



Nov. 30, 2020

10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
Attention: Matthew Green

**RE: IE18.1 North York Centre - REimagining Yonge (Sheppard to Finch)  
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study**

Dear Chair James Pasternak and Members, Public Works and Infrastructure  
Committee

This is to express our strong support for implementing the “**Transform Yonge**” option that was identified, and recommended in Stage 1, reaffirmed in Stage 2 and is now reaffirmed once again as the overall preferred alternative for the REimagining Yonge Project.

Yonge Street is the central corridor within North York Centre, one of four mixed-use and transit-accessible centres identified in Toronto’s Official Plan where jobs, housing, and services will be concentrated. The overarching goals of the "REimagining Yonge" project are to provide consistency and vibrancy to the public realm in keeping with the economic importance of North York Centre, to address state-of-good repair and safety issues along the corridor, and to provide cycling infrastructure connectivity, improve pedestrian amenities, and facilitate efficient traffic movement through better utilization of the surrounding road network.

The Study has taken an evidence-based approach to transforming Yonge Street in North York Centre. The REimagining Yonge Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study finds that “Transform Yonge,” rather than the alternative "Enhance Yonge and Transform Beecroft," better supports the objectives of the study based on the evaluation criteria and measures developed. And it can be implemented at a lower cost, and with less disruption to the North York Centre.

The Study finds that the “Transform Yonge” option would provide the best support for jobs, housing, and services. It would do so by introducing additional pedestrian and cyclist amenities and public realm enhancements that would make the Yonge Street corridor an attractive destination at the heart of downtown North York. Further, “Transform Yonge” would greatly improve the environment for on-street businesses.

Meanwhile, any loss of parking space on Yonge could be made good by existing capacity, either underground or on nearby streets.

The project would help to implement former Mayor Mel Lastman's vision of a North York with its own vibrant, safe and active downtown. It would also seize a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make Yonge Street North York a destination, a "mini-downtown". It would also provide needed core connectivity for a Yonge corridor cycling route that would mesh with York Region plans. In addition, the reimagined street would be much safer (over 159 pedestrians and cyclists were struck along this stretch of Yonge in the past decade), support the 1,800 local businesses, barely impact drivers' travel time, and allow over 100,000 nearby residents to walk safely along Yonge, the heart of their community.

Finally, this project represents a perfect opportunity to begin applying one of the key lessons for city-building from COVID-19 – the need for increased public realm. We very much hope that this long awaited project will move forward.

Yours truly,

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Cc: Mayor John Tory  
Councillor John Filion, Ward 18  
Gregg Lintern, Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division  
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services  
Resident Associations

**The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA)** is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.