

NEWS RELEASE

Distributed July 24, 2025

Bollards Down! Commercial Street activates with a fresh look and flexible future

Summary

On Thursday, July 24, a ceremonial bollard drop took place, celebrating the newly upgraded section of Commercial Street (Wharf Street to Bastion Street). This renewed space is designed to be inviting, flexible, pedestrian-friendly and event ready.

Construction for Phase One of the Design Commercial: Downtown ReImagined Project began in September, 2024 and has been focused on the section of Commercial Street between Wharf Street and Chapel Street. The new design recreates the space as a multipurpose, flexible, pedestrian-focused destination. Once finished, the new space will include better lighting, new seating, flexible patio spaces, curbside sidewalks, a re-envisioned rainbow intersection and retractable bollards, ready to change the flow of traffic and activate the space for community events.

Total funding for Phase One work of the Design Commercial Project is \$6.2 million, which includes \$4 million from the Province of BC's Growing Communities Fund.

Final work for Phase One, which includes the remaining brickwork and tree planting, is expected to be complete in August.

Strategic Link: Improvements to the downtown core support Nanaimo's economic health by increasing pride of place and stimulating the economy.

Key Points

- The Wharf Street to Bastion Street section of Commercial Street is newly upgraded and designed to be inviting, flexible, and pedestrian friendly. It is now open to traffic and event use.
- Total funding for Phase One work of the Design Commercial Project is \$6.2 million, which includes \$4 million from the Province of BC's Growing Communities Fund.
- Phase One of the Design Commercial: Downtown ReImagined Project is expected to be complete in August.

Quotes

"The Commercial Street project represents a modern and creative approach to downtown space-making. Along with the great shops, restaurants and businesses that help make Nanaimo's downtown vibrant and exciting, this adaptable street opens up a new world of possible festivals, events and community gatherings. The future of Nanaimo's downtown is so bright that even the sun's jealous!"

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

Continued... Bollards Down! Commercial Street activates with a fresh look and flexible future

Quick Facts

- Construction for Phase One of the Design Commercial: Downtown Reimagined Project began in September, 2024 and has been focused on the section of Commercial Street between Wharf Street and Chapel Street. The new design recreates the space as a multipurpose, flexible, pedestrian-focused destination.

-30-

Contact:

For media enquiries, please contact
Communications
City of Nanaimo
Media.Requests@nanaimo.ca
250-754-4251



View the online edition for more information -

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/NewsReleases/NR250724BollardsDownCommercialStreetActivatesWithAFreshLookAndFlexibleFuture>