

May 25, 2015

Councillor Jaye Robinson
Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
100 Queen Street West, Suite A12
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Robinson:

RE: PW5.14 – COORDINATED STREET FURNITURE PROGRAM

The Toronto Financial District BIA applauds the City of Toronto for progress made in reducing sidewalk clutter through the consolidation and reduction of publication boxes. While it is of benefit to locate publication boxes in corrals and multi-publication kiosks, these structures, as well as individual publication boxes, can be an impediment to pedestrian flows on congested sidewalks in the Financial District. As identified in our 2013 public realm strategy, *Raising the Standard: A Public Realm Strategy for the Financial District*, pedestrian counts on Bay Street are as high as 77,000 people per day between Queen Street and Front Street. With an average sidewalk width of only 4.3 meters, pedestrians are often forced into the vehicular travel lanes during peak rush hours. With Bay Street as a critical pedestrian link to Union Station, all efforts should be made to maximize the existing right-of-way to improve pedestrian flows on Bay Street.

We recommend this Committee undertake the following actions:

- 1. Ask legal and transportation staff to investigate options to further reduce and/or eliminate publication vending boxes from City sidewalks.**
- 2. Review options for prohibiting publication structures along Bay Street in the Financial District, as has been prohibited on Yonge Street in By-Law 1070-2005.**

Addressing sidewalk congestion is a priority for the Financial District, and the Financial District BIA appreciates the opportunity to support the City on initiatives to mitigate this concern.

Our policy and advocacy manager, Evan Weinberg, will attend the May 28 Committee meeting to speak to these recommendations. Should you have any questions, please contact Evan at eweinberg@torontofinancialdistrict.com.

Best regards,



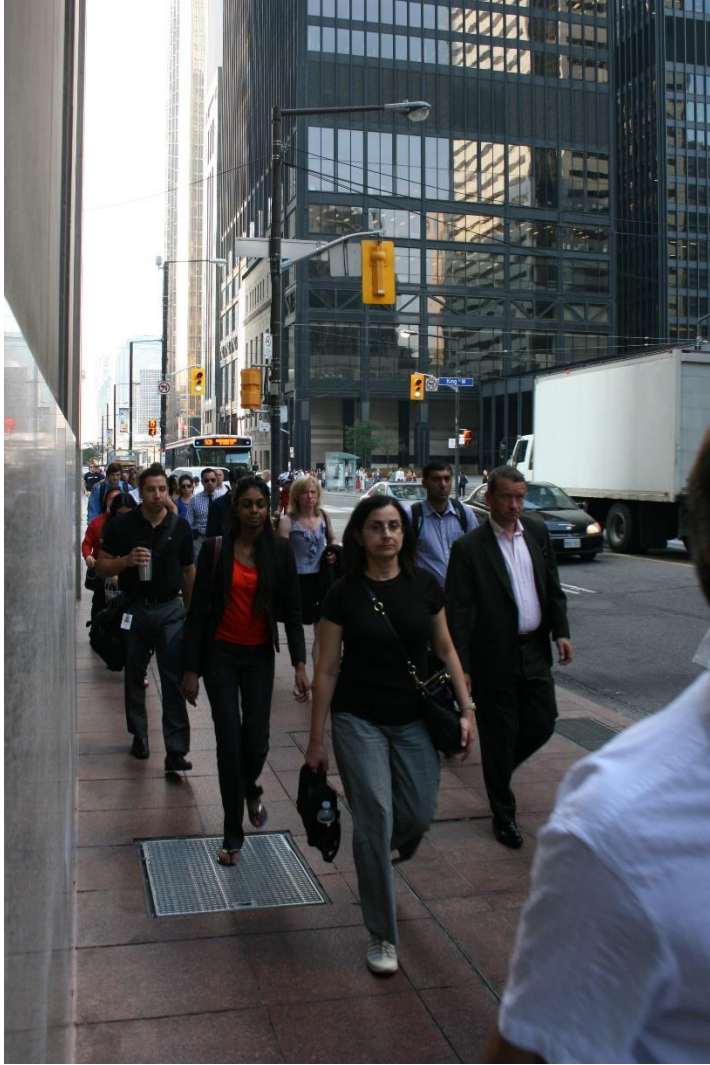
Grant Humes
Executive Director

cc: Councillor Stephen Holyday
Councillor Chin Lee
Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon
Councillor Ron Moeser
Councillor Anthony Perruzza
Councillor Pam McConnell
Councillor Wong-Tam
Stephen Buckley
Elyse Parker

Images of Bay Street Pedestrian Flows During Peak Hours



[Image 1] Northwest corner of Bay St. and Wellington St. during peak evening hour



[Image 2] Narrow sidewalks on Bay St. during peak morning hour



[Image 3] Southwest corner of Bay St. and Wellington St. during peak evening hour