



## McGill Granby Village Residents' Association

January 9, 2021

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

The McGill Granby Village Residents' Association (MGVRA) represents residents in the area bounded by Yonge, Carlton, Jarvis and Gerrard Streets. One of the objectives of the MGVRA is to promote all measures which enhance the beauty, safety and general quality of residential life in the area, and to oppose all conditions or measures that diminish these features.

The Board of the MGVRA supports the recommended design for the reconstruction of Yonge Street from Queen Street to College Streets as distributed by the General Manager, Transportation Services, City of Toronto. Residents in our jurisdiction will be directly impacted by the proposed changes to this section of Yonge Street, and the improved accessibility, prioritization of pedestrians, and opportunity to support local events and cultural opportunities they will bring. We have experienced firsthand the increase in the number of pedestrians, tourists, students and full-time residents in the area over the past several years and are excited by the opportunity to reimagine this portion of Yonge Street to better align with the current and future needs of our neighbourhood. The success of the ActiveTO and CafeTO initiatives this summer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic support many elements that have been incorporated into the design, notably the expansion of sidewalks and patios, and the reduction of lanes for vehicular traffic. With the Eaton Centre, Yonge-Dundas Square, College Park and Ryerson University as fixtures in this community, and the number of proposed residential units that will be built over the coming years, the existing infrastructure and street design are not adequate for residents or visitors to the area, and do not properly support the many vibrant cultural opportunities that exist for our community. We agree that the City of Toronto should seize this opportunity to reimagine this portion of Yonge Street.

The MGVRA Board is aware of the concerns that have been put forward by the local Business Improvement Areas and the businesses they represent, and one of our seven Board members does not share our overall support for the proposed design. As such, we strongly support the continued engagement of all local stakeholders as the detailed design phase of yongeTOMorrow continues. While we are excited by many of the features included in the current design, we are cognizant that the vitality of our neighbourhood requires our local businesses to thrive as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments.

Sincerely,  
McGill Granby Village Residents' Association Board of Directors