
stackt

Jan 4, 2021

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

I am 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 directly 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.

From my experience with Stackt Market, a 100,000 SQFT culture and community hub located in downtown Toronto and built using 120 shipping containers, we recognized some key components were

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making sure we were always listening, learning and working with amazing people to not only bring the concept to life but also to ensure we are always evolving. We believe its important to recognize that it doesn't happen without a great support network and that's going to be crucial for a project like yongeTOmorrow.

We also think it's key to recognize the importance of creating a space with multiple offerings. At stackt we have a wide variety of things to do and we have a strong belief, also based obviously on the feedback from the community, that having multiple offerings is key to creating a destination like this, a hub that's vibrant and a place for people to gather and connect.

With the information provided to date for yongeTOmorrow, I have seen all of these components being addressed and believe this initiative will have an extremely positive impact on our city, Yonge Street, and the areas directly surrounding it.

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.

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