



Yonge4All is a diverse group of residents who live, work and shop in midtown Toronto. We believe that Yonge Street should be welcoming, safe and accessible for people of all ages and abilities, whether they walk, take transit, drive a car, ride a bike or use another mobility device.

December 12, 2023

RE: TE9.45 - 1404-1428 Yonge Street - Construction Staging Area

To: Mayor Chow and members of City Council,

Yonge4All strongly objects to the closure of a portion of Yonge Street for a period of 35 months to provide space for construction staging for the development at 1404 - 1428 Yonge Street. While we recognize the pressing need for more housing in our city, we also know that people need to be able to get around safely and efficiently and Yonge Street is a vital corridor for so many.

The implementation of a complete street design, with safe and welcoming space for all road users - pedestrians, transit users, cyclists, and drivers - has brought new vitality to Midtown. Hundreds of cyclists, pedestrians, and TTC riders travel through this stretch of Yonge each day; not only will this project inconvenience drivers and slow TTC vehicles, this disruption will endanger our most vulnerable road users: those who travel on foot, by wheelchair, or by bike. It is critical to maintain safe passage for the commuters, delivery riders, schoolchildren, and shoppers who rely on the sidewalks and bike lanes to safely move through the neighbourhood.

The occupancy of the public right of way, compromising the safety of vulnerable road users and disrupting the travel of thousands of people daily for a period of nearly three years is unacceptable. A better solution must be found. We urge the city to work with the developer to find other means to accommodate staging that requires less encroachment of the roadway space, preserves the safe mobility of all road users and reduces the duration of any occupancy.

Up and down Yonge Street, as well as along other transit-oriented corridors throughout the city, more developments are planned and will create the same problems in the public right of way unless a more innovative and flexible approach to construction staging is found. Exploring new approaches to construction staging is a crucial investment if we are to grow our city and keep people moving safely.

Thank you for your consideration.

Holly Reid,

Robin Richardson

On behalf of Yonge4All

www.yonge4all.ca

CC. Councillor Josh Matlow, Toronto St. Paul's

Councillor Dianne Saxe, University Rosedale

Roger Browne, Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services