

January 08, 2021

Councillor McKelvie, Chair and Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee

RE: IE19.11: yongeTOmorrow - MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ON YONGE STREET FROM QUEEN STREET TO COLLEGE/CARLTON STREET

Dear Committee Members,

The Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas representing Toronto's 84 BIAs with a combined membership of over 90,000 businesses and property owners submit the following for your consideration in deliberating item IE19.11.

BIAs in the broadest sense are the pre-eminent experts in the local economies that they serve, and collectively possess the best perspective when it comes to local economic impacts. BIAs are not third-party self interest groups and are in fact Agencies of the City and as such should be engaged as part of the decision-making process by providing input through an economic development and street level view that should be taken seriously. BIAs are City partners that understand street level decisions and their impact on daily operations of business, commerce, and the community as a whole.

To that end we ask that any decisions regarding projects/initiatives such as this and others to come involving BIA areas include the local BIAs as part of the process. This will ensure that the voice of the business community is heard and addressed in all streetscape planning and design projects.

§ 19-2.1. Purpose of a Business Improvement Area Board

- A. To oversee the improvement, beautification and maintenance of municipally owned land, buildings and structures in the business improvement area beyond City standard levels provided at the expense of the municipality generally;
- B. To maintain business improvement area-initiated streetscaping capital assets within the business improvement area;
- C. To promote the business improvement area as a business, employment, tourist or shopping area;
- D. To offer graffiti and poster removal services respecting building façades visible from the street, to all business improvement area member property owners who provide written consent, upon approval of the program by the business improvement area members;
- E. To undertake safety and security initiatives within the business improvement area;
- F. To undertake strategic planning necessary to address business improvement area issues; and
- G. To advocate on behalf of the interests of the business improvement area subject to the limits set out in this chapter.

We submit that apart from item D above, all other noted purposes as set out by council when establishing BIAs are of relevance in respect to this and other such projects and BIAs should be continuously engaged throughout the process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Kiru".

John J. Kiru
Executive Director, TABIA