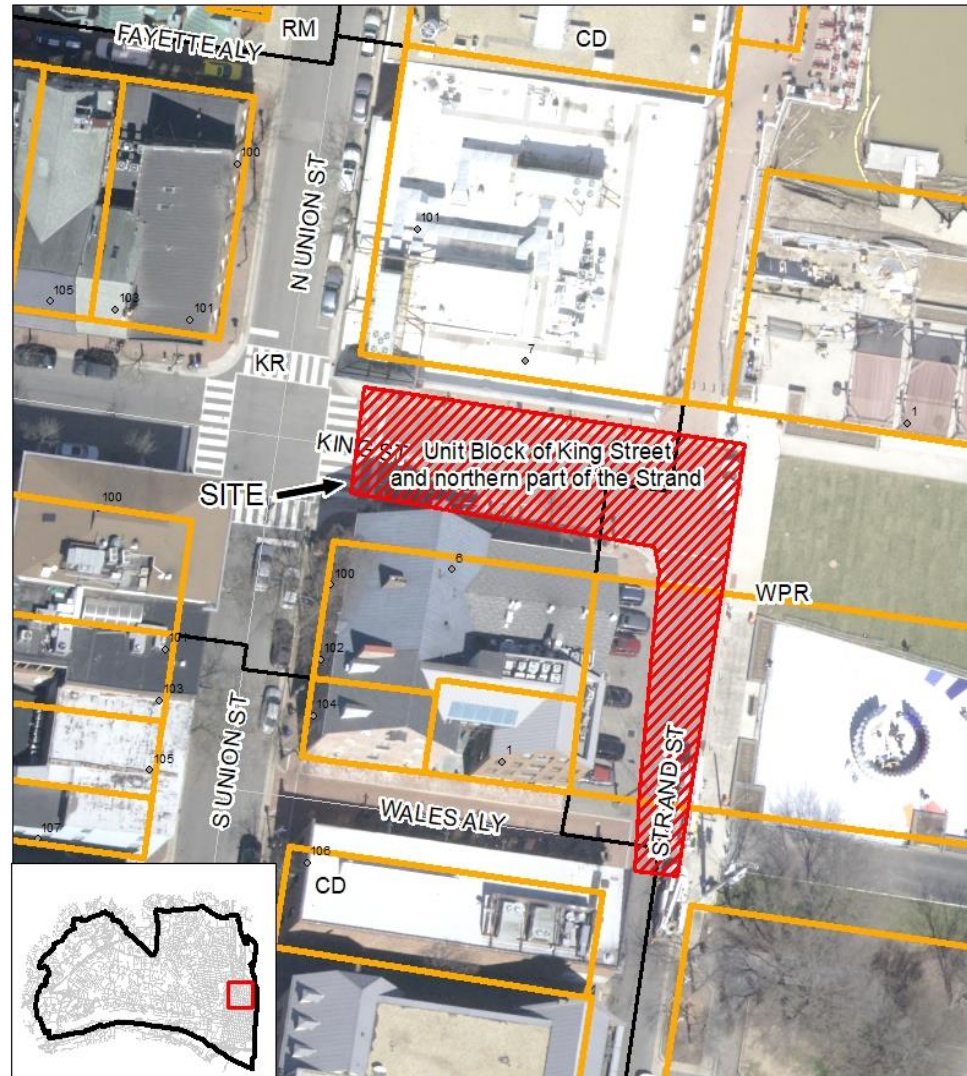
April 23, 2022

Proposed Temporary Closure of the Unit Block of King Street and the Northern Portion of the Strand to Vehicular Traffic between May 28-November 20, 2022

- Section 9.06 of the City's Charter requires that the Planning Commission approve any changes to the use of a public street.
- Planning Commission is charged with ensuring that any change is consistent with the City's Master Plan.

Site Context

Located within the
Old Town Small Area
Plan and the
Waterfront Small
Area Plan



Background Information

- 2012 Waterfront Small Area Plan
- 2019-2021 – Successful Closure of 100 block of King Street to all car traffic
 - Businesses permitted to use parking lane and sidewalk for restaurant or retail use
- Advisory Group
 - November 2021-February
 - Agencies and OTBA

July 2019

Unit Block of King Street

Google Streetview



Rendering of Closure



Consistency with Master Plan

2012 Waterfront Small Area Plan:

3.67 - Element 1 - Pedestrian Plaza from Union Street to the River; Marina Repairs and Upgrades

The Plan recommends closing the unit block of King Street to daily vehicular traffic and transforming it into a pedestrian-oriented plaza, with access limited to emergency services, deliveries, motorcoaches and trolleys. The plaza would extend from Union Street to the water, incorporating the existing King Street Park. The project would include reconfiguration of trees and other plantings in order to create a strong visual connection to and from the water and King Street.

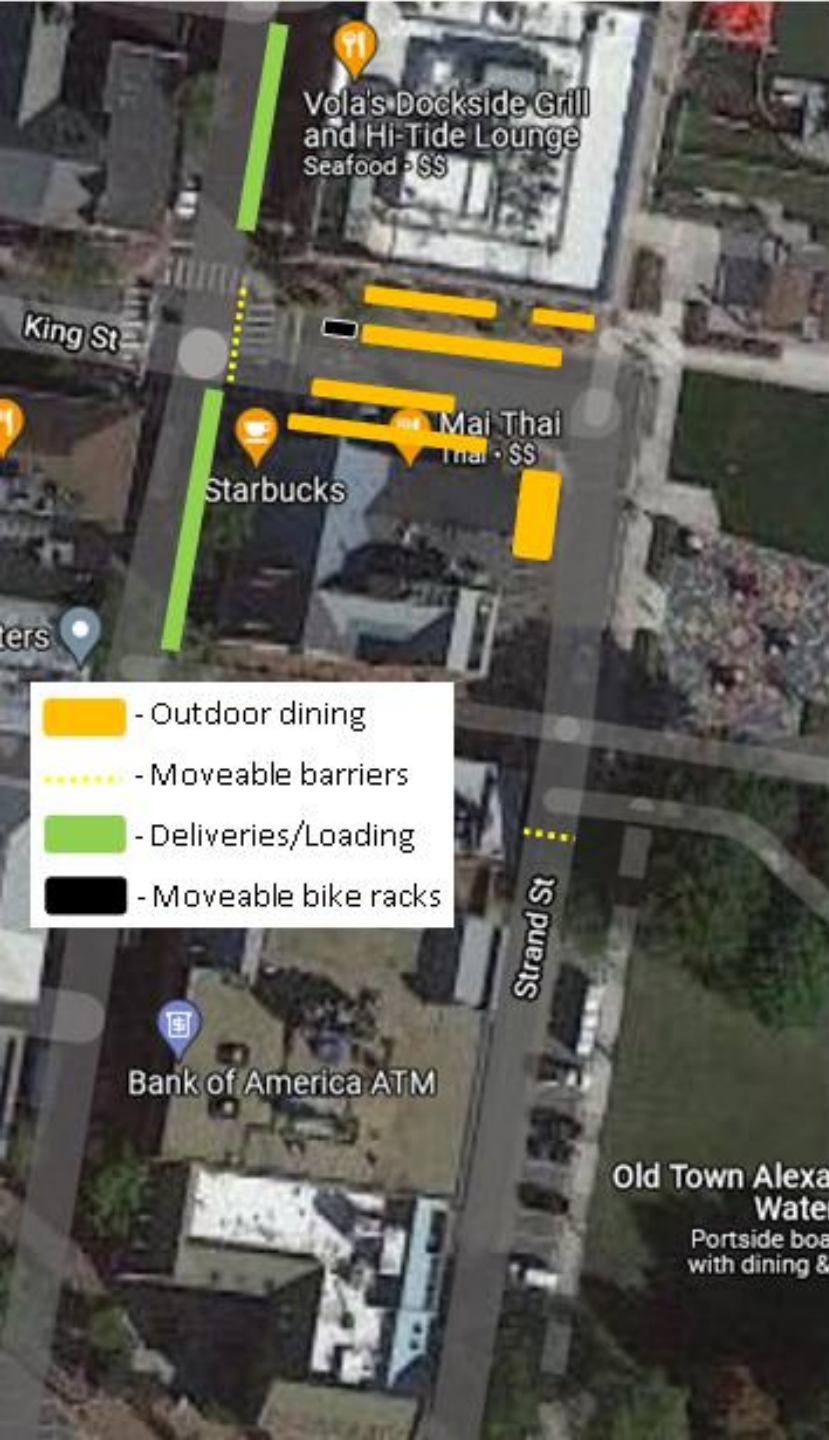
3.68: Limit vehicular access to the unit block of King Street and The Strand between Prince and King Streets to emergency vehicles, deliveries (limited hours), motorcoaches, and the King Street Trolley. The Strand would also be open to vehicles accessing the parking garages and lots that have entrances on this block of The Strand.

4.4: Enlarge the pedestrian hub at King and Union Streets, by closing the unit block to most vehicular traffic, maintaining police, fire, EMS, and delivery, trolley and motorcoach access as necessary. Creating a significant public space will give pedestrians more room to congregate, and allow them a sense of where they are in relation to other points of interest along the waterfront. Consider eliminating on-street parking along the unit block of King and at the immediate intersection of King and Union Street.

Consistency with Master Plan

- Increase and improve access to the public spaces of the Waterfront. Pedestrian connectivity along the Waterfront should be continuous.
- Maintain a living, active Waterfront that is a destination that attracts all Alexandrians and visitors and should be integral to the visitor experience in Alexandria.
- Provide a variety of uses, themes, activities, and experiences along the Waterfront.
- Improve the Waterfront's vehicular and pedestrian circulation.

Design Concept



- Outdoor dining in on-street parking spaces and sidewalk
- 22' EVE for emergency response and a minimum five-foot wide pedestrian path on sidewalks
- Clearance for stormwater maintenance
- Deliveries/loading
 - Union Street and alleys parallel to 100 block of King Street
- Moveable barriers
- Moveable bike racks

Pilot Program

- Temporary closure permitted between May 28 and November 20
 - Businesses request pilot closure between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends
- Regular staff monitoring
- If successful, return to Planning Commission in Fall to make permanent after staff evaluation
 - Resident/Business input
 - On-line feedback

Planning Commission finds the proposed change to the unit block of King Street and the northern portion of the Strand between May 28-November 20 is consistent with Section 9.06 of the City Charter and the City's Master Plan