



City Charter Section 9.06

Case #2022-00004

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

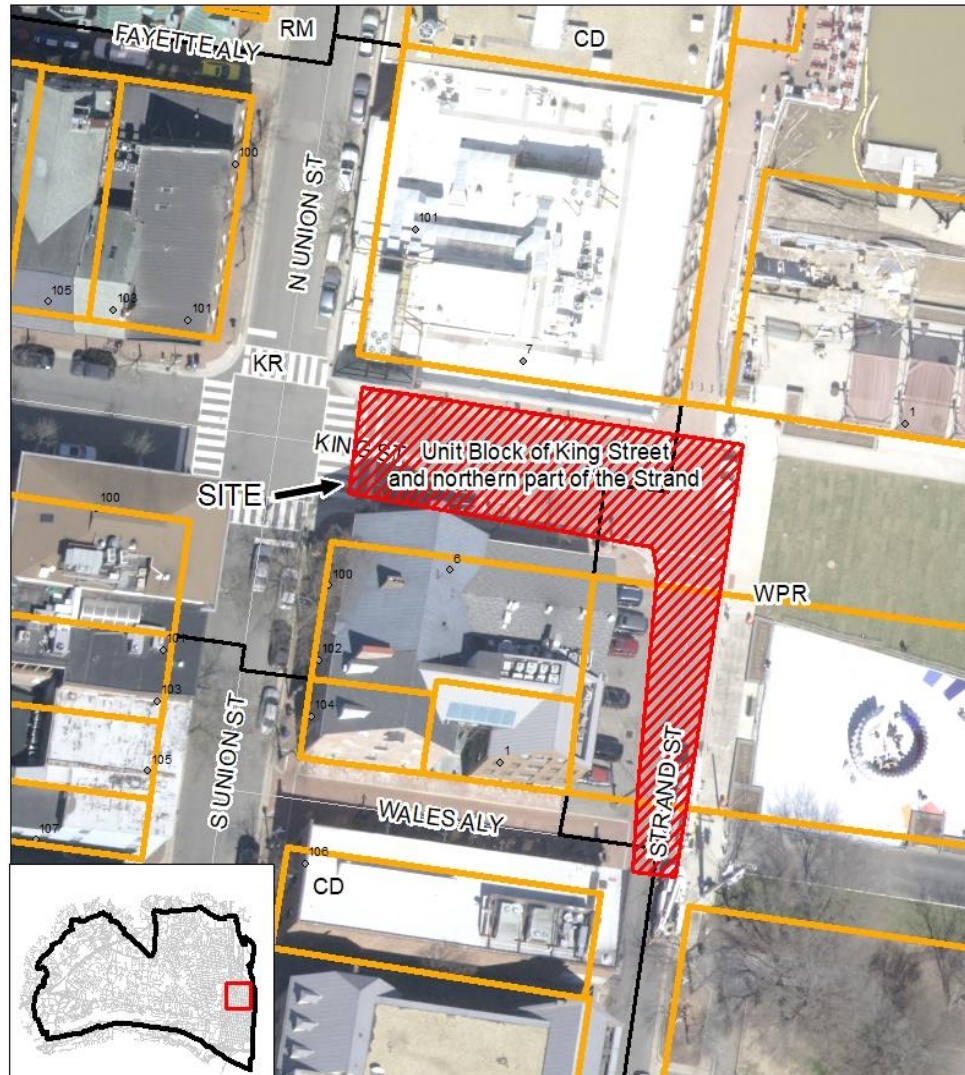
Planning Commission

November 1, 2022

Site Context

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

- 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.**



Background and Feedback

- 2012 Waterfront Small Area Plan
- 2019-2021 – Successful Closure of 100 block of King Street
- Pilot Project – May through November
- 1,853 responses
- 91% - Very positive or positive experience
- 89% would like to see closed permanently



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.

Recommendation

Staff Recommends that the Planning Commission finds the proposed change to the unit block of King Street and the northern portion of the Strand consistent with Section 9.06 of the City Charter and the City's Master Plan