

City of Toronto  
Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
c/o Matthew Green  
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

November 30, 2020

Dear Chair and Councillors,

Established under the *Architects Act*, the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) regulates the architecture profession to serve and protect the public interest. We enjoy a longstanding, collaborative relationship with all levels of government and look forward to continuing our work with you on important issues that affect the City of Toronto.

During committee and City Council deliberations on REimagining Yonge in 2018, the OAA and Toronto Society of Architects (TSA) recommended City Council adopt Option 1: *Transform Yonge*. At that time, we noted the importance of the built environment in creating the kind of city we wish to have now and in the future.

Transform Yonge was viewed as a cost-effective option that “focuses on narrowing the divide between the east and west sides of Yonge Street in favour of wider sidewalks that enhance pedestrian use and enjoyment of the public space.” The OAA also supported the integration of active transportation options directly onto Yonge Street.

With regard to Option 2 and 3, the OAA cautioned that “Yonge Street cannot reach its full potential to support and enhance the community life depending on it until it has been REimagined as a street that is lived in and on, rather than as a highway whose primary purpose is increasing traffic flow.”

The OAA is heartened to see that the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study also concludes that Transform Yonge is the preferred option, in line with our own recommendation and the recommendation from city staff.

We again encourage this committee, and subsequently City Council, to adopt the *Transform Yonge* option as we move this important roadway into a more complete street, fostering a healthier, more engaged community.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Kurtin, OAA, FRAIC  
President