

# Civic Square and Brant Street Renewal Presentation to Committee of the Whole

May 13, 2024

# Agenda

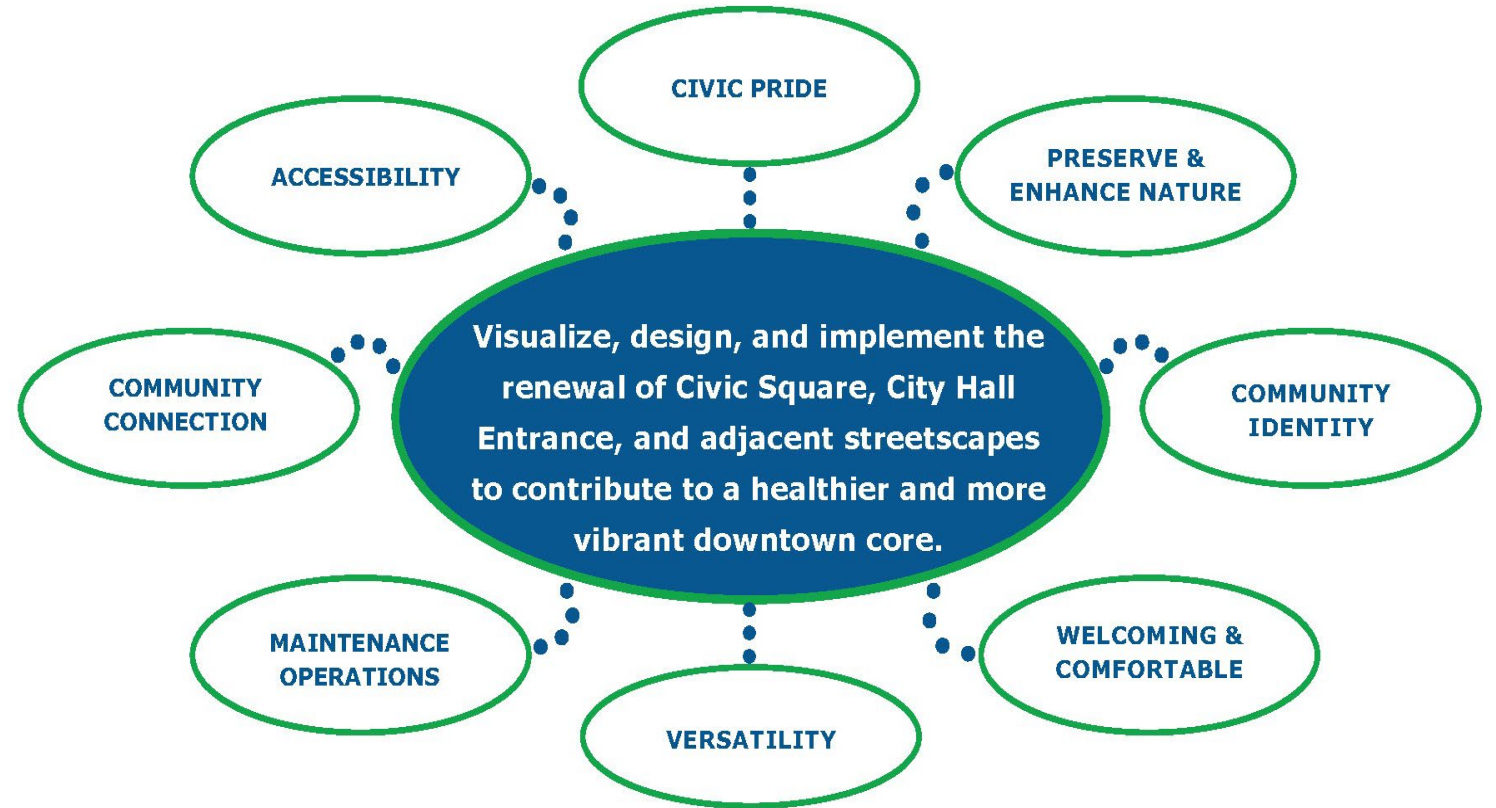
1. Project Background
2. Concept Development – Key Factors
3. Concept Plans – 3 Options



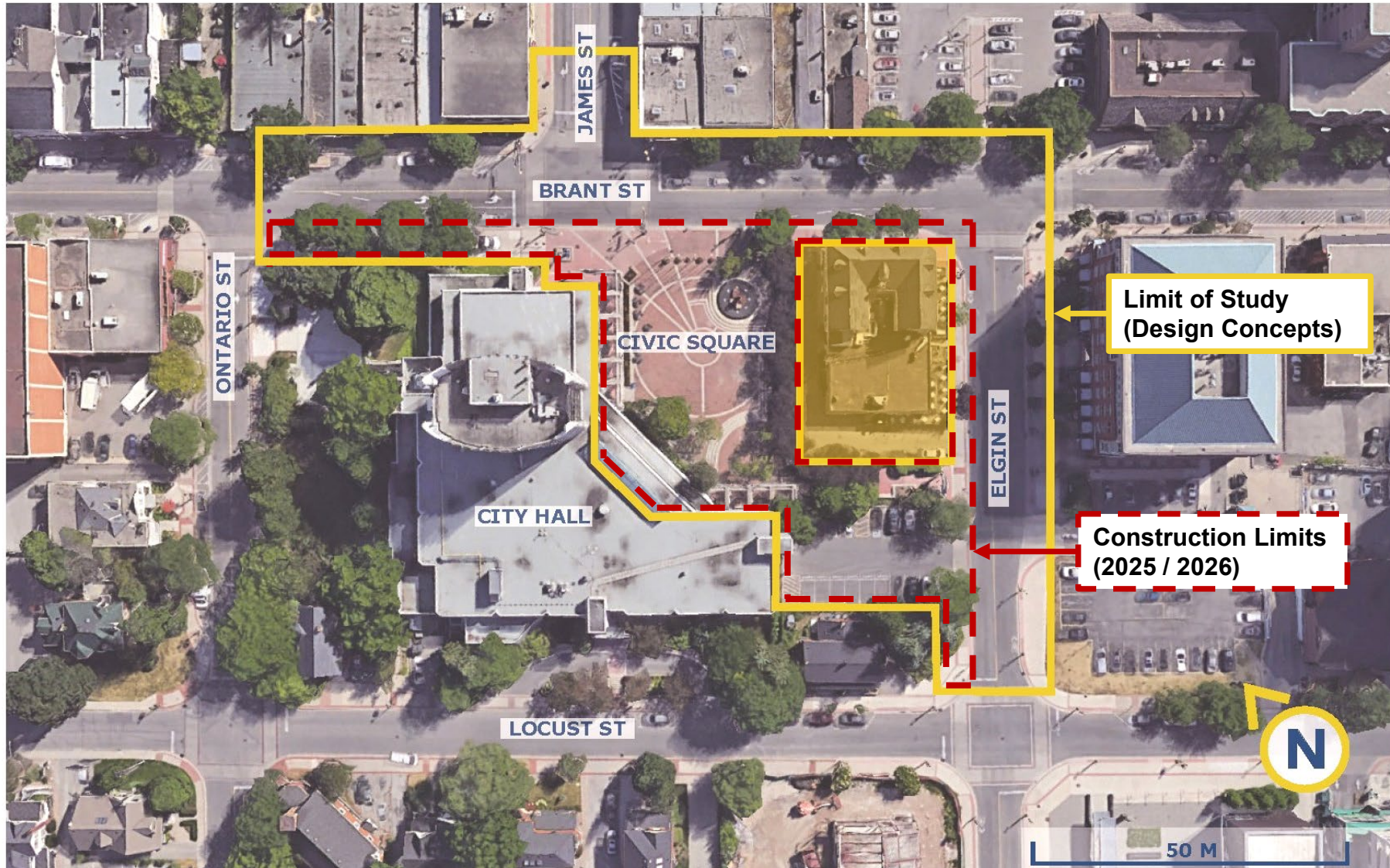
# Project Background

To achieve efficiencies and cohesive design, the following capital projects have been combined:

1. Civic Square renewal
2. Architectural changes to City Hall Brant Street entrance and colonnades
3. Streetscape improvements:
  1. Brant Street from Ontario Street to Elgin Street
  2. Elgin Street from Brant Street to Locust Street



# Project Background – Limits of Work



# Project Background – Source of Funding

Through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), the Government of Canada is investing \$1,984,900 and the Government of Ontario is investing \$1,653,917.

The city has already committed capital funding of \$884,744 with an additional \$808,750 forecasted in the 2025 Budget.

Capital funding in the amount of \$2,365,000, to support changes to City Hall related to this project, was approved in the 2024 Budget.

**CONSTRUCTION BUDGET = \$6,000,000**

# Project Background - Schedule

Indigenous Engagement

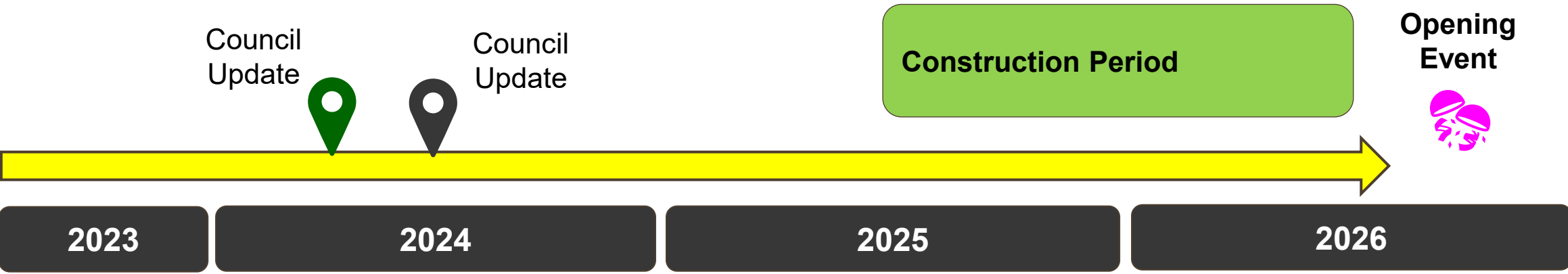
First Nations Consultation

Stakeholder and Community Engagement

Design Development

Detailed Design, Permits and Approvals, and Tendering

Note: The duration of the construction period and opening event dates are based on estimates only. Once the final design is selected, the duration of the construction period will be refined.



# Concept Development – Key Factors

**Each of the Concept Plans are the result of several key factors, including:**

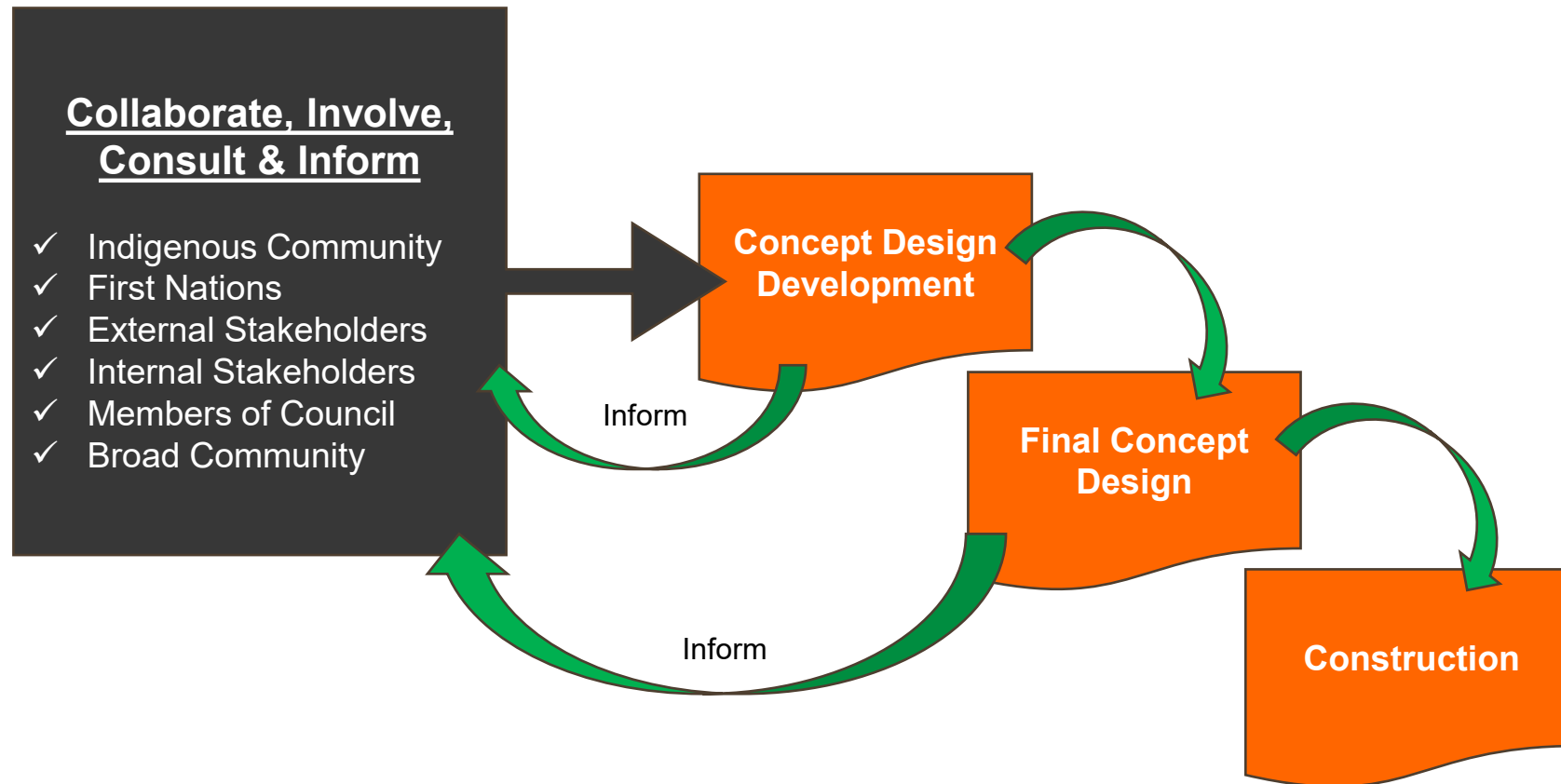
- Site analysis including strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats (SWOT).
- Site studies including sun/shadow analysis, wind study, grading study, and the application of design guidelines.
- Relationships to adjacent public and private spaces.
- A review of precedent design elements and precedent civic spaces in other communities.
- The assessment and analysis of the key findings from extensive project engagement.

# Concept Development – Engagement

**Engagement is critical to this project and is built into all stages of design development.**

Phase One of engagement began in September 2023 and was complete in February 2024.

Phase Two of engagement began in March 2024 through June 2024.





# Concept Development - Engagement

## KEY THEMES / REFERENCES:

- Flexible spatial design to accommodate various festivals, events, ceremonies, programs and activities.
- Maximize programmable space – suitable for small to large scale events.
- Activities /programming to animate the space for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- Accessible design (barrier free).
- Appropriate infrastructure to support programming – power, wi-fi, public address, water, etc.
- Multi-purpose / multi-use elements where practical.
- Functional and affordable design.
- Stronger connection between Civic Square and City Hall interior, 400 Brant Street, and adjacent streets.
- Consistent and coordinated materials selection
- Improved Security through monitoring and design.
- Inclusion of green infrastructure where appropriate.
- Public art integrated with design.
- References to the Indigenous Community

# Concept Development - Engagement

## KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS:

**We heard that that the following design elements are most important to improving accessibility and safety:**

- more seating
- clear, level, and firm surface
- lighting improvements
- animation of the space through a variety programming opportunities.

**We heard that the following design elements will make Civic Square a more comfortable and welcoming space:**

- protection from summer and winter elements
- natural landscaping
- public art
- access to water
- lighting.

**We heard that the following design elements can improve the versatility of the space:**

- a variety of gathering spaces, for passive and active use
- design that facilitates year-round use, including protection from the elements
- design that facilitates the closure of Brant Street during events and supports pedestrian safety
- the inclusion of event infrastructure.

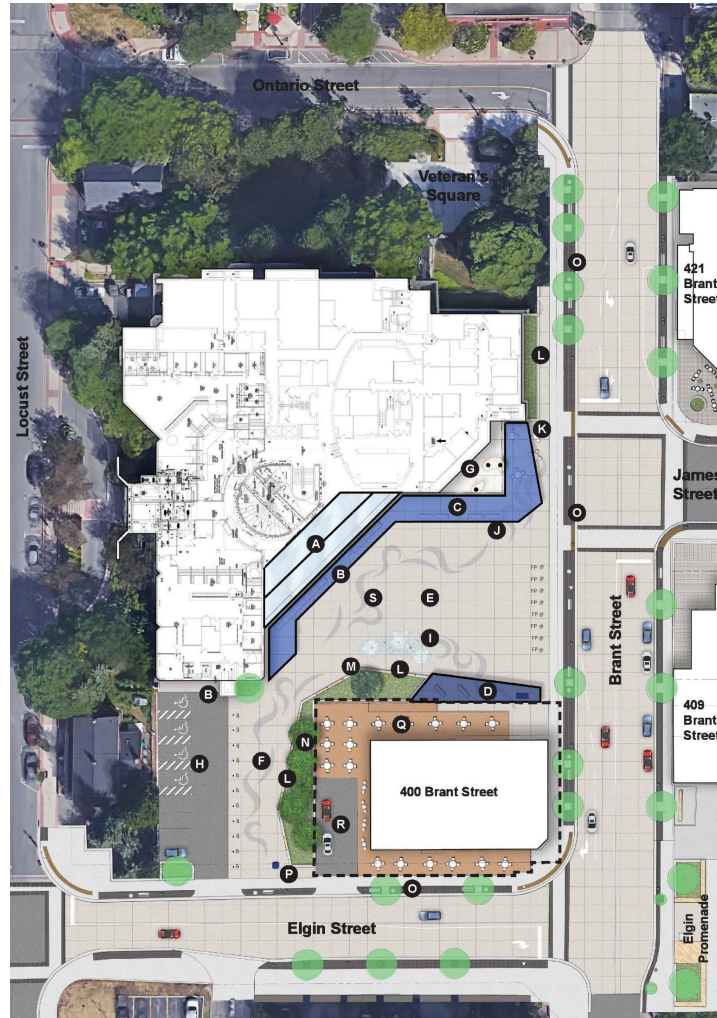
**Several other design elements were repeatedly mentioned:**

- A water element – not necessarily the existing fountain.
- Play elements / opportunities – not a playground
- Anniversary Clock – not necessarily in current location
- Flag poles (more) - not necessarily in the current location.

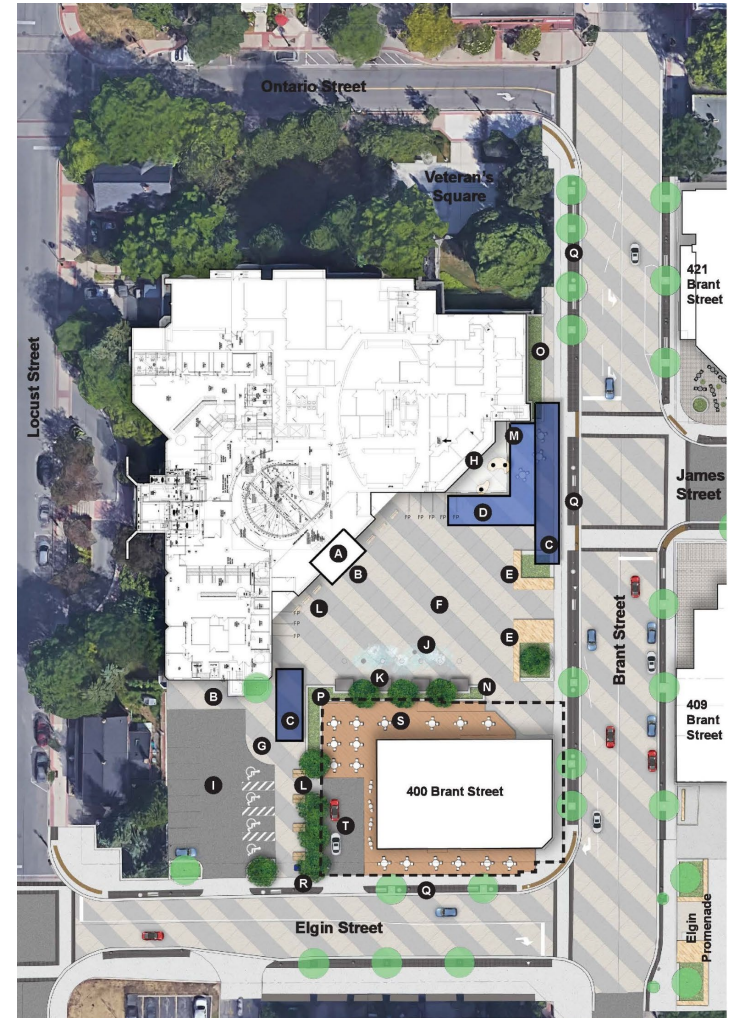
# Concept Plans – 3 Options



**CONCEPT #1: CANOPIES**



**CONCEPT #2: ATRIUM**



**CONCEPT #3: PORTALS**

# Concept Plans- 3 Options

## Each concept includes:

- Visual focal points.
- Canopy structures that shelter users from the elements and extend seasonal use.
- Flexible exterior spaces for programming / activities – event ready spaces.
- A variety of seating / rest area options.
- Flagpoles (8)
- The addition of site furnishings
- Site lighting
- Relocated heritage clock.
- A water feature / element.
- Parking area – essential for providing equitable. access to City Hall and Civic Square.
- Barrier free pedestrian areas – firm, flat (accessible), gently sloping surface.
- Landscaped transition between Civic Square and 400 Brant Street (private).
- Natural landscape areas.

## Where concepts can differ:

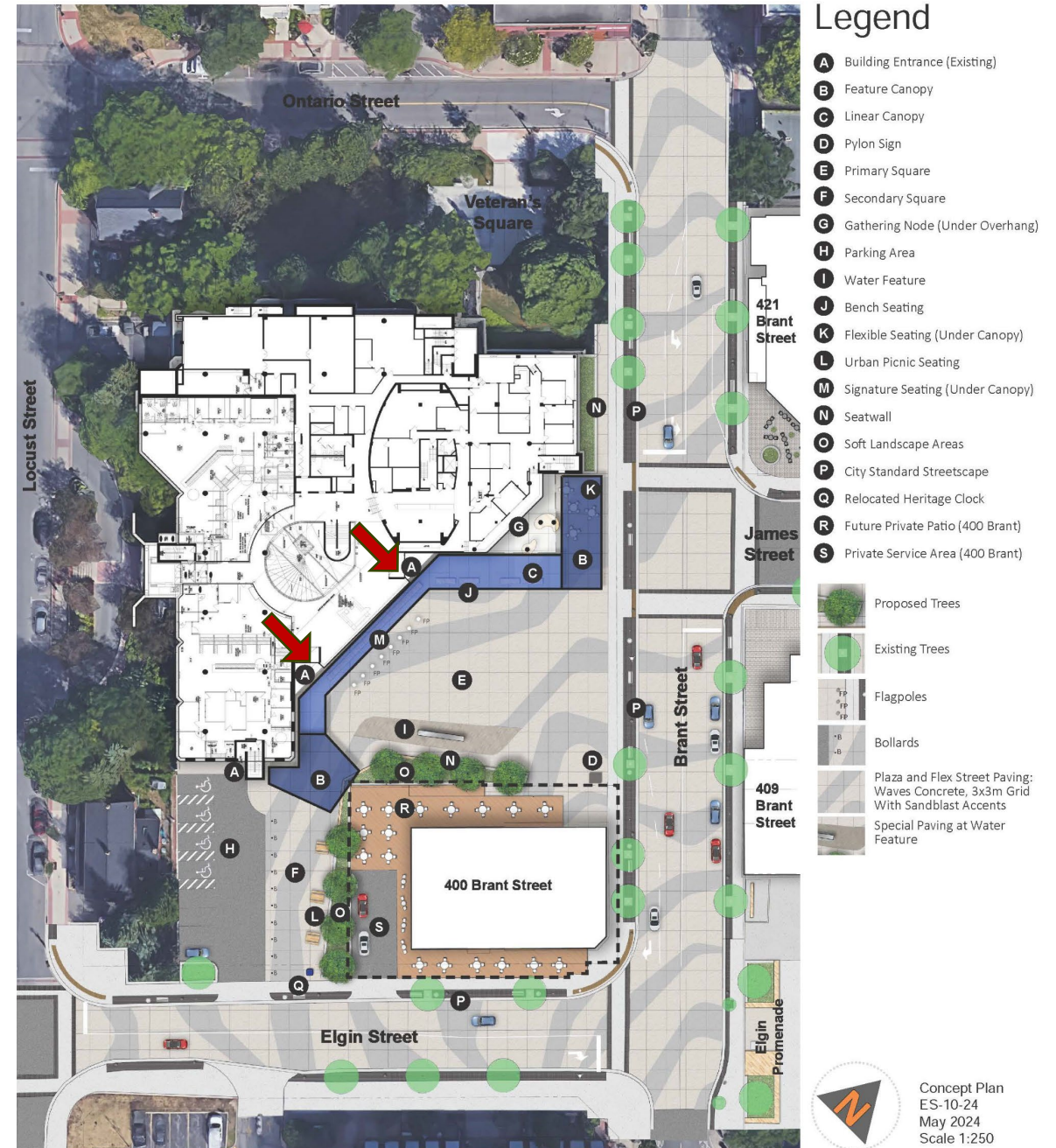
- Design theme.
- The location of entry doors to City Hall.
- Extent of the architectural changes to the façade of City Hall.
- The size and configuration of exterior spaces.
- The configuration of the existing Elgin Street parking lot.
- The inclusion of a permanent Holiday Tree.
- ***Note:*** Under a separate process, a public artist will join the project consultant team. Each design offers different opportunities for the integration of public art.

# Concept Plans – 3 Options

## CONCEPT #1: CANOPIES

### FRAMEWORK:

- Existing split entries maintained.
- Primary focal point provided at Brant Street and James Street intersection.
- Secondary focal point provided at Elgin Street façade.
- Covered canopies direct visitors to the entries.
- (3) exterior rooms created to support programming.
- Existing parking area reduced.
- Landscaped transition between Civic Square and 400 Brant Street (private).
- All internal stairs, ramps, barriers removed.



# Concept Plans – 3 Options

## CONCEPT #1: CANOPIES



*View from the intersection of Brant Street and James Street.*



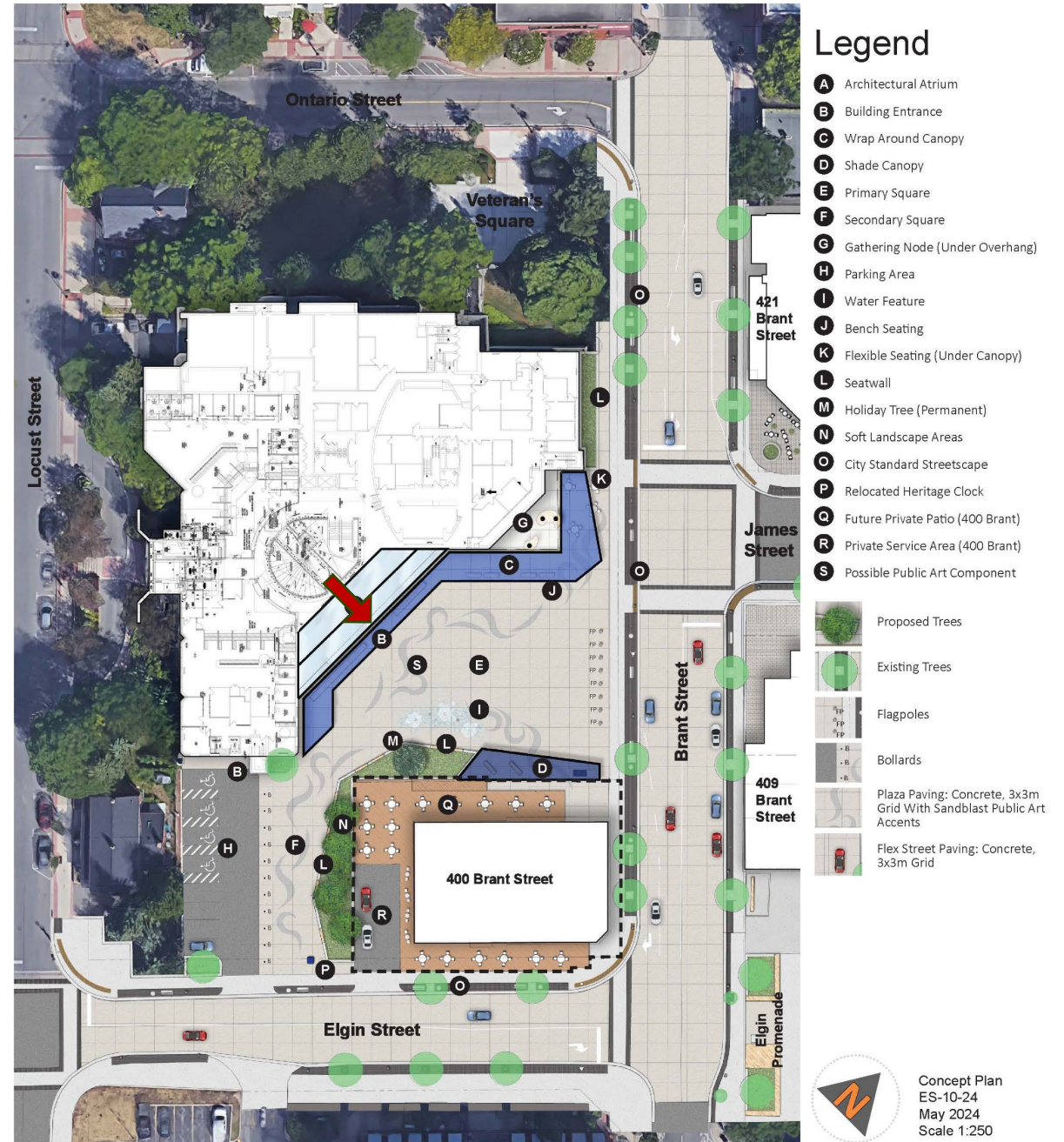
*View from Elgin Street.*

# Concept Plans – 3 Options

## CONCEPT #2: ATRIUM

### FRAMEWORK:

- Consolidated entry created at proposed atrium feature.
- Focal point provided at Brant Street and James Street intersection.
- Covered canopies provided along building façade.
- Secondary shade element provided adjacent to 400 Brant Street.
- (3) exterior rooms created to support programming.
- Existing parking area reduced.
- Partial landscaped transition between Civic Square and 400 Brant Street (private).
- All internal stairs, ramps, barriers removed.



# Concept Plans – 3 Options

## CONCEPT #2: ATRIUM



*View from the intersection of Brant Street and James Street.*



*View from Elgin Street.*

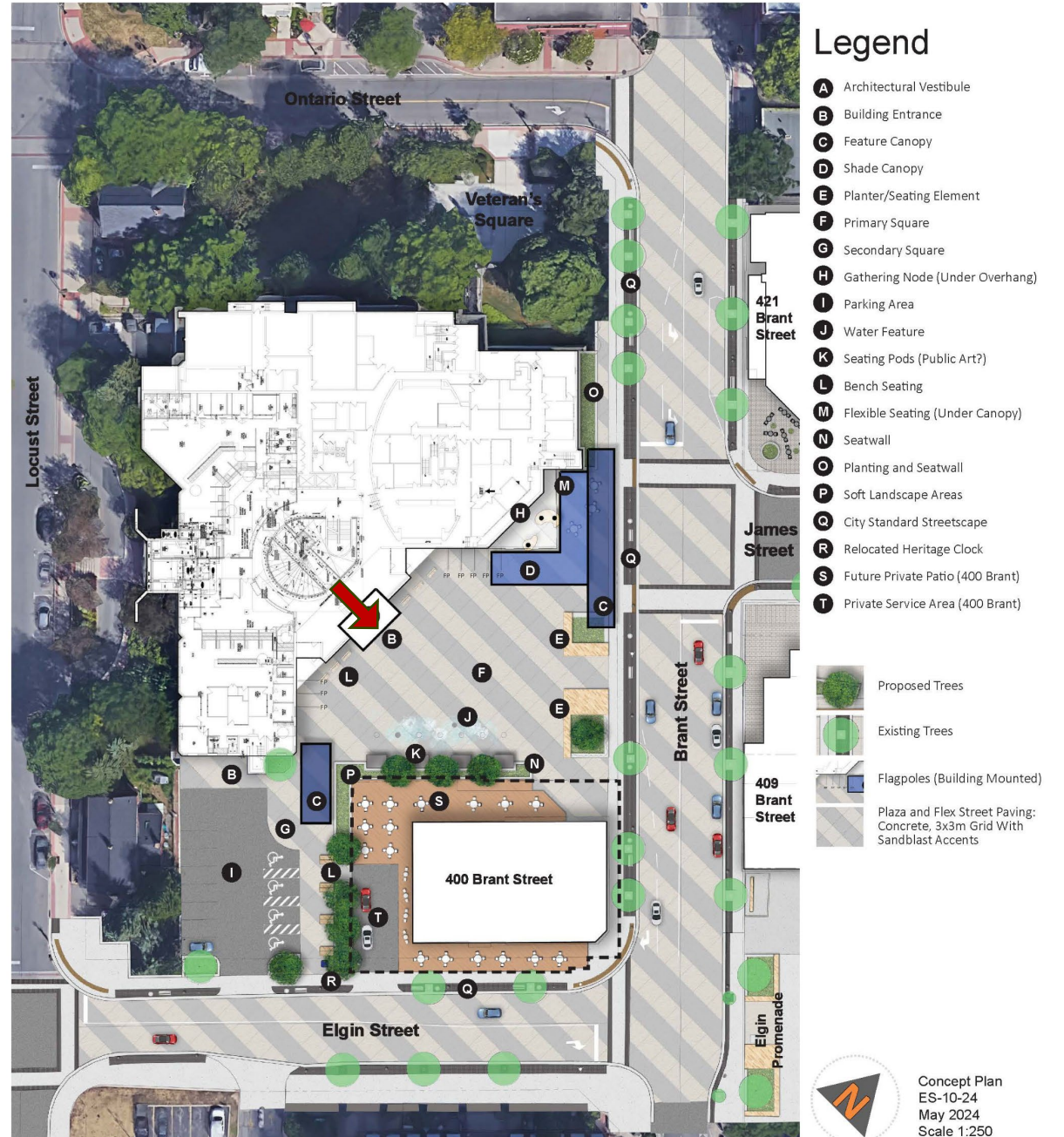


# Concept Plans – 3 Options

## CONCEPT #3: PORTALS

### FRAMEWORK:

- Consolidated entry created at proposed entry vestibule.
- Primary focal point provided at Brant Street and James Street intersection (dual height, freestanding structures).
- Secondary focal point provided at Elgin Street façade.
- Building walls exposed / visible.
- (2) exterior rooms created to support programming.
- Existing parking maintained with minor reduction in area around focal point.
- Partial landscaped transition between Civic Square and 400 Brant Street (private).
- All internal stairs, ramps, barriers removed.



# Concept Plans – 3 Options

## CONCEPT #3: PORTALS



*View from the intersection of Brant Street and James Street.*



*View from Elgin Street.*

Thank You

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