

Joshua Creek Residents' Association Position Paper - October 21, 2014

Downtown Transportation and Streetscape Study

The **Downtown Transportation and Streetscape Study (DTS)** is one of two components that make up the **Downtown Plan**. The other is the **Downtown Cultural Hub Study**. The Town has advised that the infrastructure under Lakeshore Road between Allan Street and Navy Street is at the end of its life and the Town has communicated that the Region and other utilities are stating it must be completely redone in the near future.

The road construction will include all underground infrastructure as well as surface items (i.e. curbs and sidewalks). With this understanding, JCRA concurs that the Town of Oakville has the unique opportunity to consider options for redesigning Lakeshore Road in conjunction with its long-term plans for the revitalization of our downtown. Church and Robinson Streets are included in the study.

The DTS and all documents related to the Downtown Plan can be found at:

<https://securepwa.oakville.ca/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=2471&doctype=AGENDA>

JCRA directors have been actively involved in various Downtown planning consultation processes and have carefully reviewed the DTS and all related documents in the Downtown Plan. The JCRA supports the following principles:

- We support removing the center lane that serves as a Commercial Loading Zone (CLZ). Delivery trucks parked in this lane are dangerous to pedestrians and traffic as sightlines are blocked. Alternative delivery zones that are convenient to the businesses along Lakeshore must be provided.
- We support maintaining parallel parking on both sides of Lakeshore Road.
- We support more parking in the downtown through the addition of a parking garage that fits with the long-term Cultural Hub plans plus improved use of existing parking lots. Building a new garage before construction starts would encourage ongoing use of the downtown during construction.
- We support cyclists in the downtown area and are in favour of dedicated bike lanes along Robinson and Church Streets. This will divert cycling groups and races off Lakeshore Road. We do not support bike lanes along Lakeshore Road.
- We support changing Randall and Church Streets from one-way to two-way streets. This will improve arterial traffic through the downtown area.

- We support wider sidewalks along Lakeshore Road to allow increased space for outdoor patios, marketing opportunities for businesses and pedestrians.
- We support a curbless design with upgraded paving and granite pavers integrated into the design.
- We support bike parking, new trees and benches that are environmental and user friendly as well as sustainable.
- We support a traditional design and high quality finishes that speak to the historic relevance of the downtown core and create a charming downtown experience.
- We support the addition of public washrooms to be included in final option.

The Town has presented three options for Lakeshore and the surrounding streets. The JCRA Board have concluded that the current “Option 2” is the best choice for residents, businesses and visitors.

We encourage everyone to review the Town’s proposed options and provide feedback to us and or directly to the Town. As the options are refined we want to hear from our residents your suggestions, concerns and preferences.

It is our understanding that the Town’s next Steps through to early 2015 are:

Throughout the fall the Town will evaluate each option using a set of evaluation criteria to determine a preferred option to present to Council in early 2015. The feasibility of a curbless design and street furnishings and materials will also be determined. The Town website has suggestions on these.

A Mitigation Strategy will be developed to minimize the construction impact on businesses, residents and visitors.

The Town Square will be redesigned alongside the Lakeshore Road project. Concept designs will be produced and brought forward for public discussion to determine a preferred option. These have just been released and JCRA will be discussing them and welcomes your input.

2015 – 2018:

Detailed design work for Lakeshore Road and Town Square will be done throughout 2015 with the goal of starting construction in 2016. Construction will take a minimum of 2 years to complete.

We welcome your input and comments at: memberjoshuacreek@gmail.com

Sincerely,
The JCRA Board