

STREET OF RESILIENCE

REVIVING BROADWAY IN WINNIPEG, MANITOBA THROUGH PLACEMAKING AND URBAN DESIGN

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Master of City Planning **Capstone**

IMPORTANCE OF STUDY:

Transforming Broadway into a commemorative and shared street could signify a stronger pedestrian network along its axis, as well as a more controlled vehicular network. Reviving Broadway to its historic status could enhance both the street-facing blocks and the adjacent neighbourhoods. The median on Broadway, if designed properly and creatively, could act as a linear community park that is reflective of the area's history. This study explores some possibilities which could spark the conversation around the revival of Broadway.

RESEARCH METHODS:

Media Scan of current and historical events that had an influence on Broadway.
Literature Review to support the characterization of Indigenous, heritage, and informal placemaking.
Precedent Study on several projects which incorporated placemaking and urban design guidelines to transform streets.
Site Analysis by means of direct observation and sketching on-site, virtual observation through Google Maps, as well as mapping exercises on AutoCad, SketchUp, and ArcGIS softwares.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. Which of Winnipeg's historical events could potentially influence placemaking on Broadway?
2. How are other cities successfully achieving placemaking at street level?
3. What urban design guidelines could be implemented on Broadway to transform it into a commemorative street that celebrates Winnipeg's history?



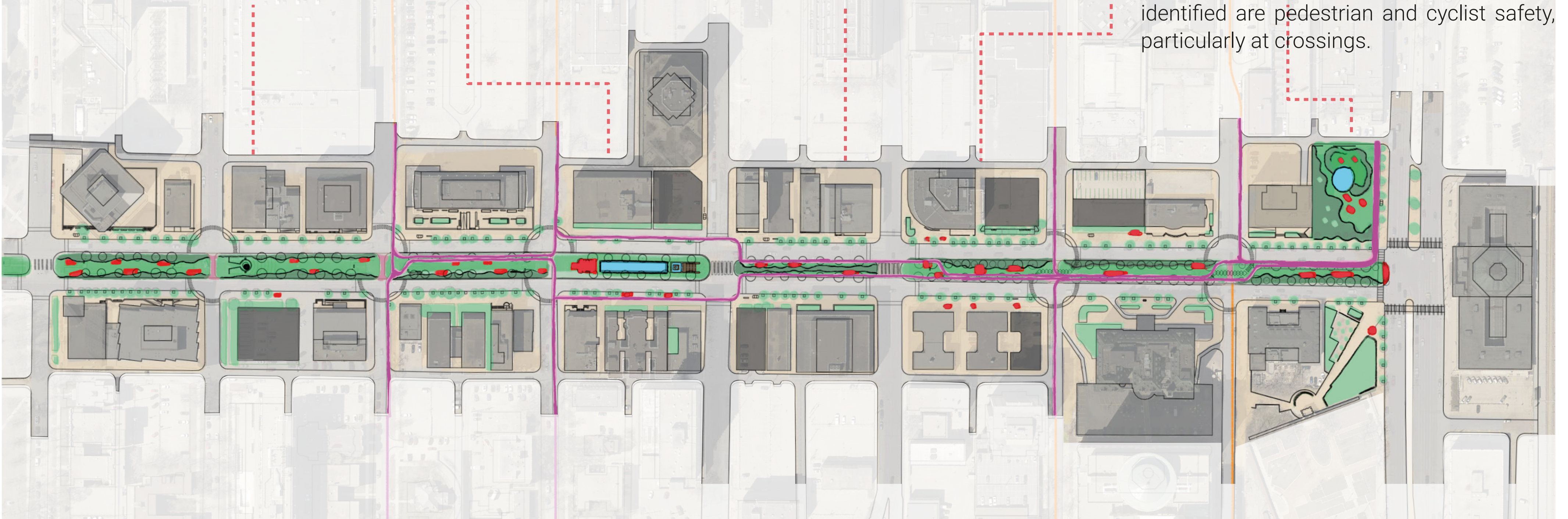
[left to right] Elm trees on Broadway, 1910 | Building the Shoal Lake Aqueduct, 1915 | Broadway Avenue, 1907 | Winnipeg Riot, 1919 | Sketch of Upper Fort Garry, 1872
City of Winnipeg Archives

BACKGROUND:

The Indigenous burial mound located under Broadway and Main Street, Winnipeg Aqueduct and its implications on Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, the memory of the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 through the Manitoba Federation of Labour and the mural on the Union Centre, the last remaining wooden streetcar, and the Elm trees of Broadway are five stories that signify the resilience of the Indigenous people and strike protestors, Streetcar 356, and the Elm trees. Establishing placemaking strategies along Broadway, inspired by these themes, is just one example of how the street could potentially be activated by the intersection of history and art.

SITE ANALYSIS FINDINGS:

Broadway has a rich network of public and semi-public spaces with a few existing placemaking strategies. The median acts as a connection between the two street-facing blocks, and a buffer between the two adjacent neighbourhoods. Of the main risks identified are pedestrian and cyclist safety, particularly at crossings.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Transform the median on Broadway into a linear community park.
- Orient Broadway towards pedestrians, and favour pedestrian and cycling activities over vehicular ones.
- Implement winter-friendly and inclusive designs and strategies.
- Connect to the existing cycling network in downtown, while providing a linear cycling path along the median.
- Activate the sidewalk network on both sides of Broadway through different street furniture and public art.
- Allow for better usage of the semi-public spaces along the sidewalks.
- Allow for various communal activities along the median by incorporating both temporary and fixed furniture.
- Introduce public art and installations as part of a collaborative approach, mainly directed by Indigenous people and First Nations.

CONCLUSION:

The main goal of this proposal is to spark a discussion about the future of Broadway. The objectives and guidelines presented in the report represent some of the possibilities which could be introduced to Broadway. For a project at such a large scale to succeed, the process must be a collaborative one involving many diverse entities and stakeholders. For this project in specific to succeed, the collaboration must be inclusive and representative of Indigenous people and First Nations of the region.