

bloor-yorkville

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BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA

May 6, 2013

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SECRETARIAT SECTION

* 2013 MAY -6 P 4: 33

Councillor Wong-Tam
City of Toronto - City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Wong Tam:

RE: Road Alteration - Bay Street, South of Yorkville Avenue – LEA Consulting Ltd. Report

We commend the direction that the Councillor and City Staff has taken for this section of Bay Street, where the goal is to achieve a higher urban design principle and broader objective to create an animated, more pedestrian friendly space, which will be created with:

- new hard and soft scape sidewalk improvements;
- the introduction of a traffic light at Cumberland Street; and,
- a future patio at the Four Seasons Hotel.

Given the intense level of residential development currently in place, under development and/or approved, along with consideration of many future developments, the Bay-Yorkville and Bay Cumberland intersections will both become extremely busy and important pedestrian conduits.

Further to our letter to Toronto City Council on March 20, 2013, we have reviewed the LEA Consulting Ltd report on the above noted matter. We do not agree with the Consultant's recommended Option 6 for the main reasons that for the better part, of any given day, the side walk will still be used largely for cars and a logical neighbourhood option exists through Option 3, provided that a professional, well managed valet service is put in place. The photos offered of Brussels, as an example of Option 6 show the same pedestrian 'squeeze' situation that already exists and offers no improvement to the pedestrian experience. Bollards will also pose a challenge to those with visual impairments.

Not presented in the report is the magnitude of impact assessment, nor does it address that if the Valet Parking was moved to Genoa Street, with proper management of space, that it is incumbent of the user to manage that space, which will cater to their needs and that any logistical issues can be sorted out.

Importantly, it must be noted that the current lay-bay does not function as a facilitator of a valet service, nor is it seen as a facility available to customers of other stores or services along this stretch of Bay Street. It does function as short term parking, lorded over by an attendant who insists on exclusive use by Pusateri's customers.



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Our goal is the same as yours. Public sidewalk space should be used to create an animated, more pedestrian friendly space. The private use of public space perceived or otherwise should only be permitted when a higher public good is achieved. The privatization of the precious public space must not be permitted.

Thank you for taking our comments into consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Dr. David Homer
Chair – Traffic Committee



Ron Palmer, BES, MCIP, RPP
Chair – PPUD Committee

