



TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: BARRIE ALLANDALE TRANSIT TERMINAL PUBLIC ART COMMISSION - FUNDING SOURCE

WARD: WARD 8

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: C. RYAN, PUBLIC ART COORDINATOR, EXT. 5293
P. ODIKPO, PROJECT MANAGER, CAPITAL FACILITIES

SUBMITTED BY: S. SCHLICHTER, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT
R. PEWS, P.ENG., DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE FACILITIES

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P.ENG., PMP, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT
D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That, in absence of the Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) eligibility for funding in support of the public art commission, *Exhale*, by Studio F Minus for the Barrie Allandale Transit Terminal, the remaining two-thirds funding required to complete the works (\$100,000) be funded as follows:
 - a. Replace Provincial and Federal grant funding (\$50,000 each) with \$75,000 from the Public Art Reserve and \$25,000 from the Tax Capital Reserve

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

2. The purpose of the staff report is to provide Council with an update on the eligibility of funding for the public art commission under the Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and to provide alternative funding sources to support the continuation of the installation.
3. On February 7th, 2024, Council adopted Motion 24-G-014 related to the Barrie Allandale Transit Terminal Public Art Commission. The adopted recommendation approved the artwork, *Exhale*, by Studio F Minus be approved as the selected artwork.
4. At the time the report was written, staff had reported that funding for the public art commission at the Barrie Allandale Transit Terminal was approved within corporate project #FC1206. Specifically, \$100,000 of the installation budget was to be funded by the Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and \$50,000 to be covered by Tax Capital Reserve as approved in the project budget.

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5. Since the approval of the project, staff have since been advised that the direct costs associated with the public art commission have been determined to be ineligible for reimbursement under the interpretation of the eligible and ineligible expense definitions by ICIP.

ANALYSIS

6. The public art commission had been included in the proposed scope of work for the approved capital project for the Barrie Allandale Transit Terminal and the Public Art Coordinator had been engaged to support the capital project by facilitating the selection process for the final artwork.
7. The location of the artwork in the outdoor plaza at the Barrie Allandale Transit Terminal was pre-determined by the site design, so that the artwork was designed specifically for this site.
8. The advanced planning for this artwork was intended to provide for the installation to coincide with construction so that additional site disruption would be avoided. The artwork would be installed in 2025 as part of the construction project scope.
9. The overall selection of the piece began with a national call to artists in the form of a request for expressions of interest and included a design brief and artwork goals that resulted from a public survey conducted in February 2023. Some primary themes emerged, such as references to the Allandale neighbourhood, including but not limited to, railway heritage and Indigenous history. The design brief also required the piece to be durable with respect to the elements, and for maintenance requirements to be minimized. The selected concept by Studio F Minus met all the criteria of the design brief, including the budget of \$150,000 allocated within the overall project.
10. Given that the ICIP funding source is no longer supporting two-thirds of the funding for the artwork, a new funding source must be defined for the project to continue.
11. *Exhale* will become a unique identifier for Barrie as well as a wayfinding tool for those using or simply passing by the transit terminal. It is a work of contemporary sculpture that utilizes modern technologies and a dynamic design to encourage new ways of seeing that which is familiar – the sky, the bay, and the landscape surrounding the transit terminal.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT MATTER

12. The following environmental and climate change impacts matters have been considered in the development of the recommendation:
- a) The selected placement of artwork at the Barrie Allandale Transit Terminal site is an area sized and incorporated into the design for the intent of installing public art.
 - b) The artist will undertake all installation activities in accordance with City and regional environmental and permitting authorities, including Metrolinx.

ALTERNATIVES

13. The following alternatives are available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1

General Committee could choose not to proceed with the commission for the Barrie Allandale Transit Terminal.

This alternative is not recommended as the commission represents a key moment in Barrie's growth as a city and the development of the public art program. Being the

first design-build in the program’s history, the artistic competition was given national profile and multiple stakeholders were engaged during the two-stage selection process. At a moment when Barrie is gaining momentum as a destination for residents and businesses, public art is a progressive and placemaking investment that is attractive and distinct within the region.

Alternative #2

General Committee could choose to defer the installation of any public art on the site at this time.

This alternative while available for Council’s consideration is not recommended. As per the City of Barrie Official Plan 2051, section 3.2.4.9 Public Art states: *The City will promote the provision of public art in publicly accessible areas. Public art is encouraged to be incorporated into buildings, infrastructure, or landscapes to contribute to interesting and memorable places for residents and visitors alike.* The commission was designed specifically for the site and aligning it’s installation with construction of the terminal will reduce future disruption and avoid additional costs associated with an independent installation.

FINANCIAL

- 14. The total approved budget for capital project FC1206 Allendale and Downtown Transit Mobility Hub is \$29.6 million. Of that, the public art commission is budgeted at \$150,000 for the piece.
- 15. Based on the ICIP eligible expenses, the City will need to fund the remaining two-thirds, or \$100,000 of the project in addition to the future maintenance costs (10% of installations costs) that would be funded from the public art reserve.
- 16. The table below shows the approved budget of capital project FC1206 Allendale and Downtown Transit Mobility Hub along with the impact of the proposed recommendations in this report:

| Funding Source | Approved Budget | Motion Request | Recommended Budget |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Province of Ontario Grant | 9,247,337 | (50,000) | 9,197,337 |
| Government of Canada Grant | 11,097,914 | (50,000) | 11,047,914 |
| DC Transit Reserve | 1,834,421 | - | 1,834,421 |
| Tax Capital Reserve | 7,432,183 | 25,000 | 7,457,183 |
| Public Art Reserve | - | 75,000 | 75,000 |
| Total | \$ 29,611,854 | \$ - | \$ 29,611,854 |

- 17. The previously approved budget along with the recommended motions will split the funding of the artwork between the public art reserve (\$75K) and the tax capital reserve (\$75K).

LINKAGE TO 2022-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

- 20. The recommendations included in this Staff Report support the following goal identified in the 2022-2026 City Council Strategic Plan:

- Thriving Community – foster growth in arts and culture

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- Community Safety – support neighbourhood safety and crime prevention
 - Infrastructure Investments - support active transportation and pedestrian connections
21. Public art is a key component of placemaking, public space animation, civic pride, and strong neighbourhoods. The Barrie Allandale Transit Terminal will be a hub for our local community and visitors alike. The addition of *Exhale* will serve as a welcoming landmark for all who encounter it.
 22. The City of Barrie's public art collection has grown and evolved in recent years. The inclusion of *Exhale*, a contemporary sculpture unique to our community and its history, will enhance the tourism draw and add to the progressive reputation of our public art collection.

Appendix 'A' – Design Concept – *Exhale* – Studio F Minus



DESIGN

Upon approaching the new transit building, whether by GO, local bus, or car, from Essa Road or on foot or bicycle from the multi-use path, "Exhale" will serve as an undeniably eye-catching landmark.

Hovering roughly 3.5m above the plaza at its lowest point, and floating to 6.8m at its loftiest, this 3.4m long (hypotenuse of the 6m x 6m art zone) glistening cloud will stand as a vibrant, proud point of arrival.

In our art practice we love to play with the common expectations and experiences of natural phenomenon, like sunlight, wind, and everyday materials. "Exhale" effectively turns the generally held view of stainless steel as a tough, heavy, neutral-coloured, industrial material on its head by bringing it to life with movement and colour via these natural elements.

How we perceive this sculpture, its colour, opacity, even its form, shifts constantly, from season to season, day to day, hour to hour, even moment to moment, providing novel experiences for the most regular commuter and a mesmerizing reason for return trips for tourists.

The sculpture does this by conceptually mimicking the way light reflects and refracts through the tiny molecules in a cloud of breath, smoke, or steam. "Exhale" is composed of more than two hundred and forty mirror polished stainless-steel paddles (or molecules). There are two sizes of these paddle, the larger ones make up the majority and are concentrated towards the centre of the cloud's mass while the smaller paddles are arranged around the edges where the cloud begins to visually dissolve.