



## **Accessibility Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Date: March 20, 2025**

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**FROM:** Parks and Open Space Department

**DATE:** March 11, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Towne Square

**LOCATION:** 210 Lakeshore Road East

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the report dated March 11, 2025, entitled Towne Square from the Parks and Open Space Department, be received.
2. That universal design features in the Towne Square project be endorsed.

### **KEY FACTS:**

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this item:

Town Council approved advancing Towne Square as a Council priority for construction commencing in September 2025. This project is on a fast-track.

A delegation to Council was made in November 2024 by four residents' associations in Ward 3 concerning Towne Square design that was approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee and then Council in 2019. Parks and Open Space staff in collaboration with the Residents' Associations, Oakville Downtown BIA, Brosko Property Management, and Councillor Haslett-Theall and Councillor Gittings, have developed a refined design of Towne Square that improves accessibility and inclusion to the square. Key landscape and architectural features include:

#### **Landscape Key Features**

##### **Barrier-Free Access**

- Accessible promenade from Lakeshore Road sidewalk
- Elimination of the disappearing stairs or 'stramps' making the square completely accessible and safe
- Addition of an accessible path into the square between two oversized tree planters flanking the promenade

### **Seating Opportunities**

- Increased seating opportunities (fixed and flexible) around the square and along the promenade
- Planters are seatwall height enabling seating opportunities for wheelchair users along Lakeshore Road or adjacent to the square
- Rounded corners on planters for smoother access into the square

### **Lighting/Visual Contrast**

- Lighting mounted on plinths that are located outside the path of travel around the square
- Tonal contrast between pavers and lawn coupled with straight lines for easier access, and also accommodate neurodiverse challenges
- Addition of street trees around the square and along the promenade to provide visual edge to the square along with shade and shelter

### **Materials/Finishes**

- Leaf benches are seatwall height and offer comfortable seating on wood/concrete surfaces
- Tactile-stainless steel domes on all steps as a warning strip
- at the top of each step into the square
- Tonal contrast between unit paver field paving and accent banding that orient movement towards the Towne Square
- All paving to conform to AODA and Town of Oakville Universal Design Standards

## **APPENDICES:**

Appendix A – OTSR Concept Update

Prepared by:  
NAK Design Strategies

Submitted by:  
Carmen Hui, Landscape Architect  
Parks and Open Space