



Centretown Citizens  
Community Association

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18 April, 2017

Councillor Keith Egli  
Chair, Transportation Committee  
City of Ottawa  
110 Laurier Ave, West  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Dear Mr. Egli:

The Centretown Citizens Community Association (CCCA) has been grateful for the opportunity to participate in the City's Elgin Street and Hawthorne Avenue Functional Design Study Working Group over the course of the last several months. The City's invitation to participate was welcomed by the CCCA and typifies the engagement and participatory decision-making that a world-class city should reflect. The Working Group process to-date has also been a wonderful example of the City taking the time to adequately engage the local community, residents and businesses alike, in the shaping of a neighbourhood we can all live well in.

As you may know, the CCCA represents communities in the areas bounded by the Ottawa River, the Rideau Canal, the Queensway and Bronson Avenue, and has as its objective to maintain and improve the residential and community character of Centretown. Portions of our neighbourhood will be directly impacted by the decisions made as a result of the Elgin Street portion of the Elgin Street and Hawthorne Avenue Functional Design Study. Our neighbourhood has significant numbers of residential-owned, residential-rented, retail and office buildings which are all in relatively close proximity to each other.

Throughout the Elgin Street and Hawthorne Avenue Functional Design Study process, the CCCA has been listening to its neighbours and members. This community has come out in significant numbers to the City's own public engagement events on June 28, 2016, and again more recently on

January 11, 2017. Additionally, an online questionnaire conducted by the City as part of this process also generated over 600 responses with regard to the Elgin Street and Hawthorne Avenue Functional Design Study. Throughout, our community has indicated overwhelmingly a strong desire for the City to have the reconstruction on Elgin Street reflect the needs of pedestrians: wider sidewalks along Elgin Street and an enhanced public realm that includes more trees and greenspace and less clutter in pedestrian clear-ways.

As a marquee street in Canada's capital, Elgin Street serves the local community as a "traditional main street" – young children attending Elgin Street Public School or Lisgar Collegiate Institute, and residents who frequent Jack Purcell Community Centre or attending service at one of several places of worship along Elgin Street – in addition to serving as a major tourist destination to visitors. Prioritizing pedestrians and creating more livable and safer streets is not just the desire of this community, but has become the policy of the City of Ottawa and echoed in recommendations from city staff. This is evident in the City's adoption of a Complete Streets approach and the City of Ottawa Complete Streets Implementation Framework. Most recently, the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee recognized that the existing sidewalks on Elgin Street are substandard in width and recommended that City Council approve the city staff recommendations to widen the sidewalks on Elgin Street as part of the planned reconstruction so that they comply with the City's Accessibility Design Standards.

The CCCA was pleased to note that City staff returned to the Working Group to present their findings and a proposed functional design that reflected in some measure the desires of the community: residents and businesses alike. In fact, the success of businesses along streets with "traditional main streets" zoning – such as Richmond and Wellington West, Preston, Bank, Main, and Rideau streets – must be celebrated. These examples demonstrate the City's commitment to building livable communities; and a consistent approach to the reconstruction and renewal of Elgin Street, given its traditional main street zoning, would continue to foster and promote compact, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented development. The CCCA lauds a plan that attempts to maximize sidewalks and improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists at intersections. A focus on automobiles on our main streets, and Elgin Street in particular, has the effect of ensuring local residents and visitors to the neighbourhood minimize the time spent there.

The CCCA is also supportive of enhancements that create a more inviting streetscape for neighbours to congregate and patronize local businesses in greater comfort and frequency. With regard to enhancing the public realm, there has also been significant interest from the community to leverage this reconstruction opportunity to bury utilities along Elgin Street which would in itself allow for greater pedestrian space and guarantee that the trees planted along Elgin Street would be allowed to grow unhampered for years to come.

We are eager to review the staff recommendations and report for the Elgin Street and Hawthorne Avenue Functional Design Study, and thank you for having given us the opportunity to participate to-date. As the City's Transportation Committee anticipates the staff report for consideration at its meeting on May 3, 2017, the CCCA would appreciate your serious consideration of the community's contributions to this process, and our desire to enhance our neighbourhood and have the Elgin Street reconstruction be counted a success for the entire community. It cannot be emphasized enough that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the City, and a community, to leave a legacy for generations to come.

Sincerely,



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cc:

- Mayor Jim Watson
- Councillor Catherine McKenney
- Councillor Bob Monette
- Councillor Jody Mitic
- Councillor Shad Qadri
- Councillor Diane Deans
- Councillor Mathieu Fleury
- Councillor David Chernushenko
- Councillor George Darouze
- Councillor Scott Moffatt
- Councillor Michael Qaqish