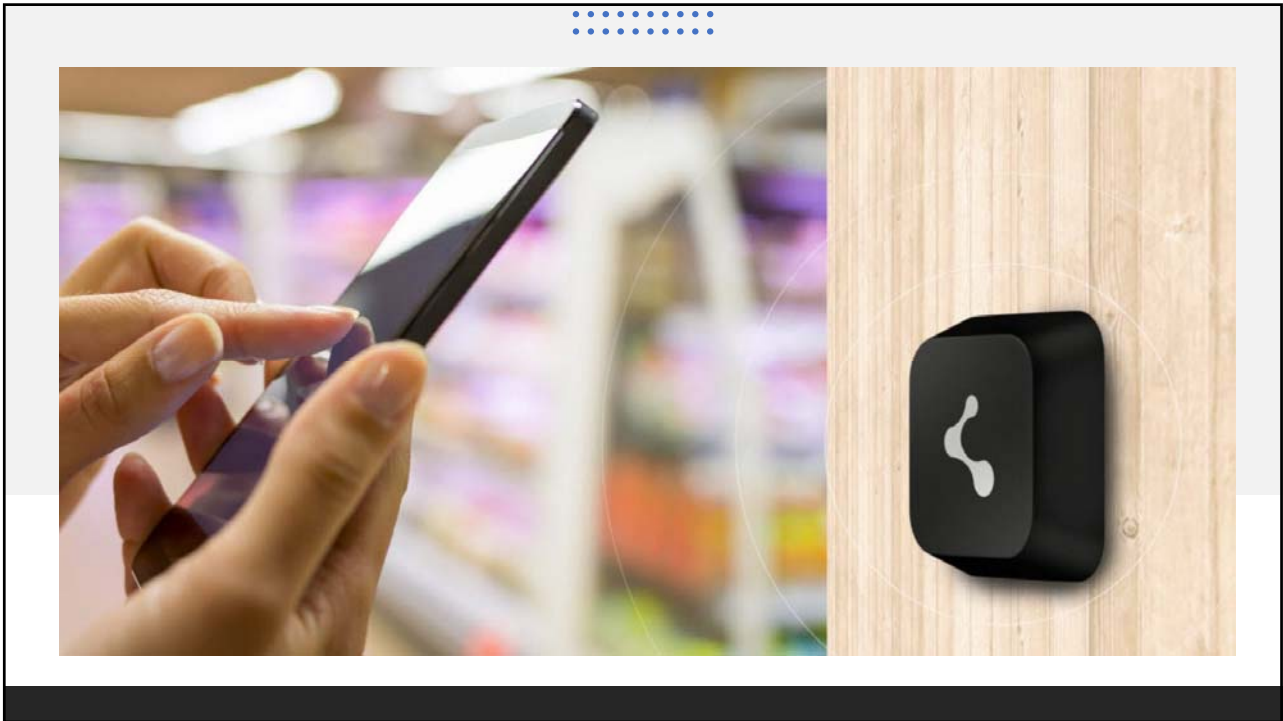# Blindsquare

Pilot Project Proposal – City Hall, Dundas Place

What is it and how does it work?

- Paired with third-party navigation apps, BlindSquare's self-voicing app delivers detailed points of interest and intersections for safe, reliable travel both outside and inside. Open the doors to enhanced independence with BlindSquare.
- After determining your location, BlindSquare gathers information about your surroundings on Foursquare and OpenStreetMap.
- Algorithms determine what information is most useful to you such as popular cafes, post offices or libraries.
- Shake your device to hear your current address and details about the nearest intersection and venues around you.
- BlindSquare will track your destination and periodically announce the distance and direction you're headed.
- Mark your position if you'd like help finding your way back later.
- Filters can be applied to provide only the information you're looking for so you're not overwhelmed by details on your surroundings.
- Mark your saved places and Foursquare venues as Favorites and BlindSquare will always notify you once you reach them.
- Favourites will be saved in iCloud and synced to all iOS devices for device consistency.
- BlindSquare uses Acapela voices in many different languages to announce information about your environment even when your device is tucked away for a hands-free experience.

Costs

- The app generally costs money but the Shoptalk promotion allows for us to have our City Hall and Dundas Street locations as part of the free app so there is no cost to use the service in these locations.

- The beacons are low cost approximately $1500.00 for 100 beacons with programming so it's a very reasonably priced tool for improved access.

- A pilot will let us examine the tool's use, its effectiveness and the uptake. It will let us also gather important feedback from users so we can make a thoughtful decision about how/if to expand or not.

Languages Currently available

- There are currently 26 languages available with blindsquare.
- The CNIB programs each square's information so someone who is blind leads this process which is vital

Pilot

- Based on some feedback about flex street design and some challenges navigating the space from Blind residents, we are going to pilot Blindsquare in this space.
- We are also hoping to pilot Blindsquare beacons in City Hall. I will be discussing this with the City Clerk's office and Facilities to hear any concerns/challenges.
- However this is a simple unintrusive way to demonstrate a commitment to accessibility in public spaces and will allow us to evaluate the technology for our needs and for the needs of those who use the application before we think about expanding.

We will advertise that the program is available and that these areas are Blindsquare Enabled

Proposed Timeline

- **January 6 – Completed City Hall assessment with CNIB and recorded floor layouts**
- **January** - Discuss concerns/questions with stakeholders (City Clerk's office, Facilities)
- **February** – Pilot installation at City Hall
- **February** – Ensure system is properly functioning & tested
- **March** – Launch to public
- **March** – Install all beacons & program Dundas Place
- **April** – Test & confirm working beacons at Dundas Place
- **May** – Officially launch blindsquare app at grand opening of Dundas Place

Questions or Concerns?

- I'd like to ask any feedback/suggestions/address any concerns from you as our Accessibility Advisory committee before proceeding.