

From: [College Promenade BIA](#)
To: [Councillor Bailao](#); [Councillor Layton](#); [Emily Summers](#); [Emily Wong](#); [Executive Committee](#); [Councillor Bradford](#)
Subject: Feedback and Recommendations for CafeTO Report and Program
Date: January 26, 2021 8:48:06 PM

Hi Executive Committee Member, Councillor Cressy and Councillor Bradford.

It is very exciting that CafeTO is being strongly considered for 2021. There are some items in the CafeTO Staff report that we wanted to flag and provide some recommendations on.

We are 100% fully in support of CafeTO moving forward in 2021 on the timeline suggested within the report.

Houndstooth (located at 818 College St) owner, Matias, has indicated that CafeTO was an integral part of his business for 2020.

"CafeTO allowed us as a new business to make sustainable levels of revenue for the months that it was operational. We were able to achieve more than \$30k in sales per month, and the CafeTO set up represented 100% of our sales, as we opted to be cautious from a public health perspective and not have indoor service during this period.

At 24 people, our CafeTO set up was equal to only 1/4 of our actual [indoor] capacity, but allowed us to earn what was necessary to survive and have multiple employees. Without a similar program that allows us to serve until last call, we will not survive this calendar year. CafeTO is a required lifeline for our establishment to survive. " - Matias Marin

We are concerned about the proposal to reduce operating hours to end patio service on main streets at 11pm and propose keeping the same end of service time as 2020.

An 11pm end to service would require a last call for alcohol service at 10:15pm for operators and would not create a viable environment for economic recovery of bars and restaurants, which are a key part of the night time economy in Toronto and do their busiest service between 9pm and 1am.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and working group with BIAs and the City is needed. BIAs played a critical role as a partner in this program in 2020, effectively taking on roles of outreach to businesses, planning of CafeTO elements within BIAs, liaison between City and businesses (and other providers), managing day to day operations, maintenance issues and conflicts with regard to CafeTO. There was no one City point person for BIAs to support in this important role, there was no MOU outlining an understanding of these roles. While the CafeTO report does recognize BIAs and seems to indicate BIAs will be expected to act in the same manner/roles as in 2020 as critical partners, it needs to require an MOU to be created to provide an authoritative role to BIAs, and designate a CafeTO point person to liaise and support BIAs in these roles.

Formal permission is needed via the report for businesses to leave furniture in CafeTO areas overnight. In 2020 it was an unofficial policy that CafeTO/ MLS allowed businesses to leave their heavy furniture and umbrella bases in CafeTO areas overnight (at their own risk) and this worked. We would ask that this now be formalized for clarity in 2021

Extension of the program beyond November 10, 2021 should weather permit, needs to be easily executable through delegated authority to the appropriate departments

without requiring a City Council motion to authorize this. *I.e. if the weather is extremely favourable and allows for an extra week or two of outdoor dining - this decision needs to be made swiftly and easily.* This can only be determined within a few days as the weather can be unpredictable.

We request that the following amendment in yellow be added to #7 of the report:

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“City Council authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services to review and approve variations to the CaféTO program and guidelines, such as cafes on flankages, laneways, at curb, and small side streets, non-adjacent closures and other variations, in consultation with the local Councillor and in consideration of past complaints reported at the address and conditions imposed by Community Council in similar local circumstances. In addition, City Council authorize the General Manager to work with TTC to move stops to accommodate CafeTO curblane closures

Allowing adjacent retailers to take advantage of CafeTO closures when not being used during the day or other times to sell goods. Waiving any marketing display fees that could be associated this. Creating greater inclusion for the program amongst BIA members.

The City work collaboratively with the AGCO to allow extension of liquor licenses for non-adjacency. This is critical whereby an establishment can not operate directly outside their store front space due to set back requirements at intersections or are obstructed by a fire hydrant but can operate within their block curblane closure

Establish protocol and procedure for the closure of streets for consecutive one day, two day or three day requests to allow for more safe space for pedestrians to move freely in the area while also expanding patio dining space. We note that this would not be marketed as a street party or festival but rather emulating something similar to what the City of Hamilton did last summer with [Locke Street](#).

Can the April 15 timeline be moved earlier to adequately allow businesses to prepare for implementing outdoor dining spaces on private property, including rear lots?

We hope this information will allow for an even more successful, inclusive and robust CafeTO program.

If there are any questions or concerns, we would be pleased to engage in conversation about these.

Warm Regards,

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