

## **yongeTOMorrow Environmental Assessment: Supplementary Report on Next Steps**

**Date:** January 27, 2021

**To:** City Council

**From:** General Manager, Transportation Services

**Wards:** Ward 10 - Spadina Fort York, Ward 11 - University Rosedale, Ward 13 - Toronto Centre

### **SUMMARY**

---

yongeTOMorrow is a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) focused on the development and evaluation of design alternatives for Yonge Street from Queen Street to College / Carlton Street. A number of opportunities have been considered to increase pedestrian space and improve the way people move through and experience downtown Yonge Street.

On January 11, 2021, Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC) endorsed IE 19.11 - yongeTOMorrow Recommended Design Concept (Attachment 8 - Recommended Physical Design) which would increase sidewalk widths by reducing the existing four driving lane cross section to two lanes.

The IE 19.11 report also described a flexible operations approach which is not being proposed for consideration by Council at this time. Operations will continue to be consulted upon during the next stage of design and brought forward to IEC and Council for consideration at a future date prior to construction.

As requested by IEC, this report summarizes the timelines, requirements and recommendations of the yongeTOMorrow Environmental Assessment; as well as next steps for detailed design, operations planning, and construction including consultation with main street businesses and other stakeholders.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

There are no current or known future year financial impacts associated with this report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section.

## DECISION HISTORY

---

On January 11, 2021, Infrastructure and Environment Committee endorsed IE 19.11 yongeTOMorrow Recommended Design Concept outlined in Attachment 8 to the report, and subject to Council authorized the General Manager, Transportation Services to publish a Notice of Completion and file the Environmental Study Report, and requested a supplementary report clarifying EA timelines, requirements and recommendations and next steps for remaining design and consultation.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.IE19.11>

## COMMENTS

---

Physical changes to a roadway that permanently impact the future use or traffic capacity of the street trigger a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment. These are physical changes that require major construction to implement such as relocation of curbs, light standards, and drainage.

A decision from City Council on reducing the number of lanes on Yonge Street will allow completion of the EA and work to begin on detailed design of a future capital project. A project of this magnitude requires multiple years of design and planning prior to construction. Starting the detailed design process will ensure that reconstruction of Yonge Street, which includes the renewal of one of Toronto's oldest watermains, can happen as soon as possible.

Early in the yongeTOMorrow EA, flexibility was identified as a key priority for the future design of downtown Yonge Street. In order to arrive at a physical design that could support a variety of short and long term stakeholder needs, various operational strategies were evaluated throughout the process to inform the proposed physical design.

Operational elements like timed closures, signage, pavement markings, turn restrictions, signal timings, loading areas, and time-based pedestrian priority zones are not subject to the EA approval process. These are changes that do not require significant construction and are routinely amended by Committees and Council to improve local needs and operations.

In the feedback we heard from stakeholders during round three of the public consultation process, it became clear that taking an operational plan forward for Council approval at this time would be premature for the following reasons:

- An operational plan is not subject to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process;
- Insufficient level of consensus among stakeholders on the recommended concept for the operational plan; and
- An acknowledgement that local needs related to COVID-19 recovery may change the recommended concept for the operational plan.

An operational recommendation would be subject to further consultation and refinement throughout the detailed design process. Prior to the completion of construction, a report would be brought forward to IEC recommending an operational approach and the associated by-law amendments necessary to implement. As with all operational initiatives, the street would continue to be monitored and further adjustments could continue to be made as needed to maintain effective street operations.

Below is a summary of next steps for the yongeTOMorrow project. All dates are targets and subject to necessary stage gate approvals and funding (Figure 1).

### **Completion of EA - 2021 (Subject to Council Approval)**

- Environmental Study Report (ESR) will be finalized and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MOECP) and will be subject to a 30 day public review period (2021).

### **Detailed Design & Operational Planning - 2021-2023 (Subject to Approval of EA)**

In collaboration with Engineering & Construction Services, Toronto Water, and the Public Consultation Unit:

- Issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for consulting services to undertake detailed design, operational planning, and associated consultation in coordination with the city staff team;
- Hire design team and initiate detailed design process;
- Develop consultation plan in coordination with the Public Consultation Unit;
- Initiate Technical Advisory Committee and Stakeholder Advisory Group (members from the existing groups will be invited to continue participation in addition to a call for new participants); and
- Continue with individual property owner/operator interviews regarding site specific design issues.

During the detailed design phase, the following physical design elements will be refined into tender-ready construction drawings:

- Types of materials, finishes, furnishings, gates or retractable bollards, and plantings;
- Placement of trees, plantings, furnishings, gates or retractable bollards, and lights;
- Curb and paving details (curb radii, tactile warnings, transit platforms);
- Exact dimensions and spacing of elements above and below ground; and
- Construction schedule, staging, phasing, and construction traffic management plans.

During the detailed design phase, the following operational elements will continue to be considered and refined:

- Location and timing of pedestrian priority areas, if any;
- Turn movements/restrictions, one-way / two-way driving access, and signal timings;
- Locations of accessible pick-up/drop off, loading, and stopping/standing areas;
- Cafes, vending, street events and public realm activations;
- TTC Bus Operations (Night bus and Subway shuttles);
- Maintenance and winter operations; and
- Approaches to post-implementation monitoring, education and enforcement.

## Tendering & Construction - 2023-2025+

- Advanced early works by utilities and telecoms providers;
- Report to IEC and Council on operations plan;
- Tender and award of construction contract;
- Undertake construction liaison with stakeholder groups;
- Finalise construction phasing and impacts in collaboration with contractor; and
- Continue with individual property owner/operator meetings regarding site specific construction impacts and coordination.

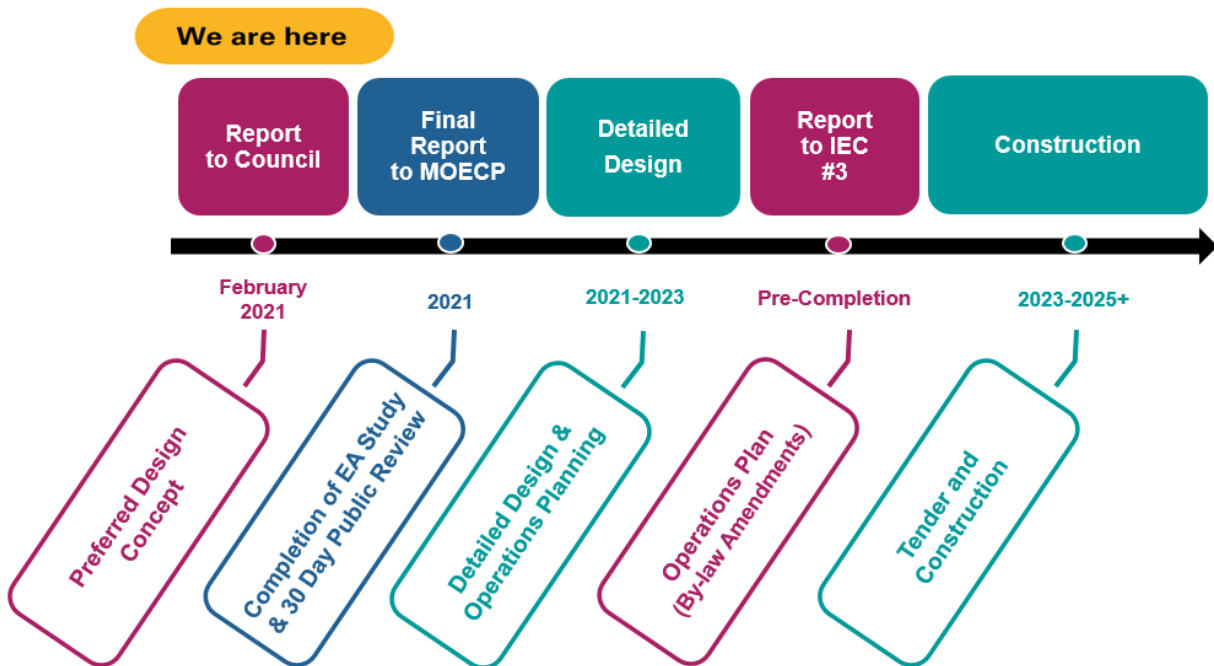


Figure 1. yongeTOMorrow Timeline

There has been extensive community interest in this project including online discourse about the project from other sources. To stay informed about the project, please visit the official City of Toronto project webpage [toronto.ca/yongeTOMorrow](https://toronto.ca/yongeTOMorrow) and join the project email list by contacting [yongeTOMorrow@toronto.ca](mailto:yongeTOMorrow@toronto.ca)

## CONTACT

---

Jacquelyn Hayward  
Director, Project Design & Management  
Transportation Services  
Tel: (416) 392-5348  
Email: [jacquelyn.hayward@toronto.ca](mailto:jacquelyn.hayward@toronto.ca)

## SIGNATURE

---

Barbara Gray  
General Manager, Transportation Services