

### **BUDGET COMMITTEE REQUEST:**

Staff report on the safety on the side streets in Downtown.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- That the information be received.

### **KEY FACTS:**

- The Downtown Transportation & Streetscape Study was completed in 2015 and includes the recommended cross-sections and streetscape treatments for the downtown streets from Navy Street to Allan Street and from Reynolds Street to Robinson Street.
- The Lakeshore Road East reconstruction and streetscape project was completed in November 2020.
- Many streets in Downtown Oakville have been resurfaced since 2020.
- Resurfacing, localized rehabilitation and boulevard repair projects are planned for Reynolds Street and Robinson Street in Downtown Oakville the coming years.
- Reconstruction and streetscape projects for the remaining streets in Downtown Oakville are not included in the proposed 10-year capital budget and forecast.
- Cash-in-lieu of streetscaping is collected from new developments in the downtown area and will be applied to future capital projects on those streets.

### **COMMENTS/OPTIONS:**

**The Downtown Transportation & Streetscape Study was completed in 2015 And sets out the recommendations for streetscape and cross-section improvements to streets in the downtown area.**

The reconstruction of Lakeshore Road East was completed in 2020 and incorporates the recommendations of this plan. As part of the Lakeshore Road project (from Navy Street to Allan Street), above and below ground infrastructure was rehabilitated, replaced or reconstructed, in one project, in coordination with the streetscape work.

A conscious acknowledgement of the need to pause future construction works for a few years was made after the Lakeshore project, in recognition of the impact 2 years of construction had on the downtown area.

As a result, streetscape projects on the side streets have not yet been implemented. These projects were intended to be transitioned in over time, as development and infrastructure renewal requirements provided the opportunity to do so.

## **Infrastructure Renewal**

In line with the town's Asset Management principles, projects are planned to address multiple infrastructure objectives at one time. This approach is more cost effective and reduces disruption to the residents and businesses in the area by ensuring that there are not back-to-back projects in the exact same area (the "dig once" principle).

The subsurface infrastructure (storm sewers) within Downtown Oakville is in good condition overall, and major rehabilitation or replacement is not required. Regular maintenance and repairs, along with road resurfacing and concrete works are utilized to keep the infrastructure in a state of good repair. Major reconstruction of the other downtown streets is not required within the 10-year capital planning horizon.

Since 2020, many streets within the area bounded by Navy Street, Reynolds Street, Allan Street and Robinson Street have been resurfaced, including sections of Navy Street, Thomas Street, George Street, Trafalgar Road, Allan Street and Randall Street. These projects were all planned and budgeted to follow the Lakeshore Road work. The resurfacing program not only considers the road, but also renewal or repair of curb and sidewalk adjacent to the road sections being resurfaced.

In addition, sidewalks are inspected and condition is reviewed annually. The 2025 sidewalk inspections are expected to be complete by the end of April. Repairs or replacements are completed in accordance with Minimum Maintenance Standards, and items that are a safety concern are prioritized to be addressed first. To date, any renewal and repairs on the downtown side streets are based on the existing materials, existing sidewalk dimensions and locations.

Upcoming infrastructure renewal projects include the resurfacing of Robinson Street from Navy Street to Allan Street, which is tentatively scheduled for 2026. The interlocking brick and stairs on Reynolds Street, from Lakeshore Road East to Church Street, will be rehabilitated in 2025.

## **Development Projects and Streetscaping**

In addition to coordinating streetscape work with infrastructure renewal works, opportunities are also considered along with development. When a development is proposed on one of the downtown streets, the proponent may be required to reconstruct the right-of-way that their property fronts on in accordance with the Downtown Transportation & Streetscape Study or may be required to provide cash-in-lieu of streetscaping. Cash-in-lieu of streetscaping is calculated based on the per metre cost of the streetscape elements on Lakeshore Road East, adjusted to current year values. Where cash-in-lieu is collected, the funds would be applied to a future town capital project for streetscaping on that street. This process allows for streetscaping to be

planned for and executed on a street comprehensively as opposed to on a piecemeal basis.

## **Conclusion**

Streetscaping projects on downtown streets are not currently included in the 10-year forecast, staff will continue to review opportunities to coordinate streetscaping with other projects.

The next opportunity is Robinson Street, which is tentatively planned for resurfacing in 2026. Streetscaping is not currently included in that work. If the scope was expanded to include streetscaping, an estimated \$7.6M would be required to be added to the project budget.