

From: [Tyler Owens](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: Utilizing Back Alley Space for CafeTO
Date: June 22, 2020 5:07:05 PM
Attachments: [Back Alley CafeTO The Old Sod.pdf](#)

Hi City Council,

My business, The Old Sod Pub in The Kingsway neighbourhood of Etobicoke has applied for our cafeTO front of restaurant sidewalk/curb lane patio and hopefully will be approved soon. Thanks to all of you who have helped so far as we navigated through that process.

I'm touching base today to graciously request the council review in your next meeting the attached proposal of utilizing the BACK ALLEY SPACE of our restaurant in addition to our front area.

For the past four months I've witnessed the slow motion train wreck of my business and life savings deteriorate due to COVID and the government mandate to close our regular dine-in business. Despite personally working alongside my cook 12 hours a day everyday since March 25th to make what little amount of money we can from takeout business, it has not been enough and this CafeTO program is our last chance to keep the business alive. Expanding the program to be able to utilize back alley space in addition to the front space is key to us having enough seats/customers to stay alive/make up for decline in revenue we've experienced since March. I appreciate your talks Mayor Tory about how important it is to support restaurants and bars during this troublesome time with creative approaches. This proposal in front of you is a real world opportunity to implement that very support you and the city are promising, and in doing so help my business, a staple of Etobicoke & The Kingsway since 1975 stay alive. I'm certain there are many many other businesses in Toronto in this same situation as well.

In front of our property we have a small space but will maximize whatever inches we are allowed to work with. In the back however, instead of dealing with inches there is approximately 25 feet x 25 feet of SAFE patio space to work with. Utilizing this large back space would be even easier and safer to implement than the front area for many reasons as laid out in the attached proposal ex) cars drive much slower in the back area than on Bloor St, there are hundreds of parking spaces available in the back, and more.

Approval of the *attached* proposal for back alley CafeTO usage would allow for the following:

1. Allow us to utilize the space directly behind/adjacent to our property for patio use as Mayor Tory has expressed, giving us desperately needed revenue to stay alive.
2. Allow other businesses like the neighbouring flower shop (Natural Green Garden Florist at 2918 Bloor St. W) to legally and more safely sell their flowers directly adjacent to their property, instead of illegally using 23 green P parking spots (which they are currently doing) on the opposite side of alley driveway of cars (which is currently unsafe for shoppers as cars are going by).
3. Allow Scotiabank's parking lot and business to not be effected in any way (access would remain for all of their existing parking spots).
4. Would not effect my neighbour business to the West (Bealieu Eye Care)
5. Would not effect Starbucks or any other businesses whose property comes into contact with this back alley
6. The Kingsway community is eager to have patios now that summer has arrived and are looking for this opportunity to safely socialize with friends/family while also supporting their local businesses.
7. Larger space being utilized means more physical distancing, an even safer environment to properly implement this safe but fun environment.
8. Enhance our area with patio culture, community vibrancy, safely.

Please see proposal attached. (The proposal is created from the perspective of a vehicle driving through our back alley area).

Thank you very much for your consideration and time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Tyler Owens
Owner, The Old Sod

The Old Sod

A Touch of Ireland in Toronto
est. 1975



theoldsodto



The Old Sod Pub



theoldsodto

Ty Owens
Owner

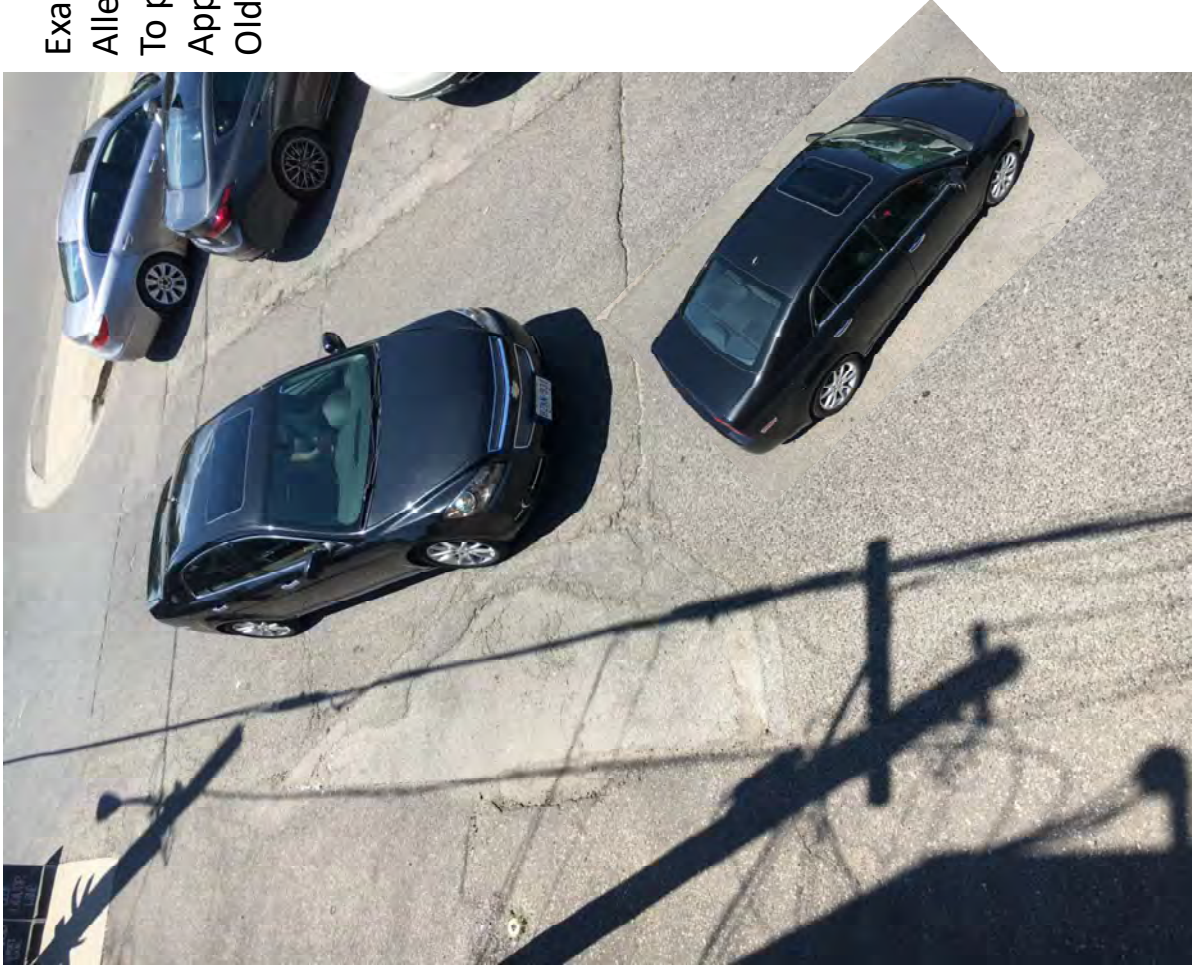
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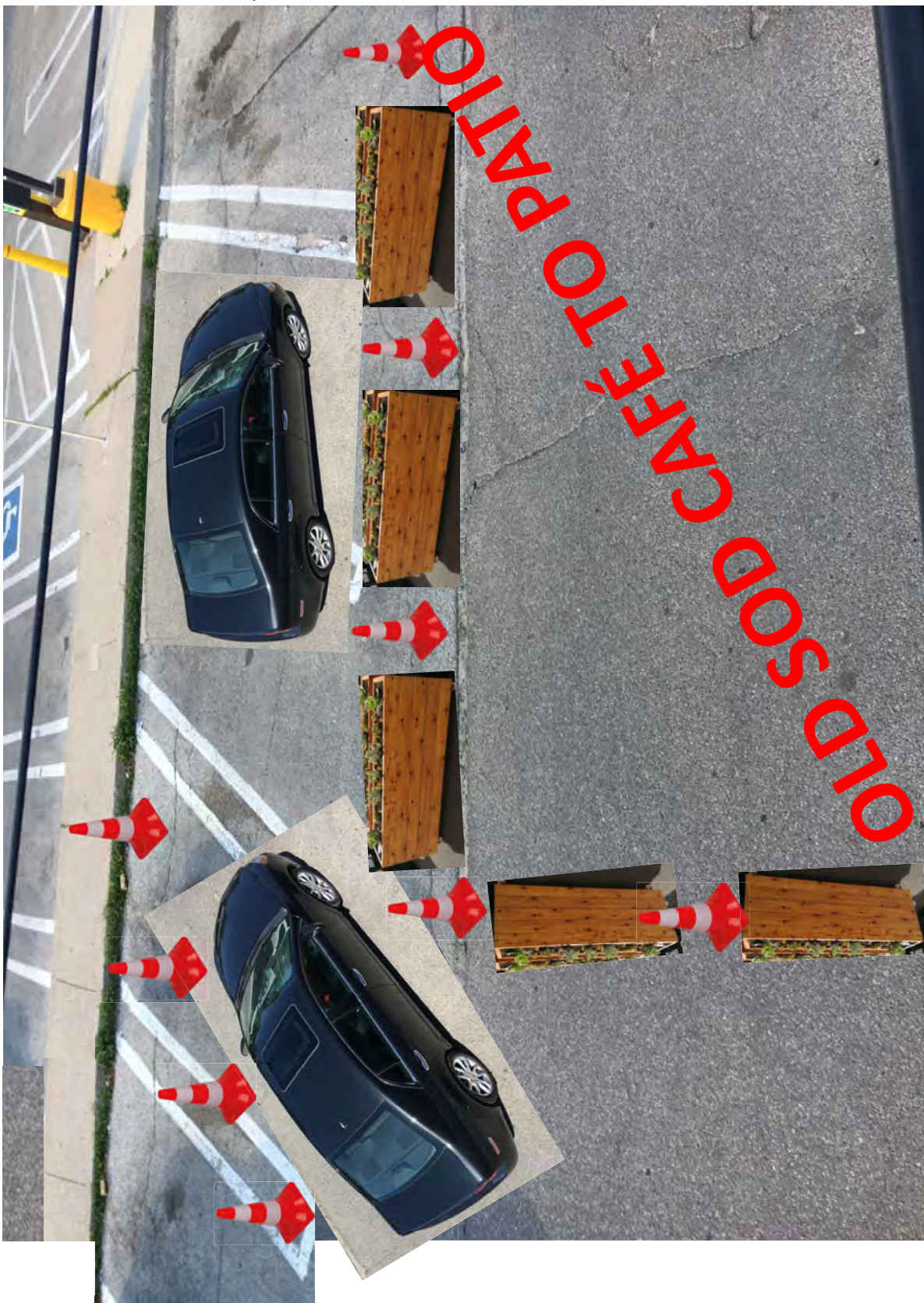
Example car heading north on
Grenview turning right into our back
Alley.





Example car continuing through the Alley. Our proposal asks for pylons to provide a slight veer left as it Approaches the proposed Old Sod Back Patio.

Car safely/
slowly/with
plenty of space
is able to
Go around/by
Back patio on
The North Side.



OLD SOD CAFE TO PATIO

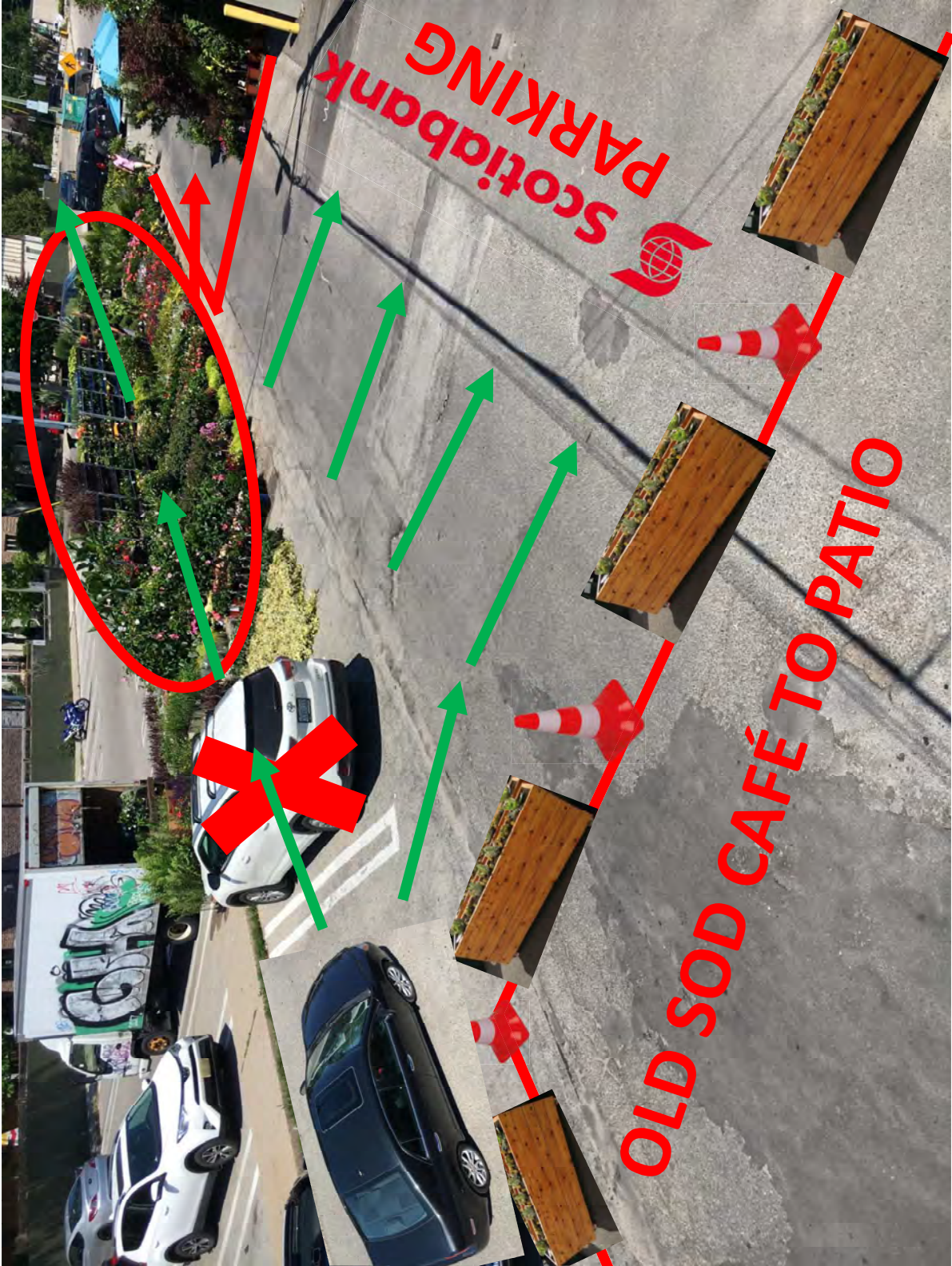
Same
continuing
by patio...



Car now approaches
The end of patio, with the
Option to go Forward or
Turn right into Scotiabank's
Parking spots.



OLD SOD CAFÉ TO PATIO



Car then proceeds through the alley or can Turn right into Scotiabank's parking spaces. At this point it doesn't matter to me which Occurs but there two options:

OPTION 1 PREFERRED for safety/ease.

Our neighbour Natural Green Garden Florist, 2918 Bloor St. W is currently using 23 Green P parking lot spaces on the North and South Side of Lot 501. I assume illegally.

This proposed solution will let them move their flower offerings up tight next to their business while still allowing for traffic to flow. This will also be safer for those customers. Even in this image you can see a woman Shopping for flowers while she's directly in the middle of the traffic lane.

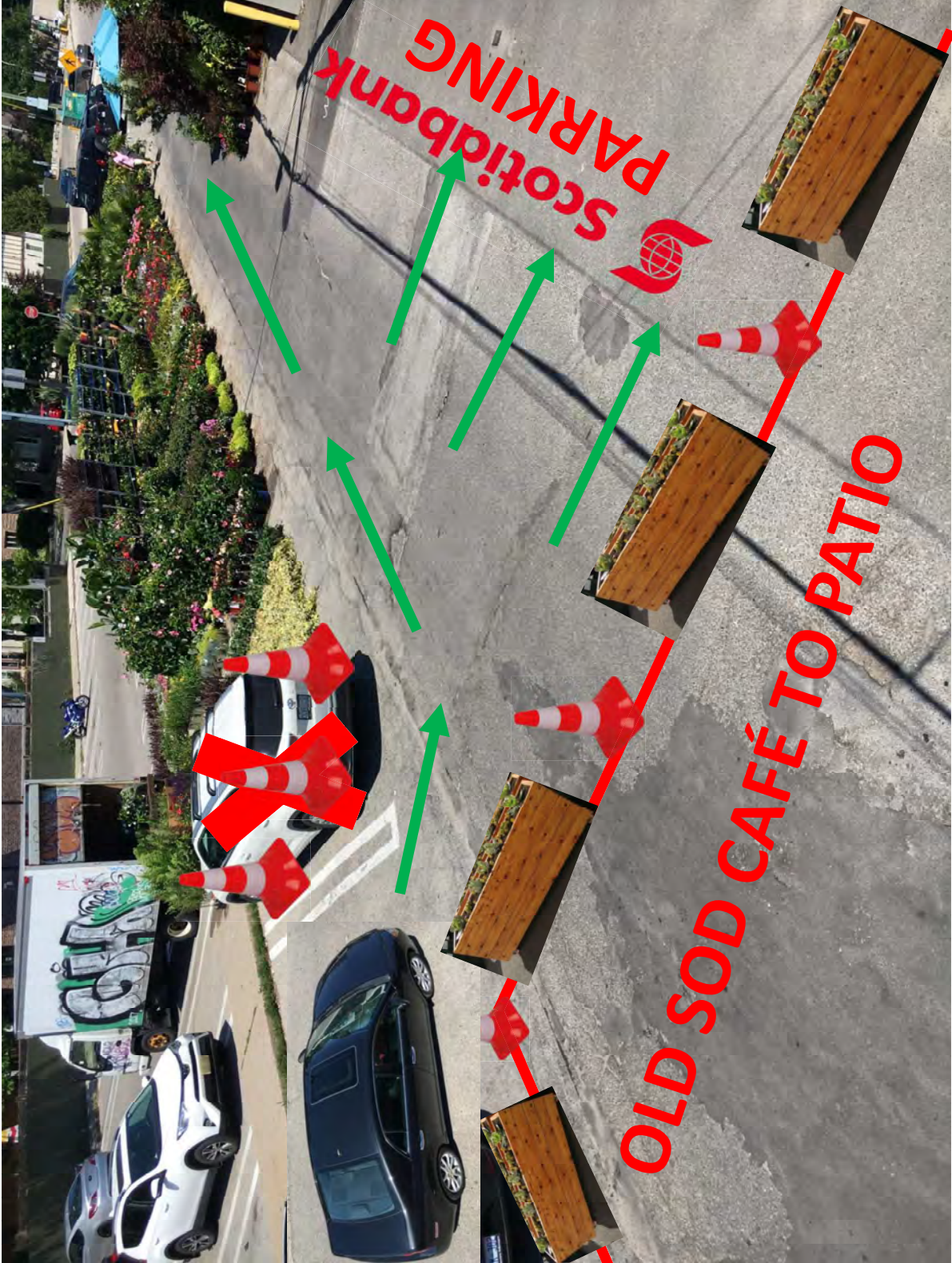
Pushing the traffic to the North curb will allow us to have our patio, the flower business to sell their flowers, both directly beside our businesses for safety, Scotiabank will not be effected in any way With all of their parking spots untouched, And very importantly the flow of traffic will not be effected through the back alley.

Option 2:

Our neighbour Natural Green Garden Florist, 2918 Bloor St. W doesn't change anything. They are currently doing & the traffic would flow around our patio and back through the current setup they have.

In this scenario as well, it would allow for us to have our patio, the flower business to sell their flowers, Scotiabank will not be effected in any way. With all of their parking spots untouched, And very importantly the flow of traffic will not be effected through the back alley.

The only difference here is we make the Driver unnecessarily weave around the Flowers instead of what would be better: keeping one straight lane and florist shifting His products up south against his business.





The only real ask here is that Green P would be giving up A few spots to allow for this traffic To flow along this newly created Lane along the north curb. The ask From us is for Green P to be giving Up 4 parking spots to go around The Old Sod Café TO Patio.

As you can see there are hundreds of available spots throughout other areas of the same lot 501 and lot 502, so I'm hoping Green P can help accommodate This to help support small/struggling Businesses.

It would be one thing if this was a Packed parking lot each day but since COVID started until now and I would Anticipate into summer, that is not The Case. This lot will be very open With Available spaces.

See variety of slides showing this...













Notably, if our neighbour flower Shop is able to take up all of These Green P spaces as shown Here & there are still many open Throughout lots 501 and 502, I would really hope and Appreciate that 4 spaces could Be used by us to help save our business.







Lot 502 at 6:00pm: 0 Cars





The City of Toronto has come up with some creative ways to keep Citizens happy/healthy, like this closure of Lakeshore for bikers. If the City and Transportation committee is willing to take on a large scale change like this, I'm hoping they in partnership with Green P can help one small business with a very small ask of veering traffic around a patio so we can stay alive, like the Mayor has promised:

"One of the keys to Toronto's economic restart and recovery will be making sure we do everything we can to help our restaurants and bars thrive. We need to protect jobs, bring vibrancy back to our streets and help create enjoyable experiences for residents and, eventually, visitors. Cities around the world have embraced similar approaches to encourage more patio space. Given the ongoing threat of virus spread and the need to keep customers and employees safe, CaféTO is part of our commitment to helping owners and operators get back in business quickly and safely so that they can stay in business." - Mayor Tory

"There's no question that Toronto's vibrant patio culture plays an important role in our economic and social vitality over the summer months. As we re-open our main streets and their restaurants and cafés following the devastating COVID-19 shutdown, we want to do everything we can to provide a boost to the thousands of restaurants and bars in our city who are struggling with severe financial pressures. By offering innovative and expanded customer service opportunities to neighbourhood culinary businesses, CaféTO is an important contributor not only to our main street food and beverage industry, but the social and cultural fabric of our neighbourhoods." - Deputy Mayor Thompson