



Jan 08, 2021

Re: IE19.11 yongeTOMorrow - Municipal Class Environmental Assessment on Yonge Street from Queen Street to College/Carlton Street

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

The BCCA would like to affirm our support for the staff recommendations in item IE19.11 yongeTOMorrow - Municipal Class Environmental Assessment on Yonge Street from Queen Street to College/Carlton Street.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Wong-Tam for her leadership, dedication and commitment to the **Yonge Street Environmental Assessment (EA)** project.

The City of Toronto is mandated to replace a failing water main that is over 100 years old and buried directed 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, 21 century urban destination that supports critical public health objectives - for a world with COVID-19 and beyond. yongeTOMorrow proposes 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 elements added.

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 huge public support and think boldly about the future of this iconic city street. This is the time for Yonge TOMorrow.

Downtown Yonge St. is a neighbourhood's backyard and a country's Main street. yongeTomorrow needs to cater to both. This proposal addresses the hyper-local needs of a community, while also strengthening the long-term economic development and success of the whole city.

While we embrace and support this yongeTOMorrow project, we believe that the concerns of the Downtown Yonge B.I.A., who represent businesses within the Yonge corridor, should also be taken into consideration. They do not support full or partial permanent closures of Yonge Street, but support a "flex street" enabling pedestrian-only access during special events but otherwise serving as a regular road.

A Strong Voice for A Strong Community

We 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.

Regards,

Marilyn Tait-McClellan, President BCCA
On behalf of the BCCA Executive Team

Cc: Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam , Ward 13
Mark Garner - Chief Operating Officer & Executive Director, Downtown Yonge B.I.A.

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