

## Main Street Renewal Project Functional, Preliminary Design and Detailed Design

Main Street Renewal Project – Working Group Meeting #15  
Key Points of Discussion  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Normandin Room, Saint Paul University, 249 Main Street

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### DISCUSSION TOPIC: Project Update

#### Attendees:

##### Project Management Committee:

Josée Vallée – Project Manager

Ron Clarke – Consulting Project Manager

##### Consulting Team:

Arthur Lo – Delcan

Martha Lush – Corush Sunderland Wright

Shannon Harbers – Corush Sunderland Wright

##### Advisory Group:

Lynda Hall, Public Art Program, City of Ottawa

Stephen Pope, Old Ottawa East Community Association

Paul Goodkey, Old Ottawa East Community Association

John Dance, Old Ottawa East Community Association

Laurie Smith, Heritage Ottawa

Adrian Senn, Area resident

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The Working Group discussion covered these key points:

- 1. Public Art Program Overview:** The City's Public Art Program administers 1% of the budget of capital projects over 2 million dollars to establish art in public places. The City issues an open call to artists to submit proposals for public artwork, which can be standalone pieces, functional art (e.g. benches/bike racks), or incorporated as linear elements along the streetscape. The submitted art is evaluated on the basis of criteria including demonstration of artistic excellence, being conceptually timeless and enduring, addressing site characteristics and surrounding structures, and suitability for outdoor environment. An Art Selection Committee is formed, comprising 2-3 artists, an architect/landscape architect, a community representative, and a representative from the City's street design team. They evaluate submissions and short-list finalists, at which point a public viewing is organized to gather input. The Art Selection Committee then makes their final decision, and the artist and City enter into a legal agreement to fabricate and install the art.
- 2. Timeline of Public Art Program:** For the Main Street Renewal project, the City is expected to make its call to artists in December, with the deadline for artists' submissions on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Public viewing of the finalists and the Art Selection Committee's final decision are expected in April 2014.
- 3. Public Art Focal Points:** The project's landscape architect identified a number of focal points and areas for linear elements that could be potential locations for the placement of public art on Main Street. Potential locations of focal points include the NE corner of Hawthorne and Main (in front of the Old Town Hall), in front of the Oblate Lands, and at Riverdale Ave. Locations of linear elements are between Oblate and Clegg, along the Highway 417 underpass, and along the wall near the hydro substation. Whether the public art takes the form of linear elements or individual pieces at focal points is determined by what is submitted by artists. The Working Group was asked to state their preferences of where and in what form art would be located, which could inform the City's Public Art Program in the description provided in the request for proposal (RFP) issued

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to artists. The following comments were provided by members of the Working Group with regard to the preferred position(s) and form of public art on Main Street:

- Gateway features as “bookends”, located at Echo Drive and near the McIlraith Bridge, might define the extents of Main Street.
  - An art piece as a focal point, in addition to the “bookends”. Preference for location include at Riverdale, or an area that is already a community gathering point.
  - Art should be pedestrian scale and not overly large, including the gateway pieces.
  - Explore possibility of a mural in the underpass beneath Highway 417, or on wall at hydro substation. These could perhaps be pursued by means other than the public art process.
  - Explore potential for community involvement in public art, such as what was done at the children’s park, possibly building upon the themes of sustainability and cycle track.
  - One member stated his preference that money spent on public art would be better spent as a contribution to burying overhead utility lines.
4. **Streetscaping Elements:** The project team provided examples of street lighting, furnishings, and planting structures that are being considered for Main Street. In terms of lighting, a ‘cone-style’ pedestrian light and a ‘Gullwing’ style tall mount light have been previously selected by the Working Group. The Working Group suggested that a colour other than black for lighting poles, benches, and waste baskets should be considered. The pavers that are being considered are a 4”x16” size. This size is atypical for the City, and intended to provide a more ‘residential’ feel compared to the pavers being utilized on Rideau Street, for example. The study team is exploring options for planters that would enable healthier vegetation growth, including bioswales and structural soil modules. However, since the City does not have existing maintenance standards for bioswales, discussions will have to take place to ensure that there is an established procedure for maintenance. Also, since City staff do not have the authority to maintain shrubs or planting beds, a possible role for community sponsors will be explored.
5. **Next Steps:** The project team, having received input from the Working Group with regard to streetscaping elements, will return with a further refined vision, including how colour can be incorporated into streetscape elements, ideas for locations of trees/bioswales, and ideas for the treatment of landscaping near the Main/Riverdale intersection. This will be presented at the next Working Group meeting.

Please advise if you have any suggested edits or modifications to ensure that we have accurately summarized the key points/comments made during the discussion.