

TONY ELENIS

EX 4.2.19



KING STREET TRANSIT PILOT 2019

April 9, 2019

Mayor John Tory  
Chair Executive Committee  
City of Toronto  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen St. West  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

EMAIL: [exc@toronto.ca](mailto:exc@toronto.ca)

RE: EX4.2 The Future of King Street – Results of the Transit Pilot

#### REMARKS DELIVERED

Good morning Mayor Tory and Executive Committee Members,

My name is Tony Elenis, I am CEO & President of the Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association (ORHMA). The ORHMA is Canada's largest provincial non-profit industry association that represents the interests of Ontario's hospitality sectors with a large membership based in the City of Toronto.

I'm here, realizing this pilot is in the process of becoming permanent. But there is an essential element this committee and the entire council must recognise. If its part of the plan to accept collateral damage I do not agree with it but I comprehend the reasoning,

But I do hope the decision to make this permanent in its current state is mainly due to not having the accurate spending data to support the shortfalls being experienced by King street restaurants.

If business is as good as it is stated by the city report why would operators and owners raise concerns that their sales are down? Why would many of them offer to open their books? 17 restaurants closed down since the pilot began and more are planning not to renew their leases.

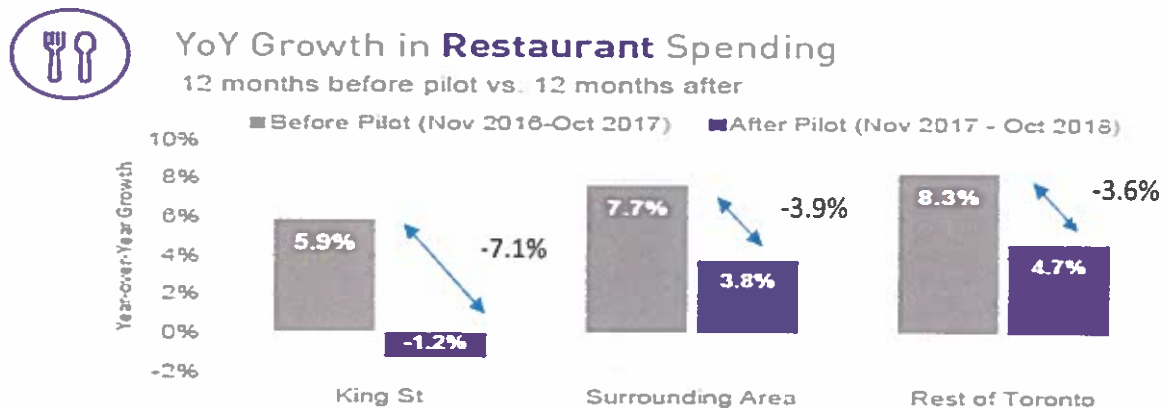
Perhaps these voices are not tangible, not measurable and can be viewed as emotional.

Thus lets look at the measurable facts .....Take a closer look at the city's own staff report.

The staff report on page 21 states....

- ***"Restaurant spending appears to have decreased on King Street by 1.2%. and this decrease appears to have started in late 2017; and***
- ***Restaurant sales also experienced lower growth in both the surrounding areas and city-wide after the pilot was installed, suggesting that the trend of lower growth cannot entirely be attributed to the pilot."***

Now the top of page 22 shows a graph with actual year on year spending changes in per-centages.



- Total City of Toronto Restaurants are down 3.6%
- Restaurants in the Surrounding Area of King street are down 3.9%
- King Street Restaurants are down 7.1% representing a **45% higher decline** in spending than experienced in the surrounding area and close to **50% higher decline** when compared to city wide restaurant spending.

Ladies and Gentlemen in a thin margin industry the King Street year on year decreases represent significant drop when comparing to the other areas ..... yet it is undermined and understated in the staff report by stating the decrease is simply only 1.2% and mentioning that its in alignment with other lower growth trends experienced elsewhere.

These are the city's own data acquired from only one credit card provider. The other providers do penetrate a good share of the restaurant spending transactions are not included in the staff report.

We understand the importance of transit and moving people throughout the city. We believe the Pilot, with modifications can be successful for all Torontonians, tourists, and businesses. We are recommending a one-year pilot with lifting restrictions from 7pm to 7am 7 days a week.

Thank you for your time.

Tony

President and CEO  
Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA)