

INFORMATION NOTE

Title:	Re-Imagine Churchill Square – Concept Plan
Date Prepared:	March 9, 2021
Report To:	Inclusion Advisory Committee
Councillor and Role:	Councillor Deanne Stapleton
Ward:	Ward 4

Issue: The Re-imagine Churchill Square concept plan will be presented to gather a recommendation from the committee on the proposed location of accessible parking spaces, feedback on Go Bus/Transit and passenger drop-off/pick up, and feedback on the main central plaza and Terrace on the Square plaza areas.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

In the fall of 2019 Council recognized an opportunity to coordinate planned improvements and engagement on a concept design project for the Churchill Square area. In February of 2020, the City retained Mills & Wright Architecture and began work on the Re-Imagine Churchill Square project. The first phase of the project involved consulting the City's Advisory Committees, and engaging area stakeholders and the general public on their vision of what a Re-imagined Churchill Square could be.

Mills & Wright hosted an in-person workshop open to all members of City Advisory Committees, including the Inclusion Advisory Committee, on Tuesday March 10, 2020. Over 20 people participated in Committee meeting and some of the key themes that arose were:

- Wider sidewalks are needed throughout the Square.
- Lighting is generally poor in Churchill Square.
- Improvements are needed to provide better accessibility to all buildings.
- Bus stops are currently too far away from the Terrace on the Square and other buildings.
- The space needs to be pedestrian oriented; it currently feels too focused on cars.
- Churchill Square's public spaces must consider all four seasons and include consideration of snow storage.
- Could the flow of traffic be changed to remove the central drive aisle and create more pedestrian space?
- More outdoor amenities such as benches, picnic tables, and bike racks are needed.
- Connect the Square to the soccer field and park across the street.
- There is a unique heritage architecture in Churchill Square that must be incorporated.
- Can the parking lot be reconfigured to find more social spaces or space for community events?

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- Cycling infrastructure should be incorporated.

Based on these ideas as well as feedback gathered from business stakeholders and the general public, Mills & Wright have prepared a concept plan for the Churchill Square public area. The attached document illustrates the proposed concept plan and provides renderings of what the final project may look like once constructed.

A concept plan is an early design document that is intended to establish how areas of space will be used and the general layout of the public space. This includes areas of parking, drive-aisles, and sidewalks, as well as the general locations of intersections landscaping. Concept designs provide direction for the next step of detailed design.

While the plans and images of the renderings show a lot of detail at this stage, many features including curb ramps and tactile warning surfaces are not shown. These features will be included in the detailed design process based on specific information including grading and locations available at that stage. Some features that are shown in the concept plan such as the type of tables, bike racks, or feature colours, may not be the exact products used. This phase of the project and these plans and images are the first step to understanding the re-imagined vision of Churchill Square.

We are seeking input from the Inclusion Advisory Committee on the concept plan specifically for:

A recommendation on

- the locations of accessible parking spaces; and

Feedback on

- Go Bus/Transit and passenger drop-off/pick-up;
- main central plaza and Terrace on the Square plaza areas; and,
- any other critical issues for the concept level design.

At this stage of the process, any comments on detailed design issues will be noted for future consideration.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: Not applicable
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:

Residents, businesses (and their employees) and visitors of Churchill Square, City Advisory Committees, and the general public.

3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:

Completion of the Re-Imagine Churchill Square project aligns with the strategic direction "A city where people feel connected, have a sense of belonging, and are actively

engaged in community life.” and specifically the goal to “develop and deliver programs, services, and public spaces that build safe, healthy and vibrant communities”.

4. Legal or Policy Implications: Not applicable
5. Privacy Implications: Not applicable
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:

More consultation and engagement will be held to present and gather feedback on the proposed concept plan. A virtual meeting open to all of the City’s active Advisory Committees will be held on March 24 from 2:00-3:00 PM and two virtual public open houses will be held on March 25 from 10:30-11:30 AM and from 6:30-7:30 PM.

7. Human Resource Implications: Not applicable
8. Procurement Implications: Not applicable
9. Information Technology Implications: Not applicable
10. Other Implications: Not applicable

Conclusion/Next Steps:

The final round of Committee and public engagement will be completed, and Staff will prepare a report to Committee of the Whole that presents the Re-Imagine Churchill Square concept plan, summarizes What We Heard through consultation, and provides a recommendation to Council on how to proceed with the project.

This report will include the feedback gathered from the March 23 meeting of the Inclusion Advisory Committee and will summarize the recommendation made by the Committee for Council information and consideration.

Attachment Image Descriptions:

Churchill Square Concept Plan Full Rendering – The image shows a digital three-dimension rendering of the proposed concept plan for Churchill Square as a birds-eye angled view looking at Churchill Square from Elizabeth Avenue. A central drive-aisle with sidewalks along each side runs from the existing signalized intersection on Elizabeth Avenue just past the middle of the square where it forms a three-legged intersection. At this point vehicles can make a left or a right turn to access parking areas on either side. In front of the Terrace on the Square building there is a central plaza area for pedestrians and the sidewalks bordering the buildings around the square are larger with areas of landscaping and trees.

Main Pedestrian Plaza Full Rendering – The image shows a digital three-dimension rendering zoomed in on the main central plaza area looking towards the Terrace on the Square Building. The plaza is at sidewalk level with space for pedestrians to move around and space along the left side for cyclists to access a covered bike parking area. Landscaped planters including trees with benches for seating around the side are provided on either side of the plaza area and tables with chairs are shown in the centre of the area with some located under pergola shelters. String lights run overtop of the plaza between posts on the corners of the planters.

Partial Main Pedestrian Plaza Rendering – The image shows a digital three-dimension rendering of a side view of the central plaza area showing the pergola style shelters above the seating areas and a farmers market vendor next to the sidewalk area.

Terrace on the Square Plaza Rendering – The image shows a digital three-dimension rendering of the front of the Terrace on the Square building. The area at the front doors to the building is shown as a raised intersection with a drop-off/pick-up area. Landscaping is added in areas in front of the left side of the building next to CIBC and expanded sidewalks are provided around the building plaza. The existing ramps to the left and right of the building face up to the main doors are improved to meet current accessibility standards and accessible parking spaces are located up against the new sidewalk next to the building entrances. The existing circular ramp to the right of the building is replaced with landscaped area and the ramp is improved and relocated along the side of the building.

Re-imagine Churchill Square Concept Plan – The image shows a plan view of the re-imagine Churchill Square concept plan on a satellite image of the project area. Elizabeth Avenue runs along the left side of the image and the Terrace on the Square building is on the right edge. An existing multi-use commercial and apartment building borders the top of the image while the new residential and commercial building currently under construction is shown at the bottom. Two parking areas are in the area between the buildings separated by a central drive aisle with sidewalks and landscaping and the central plaza area. The Metrobus stop on the south side of Elizabeth Avenue remains in the same location in the top left corner of the image and a new accessible path to the nearby building is shown. A raised intersection connects the proposed central plaza area to the front of the Terrace on the Square building. At this intersection in front of the building there is a drop-off/pick-up area for Go Bus, passengers, and deliveries. Twenty-three accessible parking spaces are shown on the plan. Three of these are shown in the top left corner near the entrances to the apartments, two are in the bottom left corner near the Cowans Optical building, two are at the front entrance of the building being constructed, four are in the bottom right corner near a crosswalk on Rowan Street to the side of the Terrace on the square building, three are in the top right corner near the Alpine Country Lodge business, five are located in front of Terrace on the Square, and four are located next to the central plaza area.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Re-Imagine Churchill Square - Concept Plan.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Churchill Square Concept Plan Full Rendering.pdf- Main Pedesrian Plaza Full Rendering.pdf- Partial Main Pedestrian Plaza Rendering.pdf- Terrace on the Square Plaza Rendering.pdf- Re-imagine Churchill Square Concept Plan.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 11, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature found

Garrett Donaher - Mar 11, 2021 - 10:51 AM

Scott Winsor - Mar 11, 2021 - 1:30 PM

Jason Sinyard - Mar 11, 2021 - 2:20 PM