

Advice from NYC: Ban cars in the ByWard Market

Former Transportation Commissioner says market should become a pedestrian zone

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Former New York Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan tours the ByWard Market alongside Mayor Jim Watson

New York City's former Transportation Commissioner says Ottawa should consider banning cars from the ByWard Market.

Janette Sadik-Khan took a tour of the Market on Tuesday, alongside politicians from all levels of government, including environment minister Catherine McKenna and Mayor Jim Watson.

As Transportation Commissioner, Sadik-Khan banned traffic from Times Square and now she suggests doing the same in the ByWard Market.

"Try it, you'll like it," says Sadik-Khan. "Better streets are better for business."

Sadik-Khan says Ottawa should try the idea as a pilot project.

"When you do that, you allow people to actually experience what that is like," says Sadik-Khan. "If it works, you keep it. If it doesn't, you can put it back."

Mayor Jim Watson says he isn't sold on the idea but has an open mind.

Watson points out that plans are already in the works to make the ByWard Market more pedestrian-friendly, including a project to redesign the space in front of the ByWard Market Building.

The George Street Plaza would have see outdoor vending removed and an open space for tables and programming

If funding for the project is approved by council next month, construction would start in September and wrap up by mid 2017.



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Reporter