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Jan 9, 2021

Councillor Jennifer McKelvie
Vice-Chair,
City of Toronto Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Suite B25
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor McKelvie and Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

As we come to grips with the decimation of our great City due to COVID-19, we need some good news and things to look forward to.

I'm writing today to affirm my support for the staff recommendations in item IE19.11 yongeTOMorrow - Municipal Class Environmental Assessment on Yonge Street from Queen Street to College/Carlton Street - which will be discussed at the January 11th committee meeting.

The City of Toronto is mandated to replace a failing water main that is over 100 years old and buried under downtown Yonge Street. This will require major construction, and disruption in the area. What is being decided today is how we decide to put the road back together.

yongeTOMorrow is our once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform Yonge Street into a world-class, 21st century urban destination. This proposed redevelopment will see a full and flexible redesign of the street from College St, south to Queen St, where sidewalks will be expanded, vehicle lanes modified, restaurant patios extended and street furniture and streetscape accents. My hope is that new developments in this area will be encouraged to consider Mass Timber assembly so that this street is truly representative of yonge TOMorrow.



Lined with brand destination retailers, restaurants, music venues, theatres, the Eaton Centre, and Yonge Dundas Square, yongeTOmorrow is our chance to bring one of Toronto's most historic and culturally important streets back onto the world stage.

In the wake of the successful ActiveTO and CafeTO initiatives, this is the moment to mobilize public support, and just like we're doing with Massey Hall, to reinvent this iconic city street.

In addition, under your leadership, my hope is that we can work together to create a Walking Commissioner whose mandate is not just to make developments like yongeTOmorrow walkable and the envy of the world, but also to make them safe during times of heavy construction. **I'd like to meet with you by Zoom to talk about this critically important new position at City Hall, one that I believe you would be ideally for, much like Councillor Michael Thompson is doing as "Night Mayor."**

I urge you to support this once in a lifetime opportunity to amplify Yonge Street's prominence as a vibrant, pedestrian-prioritized, globally-significant and flexible destination street. And my hope is that you will use this development as a model to not only succeed on Yonge Street, but also TO West (Liberty Village) and TO East (Lever development) in your next term in Council.

I look forward to your feedback

Chris Fraser
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