



**SUBJECT:** Civic Square and Brant Street renewal project update – preferred concept design and engagement summary

**TO:** Committee of the Whole

**FROM:** Engineering Services Department

Report Number: ES-19-24

Wards Affected: 2, all

Date to Committee: July 8, 2024

Date to Council: July 16, 2024

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### **Recommendation:**

Receive engineering services report ES-19-24 providing a project update, preferred concept design, and community engagement summary for the Civic Square and Brant Street renewal project.

### **PURPOSE:**

#### **Vision to Focus Alignment:**

- Designing and delivering complete communities
  - Providing the best services and experiences
  - Protecting and improving the natural environment and taking action on climate change
  - Driving organizational performance
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### **Executive Summary:**

Report ES-19-24 provides an update on the Civic Square and Brant Street renewal project.

The project aims to visualize, design, and implement the renewal of Civic Square, City Hall Entrance, and adjacent streetscapes to contribute to a healthier and more vibrant downtown core.

The final preferred concept design has been developed based on extensive engagement and feedback from the community. It is an evolution of Concept 2 - Atrium with modifications to include some design features from the other two concepts. Refer to Appendix A for an illustration of the final preferred concept design.

The preferred concept design includes key features such as a consolidated vestibule entry, focal point canopies with branding at Brant Street / James Street and Elgin Street, continuous canopies along the building facade, transitions to adjacent properties and streets, a variety of seating elements, inclusion of flag poles adjacent to the building entrance, an in-ground water feature with water jets, and waves themed patterning in paved surfaces.

The project is now transitioning into Phase Three of the engagement plan. Consultation to influence the overall design is now complete. This next stage includes informing stakeholders and the broader community of the final preferred concept design and will continue through September 2024. The project team continues to seek opportunities to engage with First Nations and Indigenous communities.

The upcoming project schedule includes detailed design, permits and approvals from July 2024 to March 2025, tender period in February - March 2025, and construction period from June 2025 to June 2026.

The budget for the project is approximately \$7.6 million, with funding from the Government of Canada, Government of Ontario, and the city.

The project is meeting all critical milestones and construction is expected to start in June 2025.

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## **Background and Discussion:**

In 2021 the city received Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – Community, Culture and Recreation Stream funding for the renewal of Civic Square and Brant Streetscape (from Elgin to Ontario on the west side).

To achieve efficiencies and a cohesive design, the Civic Square renewal project has been combined with two additional capital projects – the Brant Street entrance to City Hall and streetscape improvements on Elgin Street.

The overriding goal of the Civic Square and Brant Street Renewal project is to visualize, design, and implement the renewal of Civic Square, City Hall Entrance, and adjacent streetscapes to contribute to a healthier and more vibrant downtown core.

In May 2024 council approved report ES-10-24, that provided an update on the project and presented and summarized three concept designs.

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 completed in February 2024. Phase Two of engagement began in March 2024 and was completed in June 2024. Phase Three of engagement will continue through September 2024.

This report provides an update on the project, presents the final preferred concept design, outlines the project schedule ahead, and summarizes the engagement.

## **Strategy/process/risk**

### **Preferred Concept**

Three concept designs were presented in report ES-10-24; “Canopies,” “Atrium,” and “Portals.” Through engagement and an analysis of the feedback, a preferred concept design has been developed. The preferred concept design, with a summary of features, is included as Appendix A.

The preferred concept design is an evolution of Concept 2 - Atrium with some modifications to include design features from the other two concept designs.

Key features of the preferred concept design are:

- A consolidated (single) vestibule entry
- A focal point canopy with branding at Brant Street / James Street.
- A focal point canopy with branding at Elgin Street
- Continuous canopies along building façade (where feasible)
- Size, configuration, and flow of exterior spaces, including ‘3 Rooms’ approach and associated parking lot reduction (50%)
- Transitions to adjacent properties and streets
- Variety of seating elements
- Inclusion of flag poles adjacent to building entrance
- An in-ground water feature with water jets
- Maximize landscape opportunities while maintaining flexibility and use of space
- ‘Waves’ themed patterning in paved surfaces.

The preferred concept design reflects design decisions and contains physical elements that have been identified as important for a healthier and more vibrant space by concentrating on accessibility of the built environment, functionality, and enhancing the

prominence and character of the site. It reflects the preferences and feedback that were received through Phases One and Two engagement.

### **Public Art**

Through the City's Public Art Program, LeuWebb Projects has been selected by a community jury of artists and arts professionals to join the project team. In the first phase of their contract, LeuWebb will collaborate with the project team to design site-specific, integrated public art for Civic Square. In the second phase of their contract, LeuWebb will lead the fabrication and installation of the public art, in consultation with the project team.

### **Project Schedule**

To date, the project is meeting all critical milestones.

A summary of upcoming milestones and anticipated timing is included below.

<b>Project Milestones</b>	<b>Anticipated Timing</b>
<b>Report to Council on Preferred Concept</b>	July 2024
Phase Three Engagement	Through September 2024
Indigenous Community Engagement	Through September 2024
First Nations Consultation	Through September 2024
Detailed Design, Permits and Approvals	July 2024 – March 2025
Tender Period	February - March 2025
Construction Period	June 2025 – June 2026*
Opening Event	Summer 2026

\*Note: The duration of the construction period and opening event dates are based on estimates only. Once detailed design is well underway, the duration of the construction period will be refined.

### **Next Steps**

Next steps for the project team include:

- Phase Three engagement
- Advancing the preferred concept design through detailed design
- Discussions with internal and external stakeholders and outside agencies on key detailed design requirements.

## **Options Considered**

The implementation and scope of work for this project is clearly defined and is in alignment with ICIP funding requirements and capital budget planning, thus limiting other options.

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## **Financial Matters:**

### **Total Financial Impact**

The preferred concept has been designed to the construction budget. A preliminary Class 'D' cost estimate was prepared by the consulting quantity surveyor during concept design development.

### **Source of Funding**

The Government of Canada is investing \$1,984,900. 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 approximately \$2,365,000, to support changes to City Hall related to this project, was approved in the 2024 Budget.

### **Other Resource Impacts**

The project continues to be a major undertaking for the project team. The commitment the city has made to fulfilling the schedule requirements of the project are well supported by the internal project team and the consulting team.

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## **Climate Implications:**

Servicing and design features that are responsible and responsive to our changing climate will be incorporated. These will be refined as the detailed design evolves from the preferred concept.

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## **Engagement Matters:**

### First Nations and Indigenous Engagement

The project team continues to pursue opportunities to engage the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River and the local Indigenous community.

### Phase One Engagement (IAP2 – Consult)

Phase One engagement was complete in February 2024, and focused on an introduction to the project and information gathering about the current use of Civic Square and design priorities. It was summarized in report ES-10-24.

### Phase Two Engagement (IAP2 – Involve)

Phase Two engagement focused on receiving feedback on the three concept designs to influence decisions made for the development of the final concept design. It began in March 2024 and continued through early June 2024.

Prior to approval of report ES-10-24 in May 2024, the project team engaged with council appointed advisory committees, members of council, and staff. Following approval of report ES-10-24 in May 2024, the project team continued to engage with council appointed advisory committees and completed engagement with the broader community in June 2024.

An online survey, with accompanying narrated presentation, was available for community input on Get Involved Burlington from May 21 to June 9, 2024. A public open house was held on June 5, 2024 at City Hall.

### Key Findings from Phase Two Engagement

To understand the extensive feedback received on the three concept designs during Phase Two engagement, a decision matrix was used as a tool to evaluate and understand the preferred design elements. Preference for design elements by major stakeholder group (i.e. city staff, city council, advisory committees, and the public) were assigned a rating of 1 (not preferred), 5 (moderate preference), or 10 points (most preferred). The sum of the ratings provided for each design feature across stakeholder groups assists in understanding preferences. The decision matrix is included in Appendix B.

A preference for the following design features emerged from the decision matrix:

- Overall preference for Concept 2 – Atrium, with a vestibule entrance as per Concept 3
- Focal points, double and single story, at Brant Street and James Street
- Focal point at Elgin Street

- Continuous canopies as per Concepts 1 and 2
- Size, configuration, and flow of Concept 2
- 50% parking reduction as per Concepts 1 and 2
- A variety of seating opportunities as per Concept 1
- Flag poles at building entry as shown in Concept 1
- Water jets as shown in Concept 3
- Trees and planting areas as shown in Concept 3
- Waves paving pattern as shown in Concept 1

### Phase Three Engagement – July 2024 through September 2024 (IAP2-Inform)

The project team received a significant amount of useful stakeholder and community input over the course of ten months. With the presentation of this preferred concept design, the opportunity to influence the concept design is complete. Public participation will now focus on informing stakeholders and the broader community of the preferred concept design.

The preferred concept design will be available for review on Get Involved Burlington with promotion on social media. The project team plans to attend the Food for Feedback event in September 2024 to inform attendees on the preferred concept design.

### Engagement Summary Report

The engagement summary report is provided as Appendix B. It documents engagement from September 2023 to July 2024 and summarizes feedback and key findings of engagement.

Key highlights of engagement include:

- Hosting more than 20 in person and virtual engagement events with staff, stakeholders, local boards, city council, and the broader public
- Attending 10 advisory committee meetings
- Attending the 2023 Food for Feedback event
- Consulting with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River
- Consulting with the local Indigenous community
- Hosting two public surveys with a combined response of 550 engaged participants

- Promotion on Get Involved Burlington and city’s social media platforms.

Throughout the different engagement opportunities, we received favourable attendance with above average community participation, as well as representation from the following stakeholder groups:

<p>First Nations &amp; Indigenous Community</p>	<p>Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Six Nations of the Grand River  Indigenous Talking Circle</p>
<p>Internal Stakeholders</p>	<p>City Council  City Manager Community Planning Corporate Communications &amp; Engagement Engineering Services Environment, Infrastructure, and Community Services Recreation, Community &amp; Culture Roads, Parks and Forestry Transportation Services  Accessibility Advisory Committee Downtown Parking Advisory Committee Inclusivity Advisory Committee Integrated Transportation Advisory Committee Mundialization Advisory Committee Seniors’ Advisory Committee Sustainable Development Advisory Committee Culture Boards Conservation Halton</p>



	Tourism Burlington
External Stakeholders	Burlington Downtown Business Association Burlington Youth Student Council Third Party Event Organizers Local Historian 400 Brant Street (owner & operator)

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**Conclusion:**

A preferred concept design for the Civic Square and Brant Street has been developed following the implementation of an extensive multi-phased engagement plan. The project is meeting all critical milestones. Construction of this project is expected to start in June 2025.

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Respectfully submitted,

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**Appendices:**

- A. Preferred Concept Design
- B. Engagement Summary Report

**Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.