

March 22, 2021

Jennifer McKelvie, Chair
Infrastructure and Environment Committee
City of Toronto
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor McKelvie and members of the Committee:

RE: IE20.12 - PROPOSED COMPLETE STREET DESIGN PILOT FOR YONGE STREET

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our feedback in response to the ActiveTO report before you and the consideration of a complete street pilot project on Yonge Street, which will run through our BIAs. We are pleased to be working with City Staff, our local Councillors, and our community at large on this important project as we envision a safe and thriving Yonge Street for the future.

Collectively, our BIAs have been working with our over 1,000 businesses and commercial property owners as they navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as supporting the ongoing economic health and vibrancy of our local commercial shopping areas. Through this complete street pilot project, we respectfully request your Committee and City Staff to address the unique challenges that this project presents to our Yonge Street businesses. This includes a narrow on-street right-of-way, significant on-street loading needs, and the needs of our restaurants and bars to utilize the successful CafeTO program to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 lockdowns.

To this end, **we respectfully request the Committee to move a motion that addresses the following:**

1. **Request the City's project team to conduct block-by-block on-site walkthroughs with BIA staff** in order to assess and take into consideration granular site conditions and needs including on-street parking, servicing and loading, pick up and drop off areas, drive aisles and entryways, and TTC surface transit loading areas including consideration of planned subway closures and associated temporary shuttle buses.

2. **Request the City's project team propose a complete street design that ensures no restaurant or bar with frontage on Yonge Street will be denied use of the curb lane for a CafeTO curb lane cafe as a result of bike lanes and/or the associated complete street infrastructure**, and ensure that the approval and installation of any CafeTO patios is not delayed as a result of this project.

3. **Request the City's project team to present a fulsome picture of all ongoing, upcoming, or proposed construction and development projects** for the purposes of: confirming the traffic management plans for how cyclists and other road users can safely navigate through these areas now and in the future, and consider the future streetscape conditions of Yonge Street and how ground-floor retail and other local businesses will fit in with the proposed complete street designs.

Thank you again to the hard work and dedication of City Staff on this important project, to our local Councillors, and to all members of the Committee. We appreciate your consideration of our comments and of this requested motion, and are confident that by working together we can develop a localized solution that addresses the needs of everyone. We look forward to continuing to work with City Staff, our local councillors, our local communities, and all stakeholders to support a safe, vibrant, and thriving Yonge Street for all.

Sincerely,



Henry Byres
Coordinator
Midtown Yonge BIA



Clorraine Dennie
Executive Director
Rosedale Main Street BIA



Mackenzie Keast
Executive Director
Yonge + St. Clair BIA

cc. *Josh Matlow, Toronto City Councillor, Ward 12 - Toronto-St. Paul's*
Mike Layton, Toronto City Councillor, Ward 11 - University-Rosedale
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services
Cheryl Blackman, General Manager (Acting), Economic Development and Culture