

June 22nd, 2026

To Mayor Chow and City Councillors  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: MM42.36 - Public Realm Planters on Yonge Street: Interim Management and Long-Term Governance**

Dear Honourable Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of City Council,

The Yonge North York BIA supports Councillor Lily Cheng's motion, MM42.36. The lack of clarity around interim landscaping and tree maintenance prior to Transform Yonge, as well as unclear responsibility and mechanisms for enforcement of standards, has resulted in significant issues with landscaping, and deterioration of the current conditions along the Yonge Street corridor.

We request that the City of Toronto address these challenges in the public right of way along main streets, enhance communication with local stakeholders, and consider:

- Accounting for unpredictable timelines for large-scale construction projects, including re-evaluating and consulting regarding maintenance cessation timelines prior to construction.
- Possible removal or remediation of existing landscaping assets to meet a minimum standard of condition, and evaluation of interim planting options prior to Transform Yonge.
- Coordinating with other City initiatives to improve the overall appearance of the corridor.
- Ensuring that when a development property is taken over by a condominium board, there is clear communication of responsibility, enforcement, and adequate property standards.
- Interdepartmental and stakeholder collaboration to ensure that future planter beds implemented in Transform Yonge and future developments would be feasible to maintain.

The Yonge North York Business Improvement Area (BIA) strives to enhance the business community and is one of the largest BIAs in Toronto with over 1,600 members, 35,000 workers and over 60,000 residents within our district, and growing. The Yonge corridor is a main arterial and is identified as a Centre in Toronto. Our vision is to be the preferred destination in North Toronto for businesses, residents, visitors, and workers to live, work and play.

If you have any questions or want to discuss further, feel free to contact our Executive Director, Laura Burnham at [l.burnham@yongenorthyork.com](mailto:l.burnham@yongenorthyork.com).

Best regards,

Yonge North York BIA Board of Directors and Public Realm Committee

