View looking northeast from Burnside at Broadway. Burnside and Couch extend from the North Park Blocks (foreground, lower left) to the Burnside Bridge (upper right).
LOWERING WEST BURNSIDE AND COUCH
WILLAMETTE RIVER TO 8TH AVENUE

Transitioning westbound traffic from the Burnside Bridge to Couch at West 2nd Avenue allows Burnside to become a two lane, one-way eastbound street with on-street parking and wider sidewalks. From the Park Blocks to West 2nd Avenue, traffic will operate on the south side of the existing median. The 54 feet of right-of-way north of the existing median will provide flexible public space for parking and public event uses. The design refinements include the following elements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Convert West 2nd between Burnside and Couch to three one-way northbound lanes, remove on-street parking on the east side of the street.
- Transition westbound Burnside bridge traffic to Couch at 2nd Avenue
- Eastbound traffic remains on Burnside
- Convert eastbound on Burnside to:
  - Two lanes from 8th Avenue to 4th Avenue
  - Four lanes from 4th to 2nd Avenue
  - Three lanes from 2nd Avenue across the bridge to the east side
  - Add left-turn only lane from 3rd Avenue to 2nd Avenue to provide left turn movements to northbound 2nd Avenue
  - Traffic signals at every intersection from West 1st to West 8th
  - Full-time, on-street parking (south side only)
  - Full-time north side parking in flexible public space
  - Striped bike lane from 4th Avenue to the bridge on Burnside
  - Wider sidewalks
  - Curb extensions at all intersections
  - Infill street trees and twin ornamental street lights
  - Preserve existing median trees
  - Add pedestrian scale single ornamental street lights on the north side of the Burnside median between 2nd and 8th Avenues
  - Rebuild substandard sidewalks
- Convert Couch to two one-way westbound lanes with:
  - Traffic signals at every intersection
  - Preserve on-street parking, existing sidewalks and healthy existing street trees
- Provide angled parking on NW 2nd north of Couch on the west side
- Rebuild Couch Street pavement section
- Grind and overlay Burnside Street pavement section
- Use sustainable practices in street and pedestrian area design including stormwater management, porous paving and street tree species diversity

“A special challenge, or opportunity, is the condition of Burnside Street and the buildings which line it. Many of the buildings along Burnside, and the nature of some of the uses housed in those buildings, do not present an inviting face to visitors coming from the heart of downtown. This problem is exacerbated by traffic levels in Burnside, and the width of the street (which makes for an unpleasant pedestrian experience).

~Old Town/Chinatown Vision Plan
September 1997

NOTE: 3rd and 4th Avenue Streetcape Improvements are outside the scope of this project.
LOWER WEST BURNSIDE VISION

The concept design for Lower West Burnside includes a 54-foot “flexible public space” on the north side of the street between West 2nd and West 8th Avenues. This flexible public space preserves nearly all the existing median street trees and provides space for parking, sidewalks, opportunities for public art and places for special events. The concept design provides for the evolution of this flexible public space over time as the needs and development opportunities of the area change. Although initially designed to accommodate parking between the existing median island and the sidewalk, the parking area can be used as a plaza.

Future development applications for blocks adjacent to the 54-foot flexible public space may apply for a right-of-way full vacation for redevelopment. A street vacation would eliminate the on-street parking and could yield added development area to the adjacent blocks. The trade-off for doing this however, is a discontinuous public space. Consideration of this alternative should receive community review.

A permanent plaza space could be allowed if a sponsor or steward would accept the management and maintenance responsibilities that are required to operate public open space.

Concept sketch looking north on SW 2nd Avenue with full pedestrian access and a pedestrian refuge and gateway to Old Town/Chinatown.
NOTE: These illustrations do not represent specific planned or required development proposals by property owners or the City of Portland.
Ultimately the vision for the north side of Burnside is a grand public space or series of spaces that would become a destination known for
historic architecture, a green canopy of flourishing trees, public art and special paving. Burnside would become an exciting urban place with
an open air marketplace of pavilions, news kiosks, flower stands and street level entertainment. The streetscape and trees frame storefronts
and create an elegant place for strolling through an exciting series of walks and plazas that connect Downtown to Old Town/Chinatown and
the Park Blocks to the River.
Because of dimensional restrictions, a plaza space will be built with the project between West 2nd and West 3rd Avenues with on-street parking south of a new planted median.
NOTE:
The area shown between 8th and Park Avenues is part of the Central West Sub-area and shown for reference only.

LEGEND

Street
Sidewalk specialty paving
Crosswalk
Landscaped area
Transit Mall

The following minimum improvements occur on each block:
• Twin ornamental street lights
• Street trees (preserve median trees and infill other existing healthy trees)
• Signals
• Curb extensions
TYPICAL DETAIL - NW 2ND AVENUE BETWEEN COUCH AND DAVIS

12' sidewalk
Street trees
12' travel lane

Twin ornamental street light
Raised and paved island, public art opportunity

Carriage path
Bike racks (3)
Stormwater management

West 2nd Avenue Between Couch and Davis with angled parking on NW 2nd Avenue.

West 2nd Avenue Section looking north
TYPICAL DETAIL - 2ND AVENUE AND BURNSIDE

- Directional railing
- Enlarged existing median
- Central gateway feature with 20-foot diameter refuge and public art opportunity
- Pedestrian crossing
- Bike lane

Section at 2nd and Burnside looking north showing northbound traffic on 2nd Avenue to Couch. A proposed gateway feature provides protected refuge for pedestrians crossing Burnside at 2nd Avenue, a district identity and public art opportunity.
TYPICAL DETAILS - LOWER WEST BURNSIDE
BETWEEN 3RD AND 4TH AVENUES

- Repositioned Chinese Gate
- Single ornamental

- 21' sidewalk
- 6" curb
- 12' median
- 24' drive/parking
- 7.5 through

- 1'-6" bldg. frontage bollard
- 1'-6" bldg. frontage

- Traffic signal
  - Typical
  - 8' through
  - 5' furnishing

- Twin ornamental
- 8' through
- 5' furnishing

- Burnside between 3rd and 4th Avenues
- Typical West Burnside Section from 3rd and 4th to looking west

RECOMMENDATIONS: LOWER WEST BURNSIDE AND COUCH
TYPICAL DETAILS - LOWER WEST BURNSIDE
BETWEEN 4TH AND 8TH AVENUES

- Preserve existing street trees
- 21' sidewalk
- 6' curb
- 12' median
- 24' drive/parking
- 7.5' through
- 1'-6" bldg. frontage
- Single ornamental bollard
- Twin ornamental
- Traffic signal typical
- 15' sidewalk
- 21' sidewalk
- 6" curb
- 12' median
- 24' drive/parking
- 7.5' through
- 1'-6" bldg. frontage
- Single ornamental bollard
- Twin ornamental
- Traffic signal typical

RECOMMENDATIONS: LOWER WEST BURNSIDE AND COUCH
TYPICAL SECTION - COUCH FROM 4TH TO 8TH AVENUE

Typical West Couch plan from NW 4th to NW 8th Avenues

Typical West Couch section from NW 4th to NW 8th Avenues looking west
### STREET DESIGN STANDARDS TABLE

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<th>Curb to Curb</th>
<th>Through Traffic</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Semi Truck</th>
<th>Bus</th>
<th>Parking</th>
<th>Sidewalk</th>
<th>Furnishing Zone</th>
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Refer to sections and plans for configuration

Footnotes:
1 Parking north of existing median
2 Continuous planting strip
3 Combined PDOT and ODOT right-of-way
4 Refer to 3rd and 4th Avenue Improvements Project – Job No. 37255 outside of project scope

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**LOWER WEST BURNSIDE AND COUCH PLAN**

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Burnside/Couch Transportation and Urban Design Plan Technical Refinements
Draft
June, 2005