

Victoria Quarter

Community Placemaking Project

Contents

Objectives	2
Community Engagement.....	3
Event.....	3
Approach.....	3
Analysis	4
Urban Realm.....	4
Proximity.....	4
Connectivity.....	4
Community & Lifestyle	5
Safety.....	5
Environmental	5
Wider Context	6
Proposal	7
Community Led Programme of Work	8
CCRG Led Programme of Work	13
Summary	15
Proposal Benefits	15
Objectives Alignment.....	16
Delivery to Outcomes	16

This Community led project is being facilitated by the Auckland City Centre Residents' Group.

Support and Funding is provided by the Waitematā Local Board.



ccrg.org.nz
info@ccrg.org.nz



Auckland City Centre Residents' Group



Objectives

This project aims to improve access within Victoria Quarter for residents and visitors, create a safer and more child-friendly community with better access to open and play spaces and more public life. In doing this, we hope that the community will be strengthened, form a sense of pride for the area, and feel more valued.

All current planning for improvements in Victoria Quarter leave improvements in the unfunded, 10+ year bucket. As such, all outcomes below are intended to 'fill the gap' that residents have in their community for the next 10 years. In the case of community, the outcomes are intended to create a lasting culture of confidence and ownership of their neighbourhood.

The objectives in the tables below are based on the City Centre Master Plan 2012 and represent the outcomes of a large exercise in engagement and aspirational city planning. These areas were specifically identified for the Victoria Quarter area.

OUTCOME	MEASUREMENT
1 Show the possibilities for Victoria Quarter becoming a vibrant and engaging destination for city centre residents, Aucklanders and international visitors to New Zealand.	1a Residents' and Visitors' perception of the area become positive
2 Victoria Quarter becomes a more vibrant retail and commercial area.	2a The number of cafes in the area increases
3 Victoria Quarter meets the needs of its rapidly growing and changing residential population	2b Commercial occupancy rate increases, allowing businesses supporting the local community to thrive
4 The project helps to build the resilience and independence of the Victoria Quarter community	3a More places for children to play
5 Victoria Quarter becomes a more culturally rich area, filled with opportunities for creativity	3b Families choosing to stay in the area when they have children
6 Victoria Quarter becomes a more walkable and pedestrian-friendly area that is better connected to neighbouring areas.	3c Improved perception of safety for residents in the area, especially after dark
7 Victoria Quarter becomes features a more natural environment with improved environmental performance	4a More residents rating a sense of community as important
5 Victoria Quarter becomes a more culturally rich area, filled with opportunities for creativity	4b More residents feeling a sense of community
6 Victoria Quarter becomes a more walkable and pedestrian-friendly area that is better connected to neighbouring areas.	5a More artwork in Victoria Quarter
7 Victoria Quarter becomes features a more natural environment with improved environmental performance	5b More artwork created by the local community in Victoria Quarter
6 Victoria Quarter becomes a more walkable and pedestrian-friendly area that is better connected to neighbouring areas.	6a Improved accessibility through the area for residents and visitors on foot, by wheelchair or with a pram.
7 Victoria Quarter becomes features a more natural environment with improved environmental performance	7a More trees and greenery in the area
7 Victoria Quarter becomes features a more natural environment with improved environmental performance	7b Increased support for pollinating species

Analysis

The positives of living in the area must be supported and enhanced, and the issues that negate these positives must be mitigated as best as possible.

Six main themes were identified in the feedback, each with positive and negative aspects. Below is a summary highlighting how the negative aspects impact on the positives of living in Victoria Quarter.

Urban Realm

How Victoria Looks, Feels and Functions for residents,

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES	QUICK WINS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ SugarTree Mural ✓ Views from the ridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Not enough greenery or colour ✗ Nelson lower deck is “terrible” ✗ Urine odours ✗ Money spent on tourists/visitors before residents. ✗ Many roads in the area are hostile to pedestrians and provide no visual cues to vehicles as to the needs of the streets for residents and children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Add Colour, Art, Greenery, Festoon Lights ✎ Tidy up Nelson Street ✎ Garbage Bins

Proximity

Closeness to the things that make living in a city valuable.

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES	QUICK WINS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ City Centre for Work and Play ✓ Supermarkets ✓ Friends nearby ✓ Options for Parks and Green space ✓ Close to Neighbouring Suburbs like K’rd, Freemans Bay, and Ponsonby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Poor and missing footpaths ✗ Lack of cycling amenity ✗ Union, Nelson, Wellesley, Victoria, Fanshawe and Hobson Streets disconnect Victoria Quarter from nearby amenity due to lack of pedestrian prioritization and excessive vehicle speeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Pram Ramps ✎ Walkable footpaths ✎ Safe separation from traffic

Connectivity

Access to things nearby, and access to things further away.

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES	QUICK WINS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Some level of access to surrounding areas using Public Transport, on foot, or by bicycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Poor and missing footpaths ✗ Lack of cycling amenity ✗ Limited Public Transport services ✗ Poor wayfinding ✗ Poor maintenance ✗ Roads surrounding form a barrier between residents and schools, parks, work, neighbouring suburbs, transit and entertainment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Pram Ramps ✎ Walkable footpaths ✎ Separation from Traffic

- ✗ Roads create safety and health issues

Community & Lifestyle

Connectness with friends, family, neighbours and the wider community.

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES	QUICK WINS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Live Locally ✓ Seeing/Bumping into Friends ✓ Vibrancy ✓ Diversity ✓ Bustling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Empty shops ✗ Nowhere to sit ✗ Nowhere to relax or socialise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community Garden ✓ Engagement with local schools ✓ Community Events e.g. Market ✓ Loading Zones

Safety

Real and perceived physical and emotional safety.

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES	QUICK WINS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Security of Apartment living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Uneven and unsafe footpaths ✗ Poor Lighting ✗ Feels unsafe ✗ Excessive vehicle speeds ✗ Traffic on footpaths ✗ Unsafe for children ✗ Public urination/human waste ✗ Discarded needles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved Lighting ✓ Separation from Traffic ✓ Cleaning and maintenance

Environmental

How we impact and interact with the natural environment.

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES	QUICK WINS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Low Impact Lifestyle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Lack of plants ✗ Poor air quality ✗ Feeling of being a second-class citizens for living low carbon lifestyle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Compost Bins ✓ Garbage Bins

Wider Context

The following projects in some way relate to or impact on the Victoria Quarter area.

PROJECT	RELEVANCE
DPO Nelson Street Project	The Auckland Council Development Programme Office has put aside funding in their 5-year budget for some level of improvements to the Nelson Street Lower Deck. Current work involves assessing the structural integrity of the carriageway support beams.
Sky City Convention Centre	The convention centre will be bringing improvement to the block it occupies. Existing funding in the ACCAB budget for Nelson and Hobson Streets are likely to be focused around the he convention centre.
AT Safer Speeds	Auckland Transport Consulted on a blanket 30kph speed limit in the City Centre. It is expected to be in place later in 2019.
Gateway Treatments	As part of AT's Safer Speeds programme, Cook, Wellington, Hobson and Nelson street are expected to receive some level of treatment to encourage slower speeds. No details are available yet.
Sale/Wellesley Street Intersection	The Sale and Wellesley Street intersection will be made more pedestrian friendly and signalised in the next year or two. An interim tactical intervention from the Auckland Design Office is imminent and will include the removal of parking to free up space on the footpath and narrowing the turn from Wellesley Street into Sale Street.
AT Cook Street Safety Improvements	A pedestrian crossing for Cook Street at Sam Wrigley/Morton Streets, as well as bike lanes, safer crossings at Sale, Drake and Union Streets to better connect Victoria Quarter to Victoria Park and beyond. This project is still seeking funding.
Victoria Street Cycleway and Linear Park	<p>No designs have been released yet, but Victoria Street Between Beaumont Street and Wellesley is expected to be de-tuned with added bike lanes. It would be expected that improved pedestrian access to Victoria Park would come with this.</p> <p>The Victoria Street Linear park will run from Wellesley Street to Albert Park and provide a more pleasant streetscape for pedestrians and cyclists. This project is several years out</p>
Wellesley Bus Upgrades	Wellesley Street will be re-prioritised towards busses, with associated urban realm improvements. This project is several years out.
Light Rail and CRL	Both Light rail and the CRL projects will bring enhanced connectivity to Victoria Quarter with the stops at Aotea Square.
Loading Zones	Five loading zones are to be implemented on Nelson Street Lower Deck in the near term.
Fiore Development	Then final two sites on the Nelson Street Lower deck is imminent and will have the same impacts to the street as the final stage of SugarTree has had until recently.

Proposal

Approach

A programme of work is proposed that is based a balance what is possible and what is most important for residents in the area while factoring in potential future projects.

The map below summarises the focus areas and surrounding context:

Green	Known, major projects that will resolve some or all aspects of the issues identified
Orange Question Marks	Locations of Gateway Treatments, the extent of which are not yet known
Yellow Dotted Lines	Pedestrian linkages within larger blocks
Pink, Numbered	Proposed Focus Areas for this Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson Street Lower Deck (1) • Wellington Street (2) • Morton Street (3) • Mid-block Sale Street (4)



Community Led Programme of Work

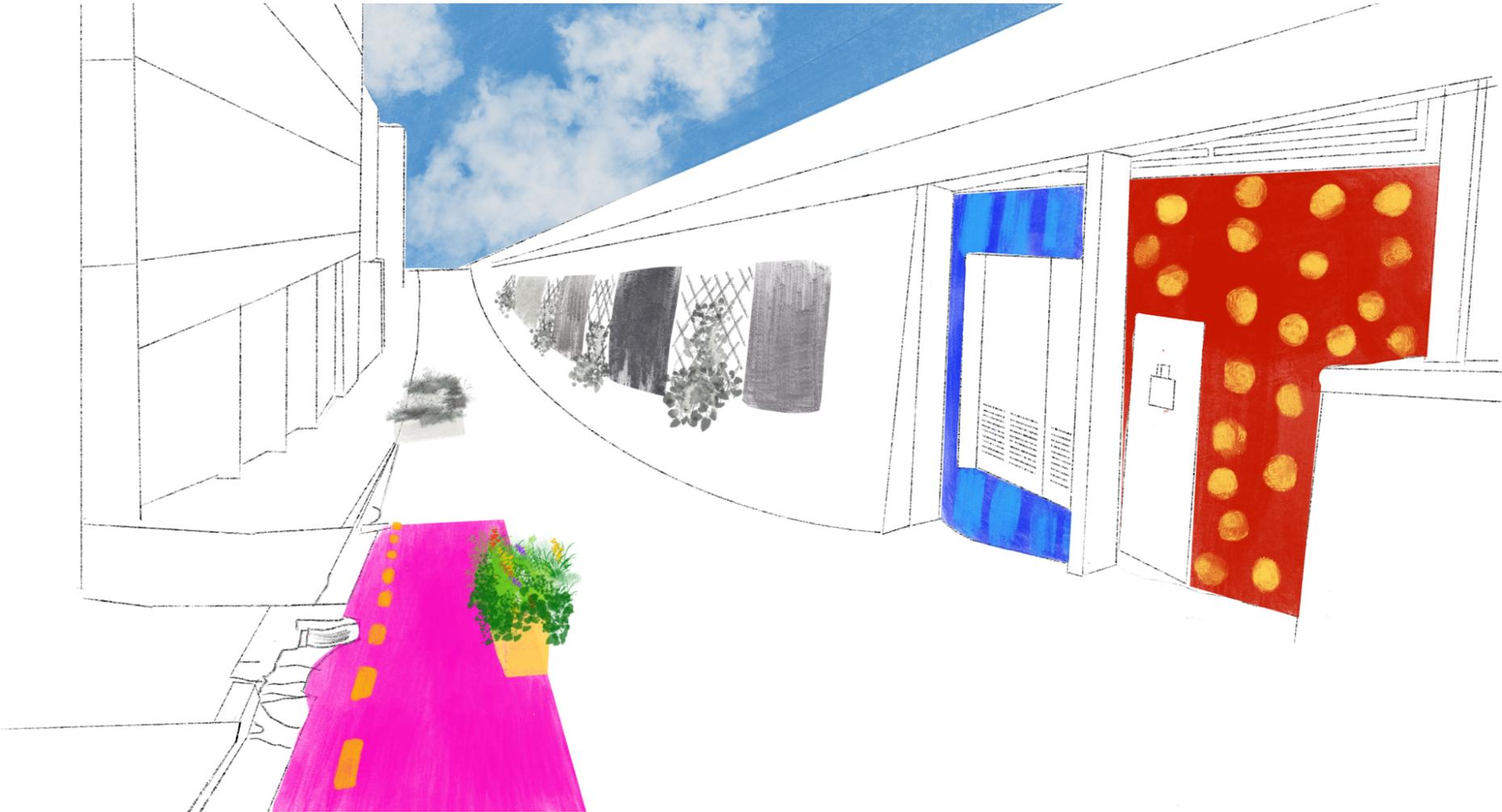
Below are ideas and concepts that could be implemented by the local community with assistance from CCRG and the local board.

Nelson Street Lower Deck

The Nelson Street lower deck is not fit for purpose as a residential street from any aesthetic, amenity and safety perspective. While longer term funding may resolve some of this, the short term requires simple colour and place upgrades.

IDEA	CONCEPT	BENEFITS
Embankment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obscure view into the void below the upper deck with a mix of artwork and greenery wherever possible • Add colour to concrete sections of retaining wall • Involve local schools, residents and artists in the creation of artwork • Local residents take ownership for care and maintenance of plantings and artwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Colour ✓ Greenery
Parklet(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create temporary, colourful platforms, seating areas and planters to occupy either parking spot(s) or appropriate (safe) portions of the street with dashed yellow lines • Design as footpath extensions for relax/play or improved walking amenity as appropriate • Provide safe walking gradients and better garage visibility across driveways at south end • Reduce Traffic Speeds through visual narrowing • Local residents take ownership for care and maintenance of plantings and structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Play/Relax areas ✓ Traffic calming ✓ Colour ✓ Greenery
Wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage at the south end near Union Street indicating “Nelson Street [numbers]”/”SugarTree Apartments”/”Nelson Street Lower Deck and Apartments” • Signage on Union Street side informing deliveries and guests about parking on Nelson Street • Clear signage to Union Street through SugarTree Lane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wayfinding for guests ✓ Ease of deliveries ✓ Reduced footpath parking on Union Street
Atmospheric Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for “placemaking” lighting • Will not provide enough illumination for safety, but improved atmosphere • Challenges with electrical supply, safety, water resistance, crossing the road space, and attachment points need to be overcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Colour ✓ Atmosphere





Wellington Street

Being a city centre bypass and motorway onramp, it serves its purpose as the connector between Victoria Quarter, Auckland Girls Grammar School and Freemans Bay School poorly.

IDEA	CONCEPT	BENEFITS
Connectivity to Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary pram ramps and island modifications or buildouts to make it practical and safe to navigate the intersection with Union Street • Wayfinding Signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Improved Connectivity to Schools from Victoria Quarter
Residential Reminder for guests in vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage, e.g. “Watch out for children” • Colour, Plantings, activations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Colour ✓ Greenery
Wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear signage to Nelson Street Lower Deck through SugarTree Lane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved Connectivity through Victoria Quarter

Morton Street

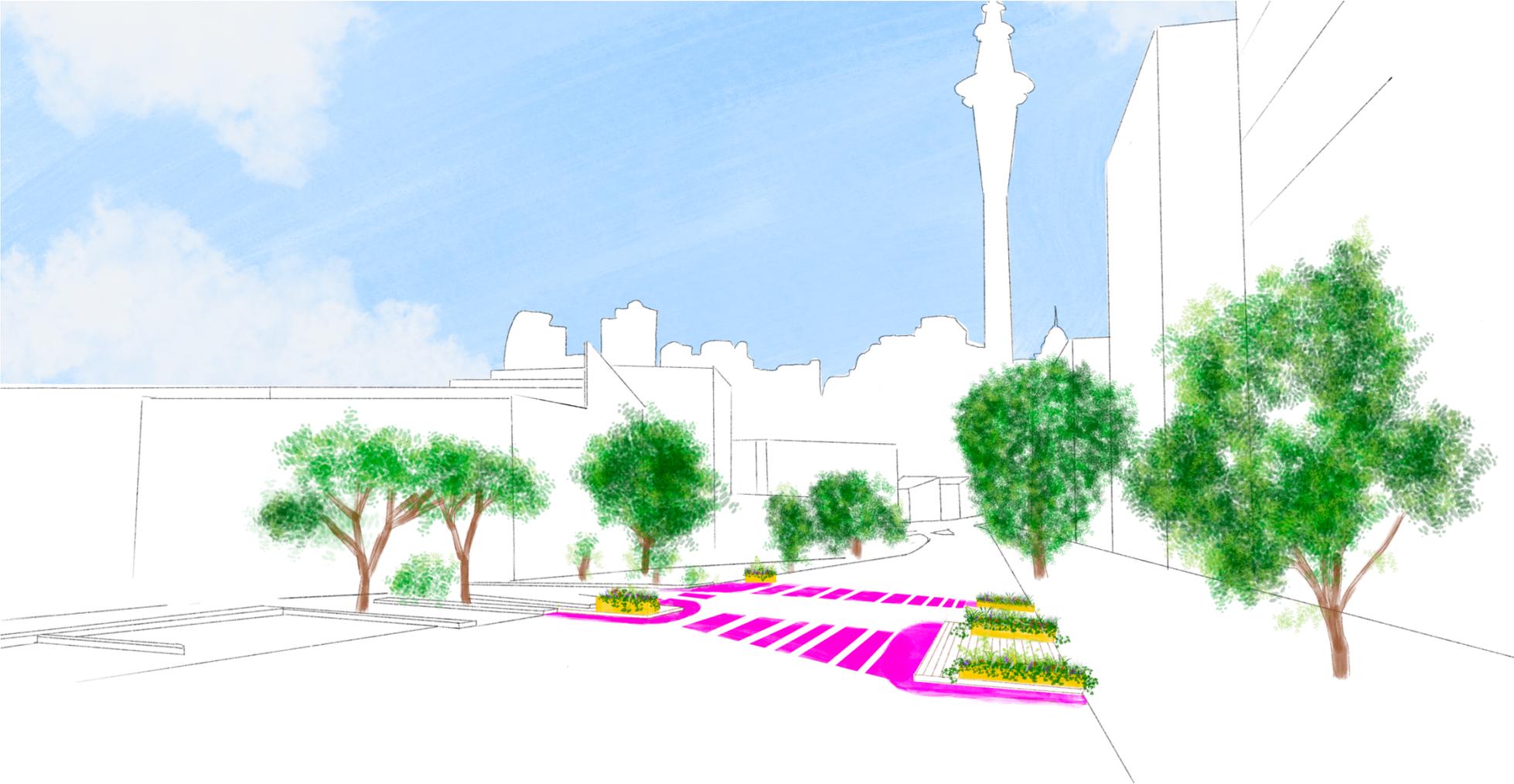
A quiet connector/shortcut between Cook Street and Sale Street that few residents use or know of due to poor wayfinding, low urban amenity, lighting or safety.

IDEA	CONCEPT	BENEFITS
Wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear signage with maps indicating options and destinations (to Sale Street) • Highlight three routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved Connectivity through Victoria Quarter
Safety and Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placemaking, plantings and colour to make space for pedestrians • Work with City Works Depot for options on improving access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Colour ✓ Greenery

Mid-block Sale Street

Sale Street is a busy business and residential street, with narrow side streets filled with character warehouse and conversions. Footpaths are inadequate for the current number of pedestrians and the road space is overly allocated to parking and very wide traffic lanes that encourage high speeds, rat running and illegal parking.

IDEA	CONCEPT	BENEFITS
Wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear signage with maps indicating options and destinations (back to Morton Street, Victoria Park etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved Connectivity through Victoria Quarter
Traffic Calming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersection buildout • Create temporary, colourful platforms, seating areas and planters at the intersection with Adelaide Street • Design as footpath extensions for relax/play or improved walking amenity as appropriate • Reduce Traffic Speeds through visual narrowing • Local residents take ownership for care and maintenance of plantings and structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Play/Relax areas ✓ Traffic calming ✓ Colour ✓ Greenery



CCRG Led Programme of Work

Below are activities that will be taken by the City Centre Residents' Group in pursuit of achieving the desired outcomes for the area.

PARTNER ORGANISATION	ACTIVITY	BENEFITS
NZTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get support as an “Innovating Streets for People” Case Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tools, methods, knowledge and support
Auckland Design Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support and tactical placemaking expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tools, methods, knowledge and support
Waitematā Local Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with AT on lighting upgrades • Provide support and expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tools, methods, knowledge and support
Auckland Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Council and Maintenance Contractors to address ongoing public and private tidiness and maintenance issues, including public urination • Installation of Garbage Bins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Tidiness ✓ Greenery
Auckland Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with AT to upgrade lighting where necessary • Work with AT on footpath maintenance and replacements • Work with Parking team to ensure improved compliance and appropriate use of kerbside space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safety/Lighting ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Parking Enforcement ✓ Improved ability for accommodating Guests/Deliveries
Auckland Development Programme Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Auckland DPO to identify practical, permanent solutions to the issues identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Long term solutions
Auckland City Centre Advisory Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with ACCAB to identify practical, permanent solutions to the issues identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Long term solutions
City Works Depot (Tournament)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for improving access through parking lot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ from Morton Street to Sale Street ▫ at Cook Steet entrance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Improved Connectivity

Summary

Proposal Benefits

AREA CONCEPT	BENEFITS
Nelson Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Colour ✓ Greenery ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Play/Relax areas ✓ Traffic calming ✓ Colour ✓ Greenery ✓ Wayfinding for guests ✓ Ease of deliveries ✓ Reduced footpath parking on Union Street ✓ Colour ✓ Atmosphere
Wellington Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Improved Connectivity to Schools from Victoria Quarter ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Colour ✓ Greenery
Morton Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved Connectivity through Victoria Quarter ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Colour ✓ Greenery
Mid-block Sale Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved Connectivity through Victoria Quarter ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Play/Relax areas ✓ Traffic calming ✓ Colour ✓ Greenery
CCRG Led Programme of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tools, methods, knowledge and support ✓ Safer Walking Environment ✓ Tidiness ✓ Greenery ✓ Safety/Lighting ✓ Parking Enforcement ✓ Improved ability for accommodating Guests/Deliveries ✓ Long term solutions ✓ Improved Connectivity

Objectives Alignment

	1A	2A	2B	3A	3B	3C	4A	4B	5A	5B	6A	7A	7B
Nelson Street Lower Deck	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wellington Street	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Morton Street	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Mid-block Sale Street	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
CCRG Led Programme of Work	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗

Delivery to Outcomes

OUTCOME

1	Show the possibilities for Victoria Quarter becoming a vibrant and engaging destination for city centre residents, Aucklanders and international visitors to New Zealand.	✓
2	Victoria Quarter becomes a more vibrant retail and commercial area.	✓
3	Victoria Quarter meets the needs of its rapidly growing and changing residential population	✓
4	The project helps to build the resilience and independence of the Victoria Quarter community	✓
5	Victoria Quarter becomes a more culturally rich area, filled with opportunities for creativity	✓
6	Victoria Quarter becomes a more walkable and pedestrian-friendly area that is better connected to neighbouring areas.	✓
7	Victoria Quarter becomes features a more natural environment with improved environmental performance	✓