



ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Feedback & Advice on the T0core Proposals Report



Photo: iStock / OceanFishing



A Downtown like no other: the liveable, connected and resilient heart of a successful and prosperous city and region.

CONTENTS

4	About TOcore
5	Downtown's Growth at a Glance
6	About this Report
7	How We Engaged
8	By the Numbers: Outreach & Engagement
11	Survey at a Glance
12	Have You Met Our Avatars?
15	Feedback & Advice
16	Shaping Land Use, Scale & Economy
20	Downtown Parks & Public Realm
24	Building for Liveability
28	Downtown Mobility
32	Community Facilities & A Diversity of Housing
36	Celebrating Culture
38	Towards a Resilient Downtown
40	Supplying Water

The City of Toronto gratefully acknowledges that the area covered by this Downtown Plan is the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation, the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat and home to many diverse Indigenous peoples.

ABOUT TOcore

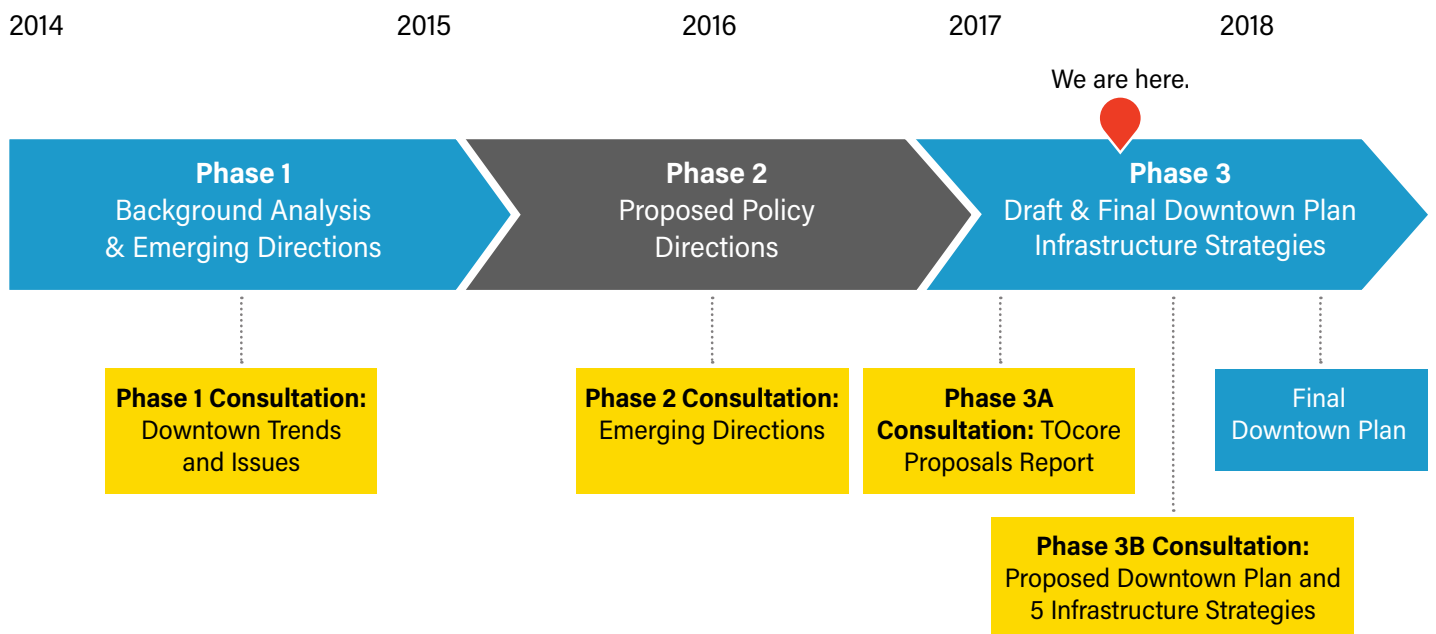
Downtown is growing. Toronto's high quality of life and economic opportunities have made it one of the fastest growing cities in North America, and nowhere is this more evident than in our rising skyline and busy Downtown sidewalks.

Much of the recent growth has taken advantage of the infrastructure investments made by previous generations of Torontonians. As the excess capacity of existing infrastructure diminishes, we face a tipping point where further growth threatens to undermine the liveability that has long underpinned Downtown's success. This intensity of development will need to be balanced with an equivalent investment in the physical and social infrastructure required to keep the heart of our city strong and liveable. Shaping that balance between development and infrastructure is what TOcore is all about.

TOcore is an initiative to prepare a **25-year plan** for Toronto's Downtown, along with a series of physical and social infrastructure strategies. Building on the existing planning framework, TOcore's purpose is to ensure growth positively contributes to Downtown as a great place to live, work, learn, play, and invest.

In December 2016, City Council approved the TOcore **Proposals Report**, which identifies policy directions for a new Downtown Plan that strives to address both today's issues and tomorrow's challenges. The Proposals Report, which can be viewed at www.toronto.ca/tocore, includes a renewed **vision for Downtown, 5 guiding principles**, and a suite of **proposed policy directions** to shape the heart of our city. In late 2017, City Council will consider a Proposed Downtown Plan and five infrastructure strategies to implement TOcore.

TOcore Engagement Timeline



DOWNTOWN'S GROWTH AT A GLANCE

7,500+

new residents moving
Downtown per year
(2011-2016)



2011
census population
199,000



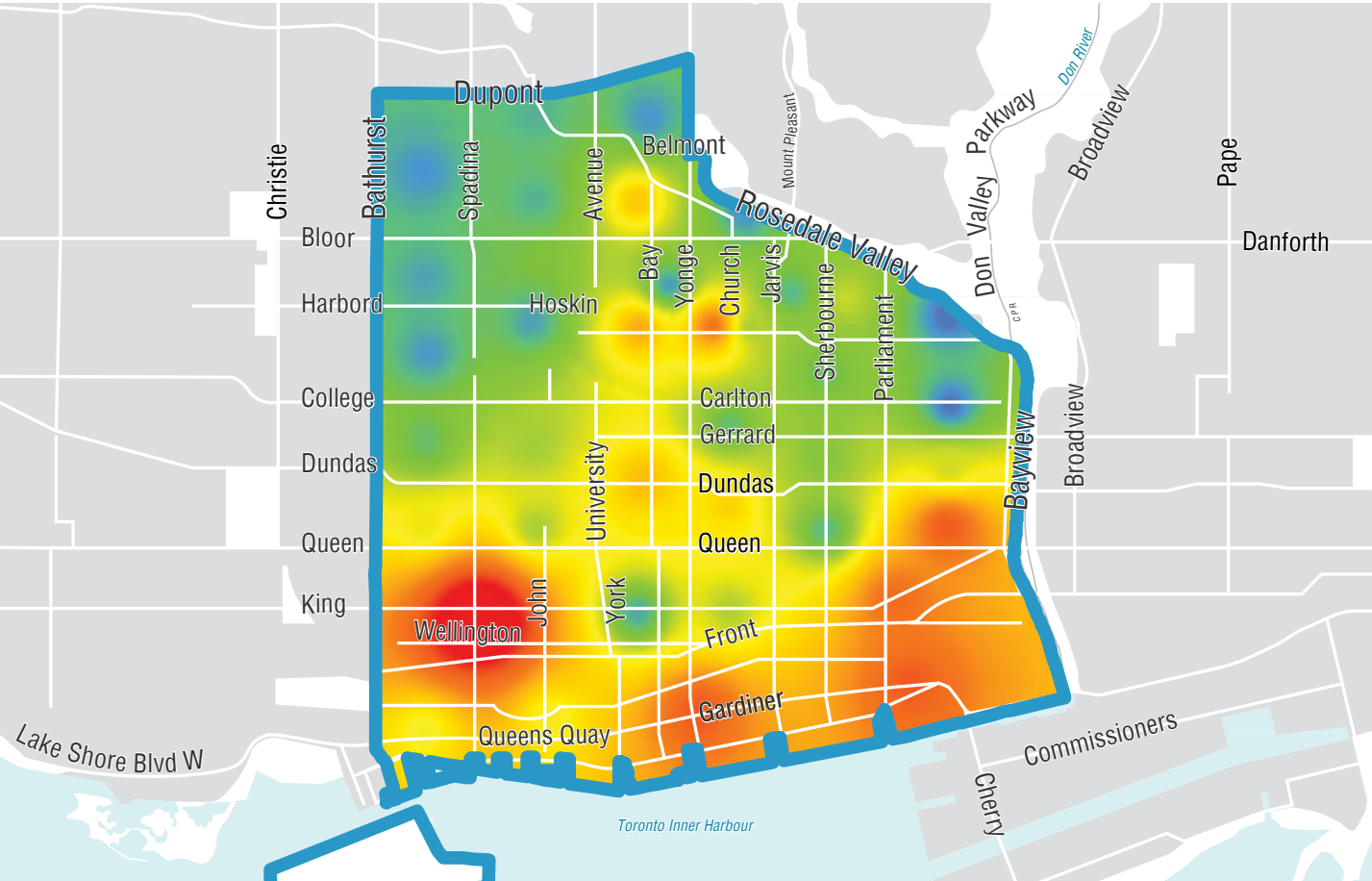
2016
census population
238,000



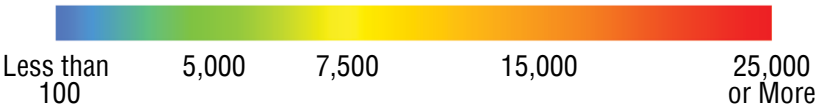
2041
projected population
475,000

Projected population change, 2011-2041

Source: Toronto City Planning Division, Research and Information, October 2016



TOcore Study Area



ABOUT THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide readers with a big picture overview of public and stakeholder feedback and advice on the [proposed policy directions](#) for Downtown outlined in the TOcore Proposals Report, received from November 2016 to April 2017. Feedback was collected through a public open house, in-person stakeholder meetings, an online survey, community engagement brochures, text messages, Twitter, and email submissions.

In the *Feedback & Advice* section of this report, we have summarized the input received into 8 themes. A detailed record of feedback can be found in the Appendices.



Shaping Land Use, Scale & Economy

How should we balance residential and non-residential growth and sustain Downtown's economic role?



Downtown Parks & Public Realm

How should we expand, improve and connect parks and public spaces as Downtown grows?



Building for Liveability

How will we make sure that buildings improve liveability for residents, workers, and visitors in the Downtown?



Downtown Mobility

How can we encourage more people to walk, cycle, and take transit to travel to and around Downtown?



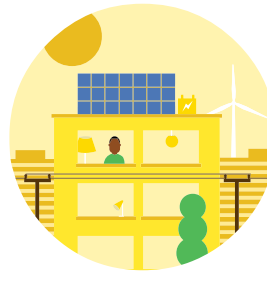
Community Facilities & A Diversity of Housing

How will we make sure that people Downtown have access to the community services they need and a full range of housing options?



Celebrating Culture

How will we promote and enhance creativity and culture in the Downtown to help position Toronto as a leading "creative capital"?



Towards a Resilient Downtown

How can we plan for a more sustainable, resilient, and energy-efficient future?



Supplying Water

How will our watermain, sewers, and stormwater management system keep pace with all the new growth?

HOW WE ENGAGED

This report is the result of a broad six-month consultation process that engaged thousands of people who live, work, shop, play, study, invest, and think about Downtown in many different ways.

To encourage city-wide participation from many different people, we collected feedback and advice using a variety of engagement and outreach channels:

[@QallamContent](#)  Been reading the full plan for growth for Downtown Toronto. A very thorough plan! [#TOcore](#)

[@torontodan](#)  Building in the city comes with civic obligations to liveability, including improved public spaces around buildings. –[@jen_keesmaat](#) [#TOcore](#)

[@larrykleung](#)  Transit is foundation to city's success along with affordable housing and financial responsibilities. [#TOcore](#) [@CityPlanTO](#)

[@Verticalfams](#)  "Building for liveability". Need infrastructure that complements buildings: green space, wider sidewalks, access to retail. [#TOcore](#)

[@caseytweeted](#)  Looking forward to an improved pedestrian experience on Yonge Street [#DTadvice](#) [#TOcore](#)

[@GerryBrown20](#)  What do our parks have to be? Interconnected flexible community-led & inclusive + accessible per [@Park_People](#) [#TOcore](#)

[@Plan_SZ](#)  It's amazing to see so many people engaged with [#TOcore](#) [#plannerspointing](#) [#TOpoli](#)

Online



Online Survey



Text Messaging



Twitter



Email

In-Person



Worksheet & Engagement Booklets



Public Open House



Making Cities for People Lecture



Stakeholder Meetings



Toronto Planning Review Panel



Design Review Panel



Leaders Roundtable



Indigenous Outreach

BY THE NUMBERS: OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT FOR PHASE 3

In-Person Outreach & Engagement



1

public open house
on March 4th with

300+

participants

March 4th, 2017

Photo: City of Toronto

20+

meetings with
stakeholder groups

5

First Nations &

16

Indigenous commu-
nity service providers,
businesses, and
individuals contacted

1

Making Cities for
People lecture with

220+

registrants

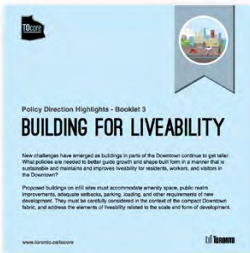
160

bus shelter ads
displayed for
4 weeks



500

sets of engagement
booklets distributed



2

Planners in Public
Spaces events

2

roundtable meetings
with community
leaders

2

consultations
with Design
Review Panels

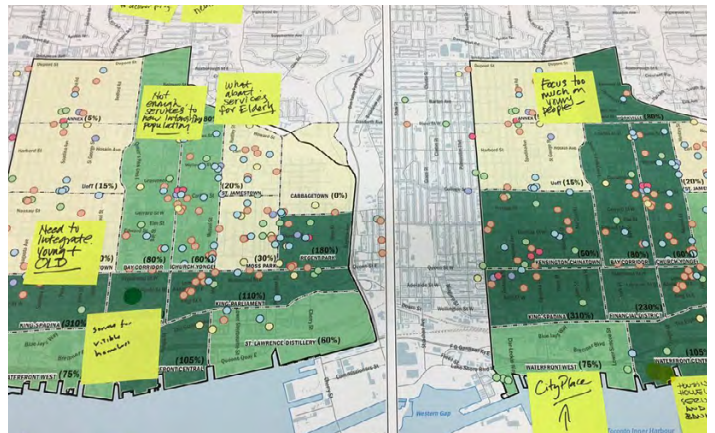
1

consultation with
the Toronto Planning
Review Panel



March 4th open house

Photo: City of Toronto



Public feedback at open house

Photo: City of Toronto

Online Outreach & Engagement



15,327

website visits from

10,813

visitors (November 2016–April 2017)

www.toronto.ca/tocore

2,086

total survey responses

1 hr 54 min

average time spent responding to the survey

42%

survey completion rate

24

email submissions

314

text messages



2,419

#TOcore tweets posted
(November 2016–April 2017)

9.3 million

impressions (number of times these tweets were seen)

1,175

tweets on the busiest day
(March 4, 2017)

**Gender identity
of people who
tweeted**



63% Male

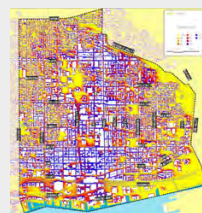
37% Female

Most popular tweet from a TOcore participant
(determined by number of retweets and likes)



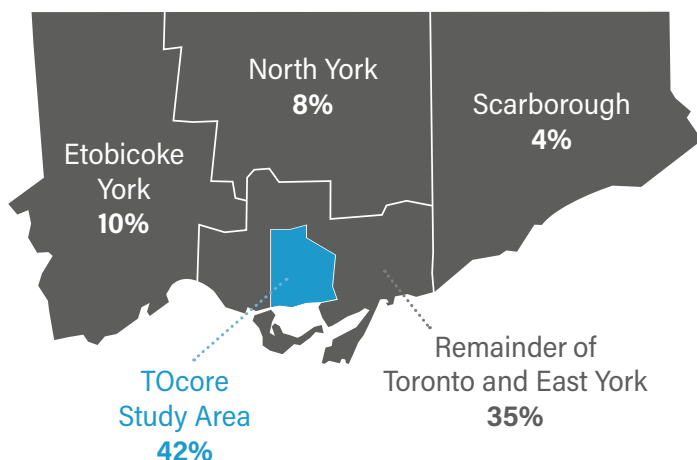
@PaulKulig_TO • 4 March 2017

Today's #TOcore workshop will consider sunlight and how it shapes quality of life on Downtown parks and streets.

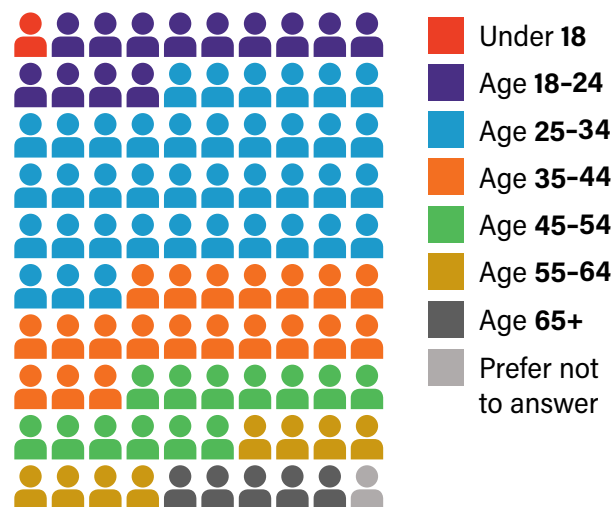


SURVEY AT A GLANCE

Geographic representation of survey respondents

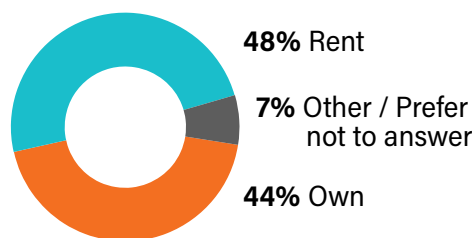


Age of survey respondents (%)

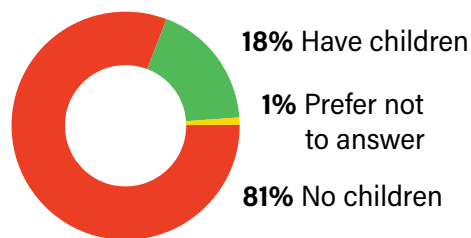


39% of respondents are between 25-34 years old

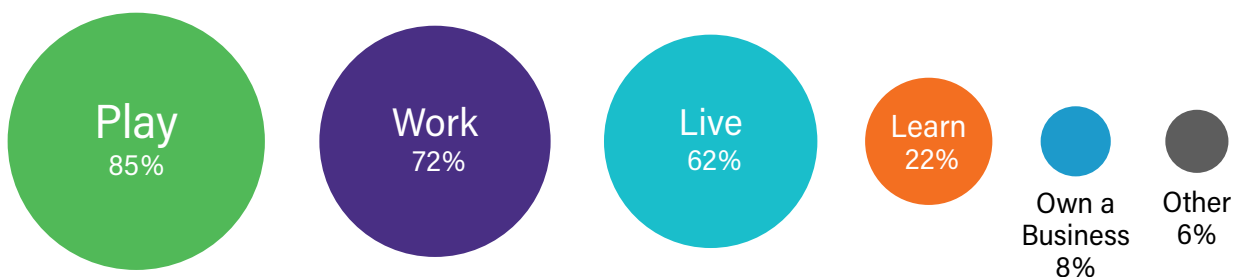
Housing tenure of survey respondents



Survey respondents with children in household



How survey respondents said they use Downtown



HAVE YOU MET OUR AVATARS?

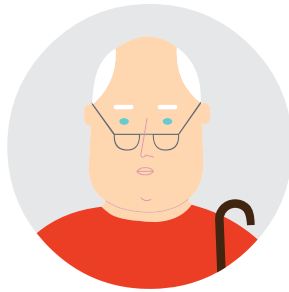
When we think about how to best guide the future of Downtown, it's important to consider the many different people that live, work, learn, play and invest in the core.

To help us better understand the great diversity that exists in Toronto and to help Torontonians reflect on their own experience of Downtown and share it with us, we created 16 avatars or virtual Torontonians. Based on an analysis of demographic data, with stories to make them relatable, our avatars reflect a mix of people that live in Toronto. Some live Downtown, others work in the core, many visit it for culture, entertainment, shopping or school, and some avoid it. Let us introduce you to a few of the TOcore Avatars:



John

- 30 years old
- precariously housed
- unemployed
- lives with chronic illness
- worried about gentrification



Fred

- 75 years old
- retired
- aging at home
- lives in a co-op



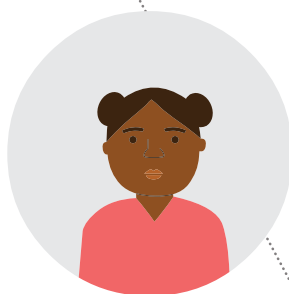
Fernanda

- 22 years old
- college student
- newcomer
- rides transit
- arts & culture lover



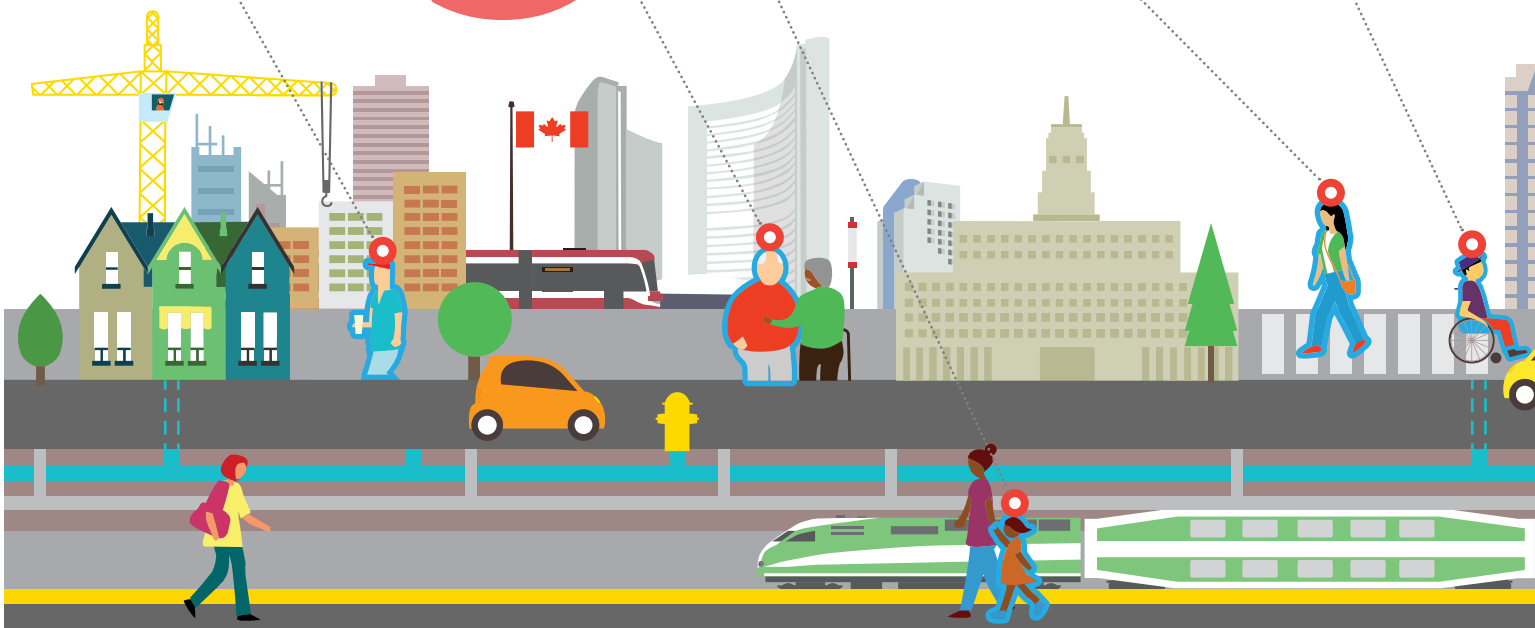
Marilyn

- 44 years old
- lives with a disability
- owns a house Downtown
- drives to work



Amena

- 12 years old
- refugee
- mother is underemployed



In the [previous rounds of consultations](#), we asked Torontonians to share their lived experience in Downtown after reading the stories of the TOcore Avatars. Hundreds of submissions were received that shaped [the vision and five guiding principles](#) for our Downtown. In this round of consultations, avatar testimonials in the engagement booklets showed how the proposed policy directions could improve our everyday lives.



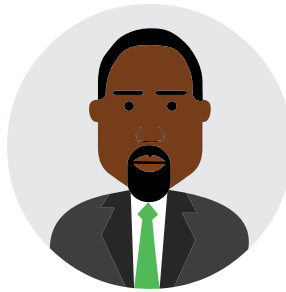
Ann

- 30 years old
- Métis
- lives & works Downtown
- rents
- walks everywhere



Jerome

- 33 years old
- young professional
- rents with a roommate
- walks to work



Charles

- 43 years old
- first generation family
- owns a Midtown condo
- enjoys museums and libraries



Peter

- 58 years old
- owns a house
- takes transit to work Downtown
- enjoys the arts scene





Photo: Jimmy Wu

FEEDBACK & ADVICE

During the Phase 3 consultation process (November 2016 through April 2017), the public and stakeholders shared feedback on the **policy directions** outlined in the TOcore Proposals Report, developed by City staff.

To prepare this report, we integrated and analyzed all feedback received, looking for common, consistent themes, areas of general agreement, and areas where participants had differing opinions. This high-level summary synthesizes feedback from six consultation channels:

1. the TOcore survey
2. the March 4th public consultation event
3. over 20 stakeholder meetings
4. emails and text messages sent to City Planning
5. completed worksheets and engagement booklets
6. Twitter

The summary of feedback is organized into eight thematic sections, as shown on page 6. Each section includes:

- » an overview and link to the relevant section of the TOcore Proposals Report
- » highlights of the survey results
- » samples of feedback drawn from all the channels listed above (in speech bubbles)
- » summaries of “what we heard” based on groupings of similar feedback

Some sections include content (like maps) from the Proposals Report to help readers more easily connect the feedback to the policy directions. Where we have included this content, we have identified it as “what the City shared.”

It is important to note that the aggregate synthesized feedback is *not* statistically representative. The weight of the captured feedback was estimated based on the following guidelines:

- » “Many” indicates the largest number of repeating ideas;
- » “Several” indicates a substantial number of repeating ideas;
- » “Some” indicates more than three and less than several repeating ideas; and
- » “A few” indicates up to three repeating ideas captured as part of the TOcore Phase 3 Consultation process.

To review all the content in the TOcore Proposals Report in concert with this feedback summary, please download the Proposals Report at:

www.toronto.ca/tocore

SHAPING LAND USE, SCALE & ECONOMY



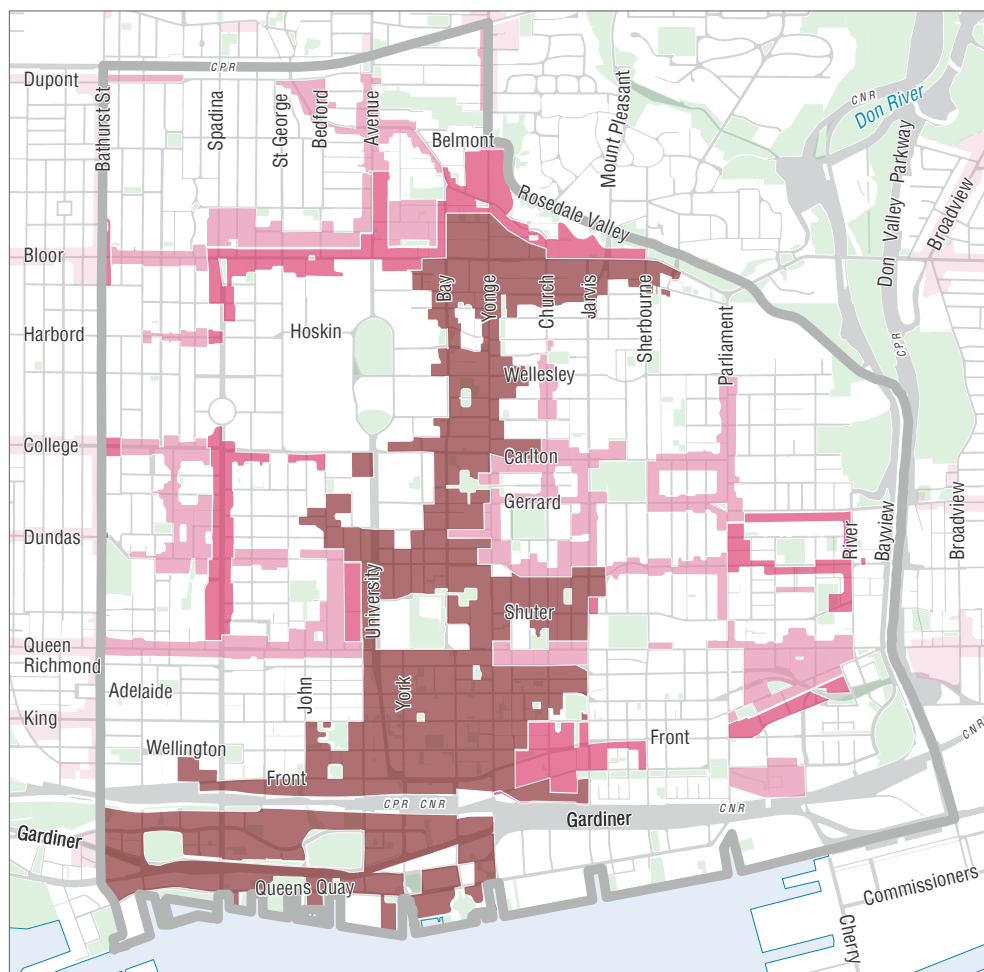
The Official Plan identifies that growth is to be directed to certain areas of the city, and the Downtown is one of those areas expected to absorb growth. The Official Plan also identifies that not all areas within the Downtown will experience the same level or intensity of growth. The City is aiming to put in place a land use framework that balances residential uses with non-residential uses that are important drivers of the economy – office, institutions, retail, and cultural industries.

There were [21 policy directions](#) proposed to provide additional, more detailed guidance to the direction of growth. The policy directions were about creating three mixed use area designations (rather than the one in place today) to respect varying local context and support transition to areas of different scales; prioritizing non-residential uses to sustain the economic role the Downtown plays for the whole city; and encouraging

flexible and diverse retail spaces to strengthen Downtown's commercial main streets. For a detailed explanation of these proposed policy directions, see **Section B** of the Proposals Report.

The next few pages summarize what the public had to say about these new ideas.

What the City shared: three proposed new Mixed Use Area designations



- TOcore Study Area
- Mixed Use Area Outside of the TOcore Study Area

Mixed Use Area 1

These Mixed Use Areas are generally along the Yonge Street / Bay Street / University Avenue Corridors, along subway lines, and master planned communities. **Tall buildings** are one of the many building typologies anticipated. Intensification is anticipated in this designation.

Mixed Use Area 2

These Mixed Use Areas are the **transition** areas between the low density areas and the higher density areas. Intensification is anticipated in this designation.

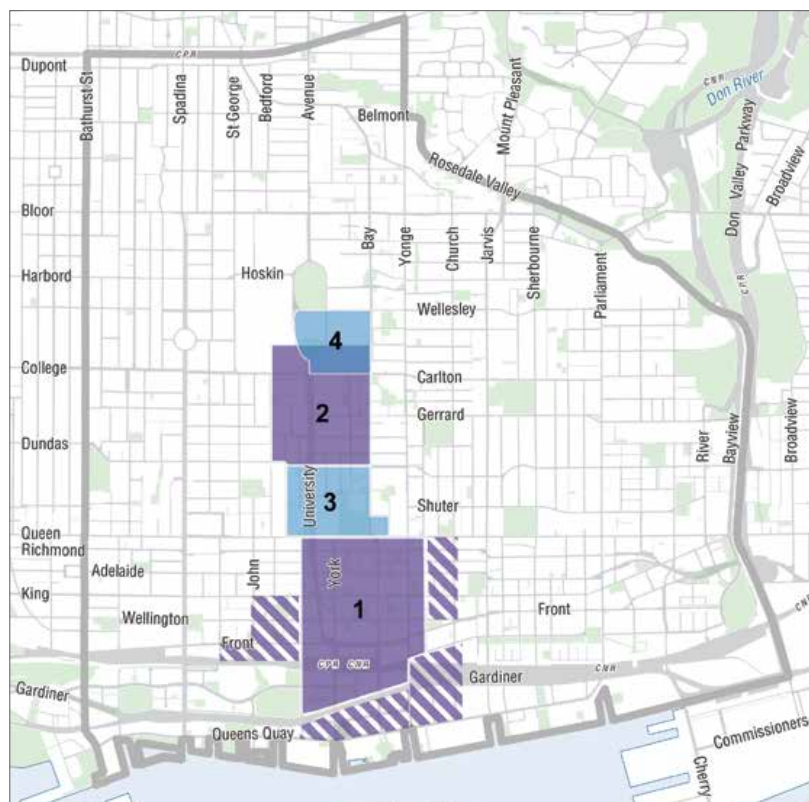
Mixed Use Area 3

These Mixed Use Areas have a **"mainstreet"** character. They may contain a large number of heritage buildings, house form buildings, midrise buildings, and are immediately adjacent to Neighbourhoods. Modest intensification is anticipated in this designation.

What we heard about Mixed Use Area designations

- » In general, participants supported establishing various Mixed Use Areas in the Downtown with different building heights and sizes that respect local context.
- » Several participants suggested to focus density along streets with good transit.
- » Several participants said there should be more Mixed Use 2 and Mixed Use 3 areas (since these areas could encourage more mid-rise and "gentle density").
- » Some recommended for all Mixed Use Areas to have "active streets", especially in areas with high rises.
- » Some expressed it was important to understand the impact of these new Mixed Use Area designations on the existing Downtown neighbourhoods' character and how that character can be protected or complemented as new growth comes.
- » Some said that tall buildings lack character and should be limited Downtown; others – that Downtown should have more tall buildings and more density.
- » Some participants suggested specific tweaks to specific areas:
 - Mid-rise buildings are not appropriate in parts of Corktown, Kensington, Yorkville Village and the Annex where the prevailing character is low-rise buildings. These areas should be removed from Mixed Use Area 3.
 - The Entertainment District should be Mixed Use Area 1 or 2.
 - The charm of Spadina Avenue and Yonge Street should be protected and have less intensification.
 - Differing opinions about Queens Quay Boulevard: some thought it should have more density, others thought it was already too dense.

What the City shared: an expanded Financial District and a new Health Sciences District that prioritize non-residential development

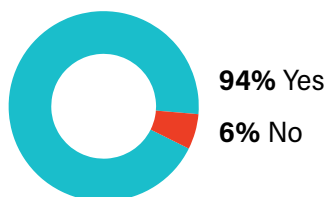


- 1 Financial District
- 2 Health Sciences District
- 3 Courts and Civic Precinct
- 4 Capital Precinct
- Expanded Financial District
- T0core Study Area

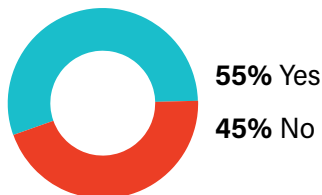


Highlights from the Survey

"Do you agree that the Downtown Plan should strive to achieve a balance between residential uses and other employment uses?"



"Do you agree that residential development should be limited in the Health Sciences and Financial Districts?"



What we heard about precincts, districts, and non-residential uses

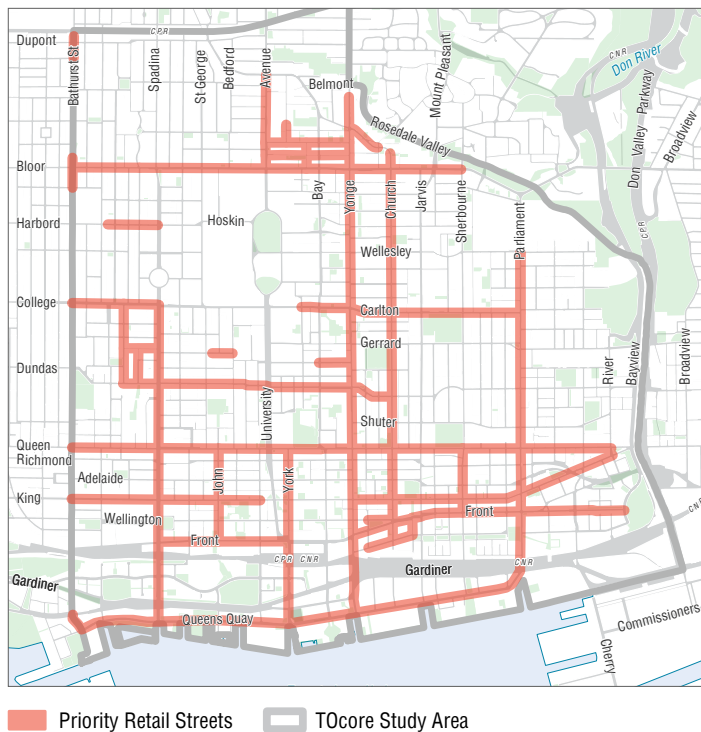
- » Overall, participants strongly supported balancing residential and employment growth in the Downtown and emphasized the importance of keeping Downtown diverse.
- » Some suggested adjustments to the Financial District boundaries:
 - Exclude the Waterfront / Queens Quay from the Financial District
 - Ensure the Financial District does not cut into the Entertainment District.
- » Differing opinions about limiting new residential development in the Health Sciences and Financial Districts: Some said limiting residential development in these areas would help maintain an employment focus; others worried that single use areas could become "dead zones" at night.



The Financial District

Photo: Jimmy Wu

What the City shared: proposed Priority Retail Streets



Fine-grain retail along College Street

Photo: City of Toronto

"I think one of the biggest issues with the ground floor retail is that the rents end up being far too high and we end up with the same chains occupying all ground floor retail: banks, coffee shops, drug stores."

What we heard about retail

- » In general, participants expressed support for small and medium-sized stores that create more pedestrian-friendly environments and help encourage "mom and pop" shops and entrepreneurship.
- » Many people expressed concern that the affordability of retail spaces threatens the future of independent retailers in the Downtown.
- » Many said maximizing the ground floor of new buildings for retail, increasing setbacks, and encouraging "high design" would help encourage flexible, diverse retail.
- » Some said that attractive and accessible public spaces should surround retail areas.
- » Some suggested additions to the proposed Priority Retail Streets map: Bathurst, Bay, College, Dundas East, Dupont (from Bathurst to Avenue Road), Harbord, Jarvis, and Sherbourne.
- » Some suggested removing Carlton and Church from the proposed Retail Priority Streets map.
- » Differing opinions about large-format retail: Some said it lacks character, is ugly, and creates less interesting streets. Others thought large-format retail could work Downtown, as long as it avoids the ground floor and is designed to mimic smaller scale retail.



Highlight from the Survey

"Which of the following retail size formats do you think are appropriate for Downtown?"

Traditional fine-grain stores

88%

Medium-sized urban format stores

73%

Large-format stores

28%

DOWNTOWN PARKS & PUBLIC REALM



As part of T0core, the City is developing a Parks and Public Realm Plan for Downtown. Building on existing Official Plan policies, the T0core Parks and Public Realm Plan will propose a renewed vision for Downtown’s park and open space system. The City intends for this renewed vision to put public life, place-making, and mobility at the forefront of long-term planning.

There were [38 policy directions](#) proposed to help implement the Park and Public Realm Plan and provide more detail about how and where to expand and improve Downtown’s public realm network. These included policy directions about connecting and expanding parks and public spaces, providing a variety of experiences in parks, and implementation. Also included were several parks and public realm “big moves” such as creating a

“Core Circle” of connected nature features around Downtown, decking over the rail corridor for a new large park, and improving access to the central waterfront. For a detailed explanation of these proposed policy directions, see **Section C** of the Proposals Report.

The next few pages summarize what the public had to say about these new ideas.

What we heard about connecting and expanding parks and public spaces

- » Overall, there was broad support for the parks and public realm “big moves”, such as creating a “Core Circle” around Downtown to better connect existing natural features and open spaces, decking the rail corridor for a new large park, and improving connections between public spaces.
- » Many said that it will be very important to improve north-south connections, especially through improvements to pedestrian and cycling routes.
- » Many said access to Downtown ravines should be improved by introducing new connections and making existing connections easier to find and navigate.
- » Many suggested activating laneways as public spaces.
- » Several participants suggested identifying locations for park acquisition based on a 5-10 minute walk to a local park.
- » Several said Downtown streets should be made more pedestrian-friendly by creating pedestrian-only streets, increasing sidewalk space, and adding street furniture that gives people places to sit and rest.
- » Mixed opinions about improving access to the islands: Some wanted to see easier access for pedestrians and cyclists; others were concerned about “over use” of the islands and thought they should be protected.

“We need to make this city pedestrian- and cycle- friendly. Not only do we need trails and parks, we need seating and gathering places. Public washrooms would be nice too.”



Highlights from the Survey

What people said about Downtown streets

Streets to prioritize for tree planting:

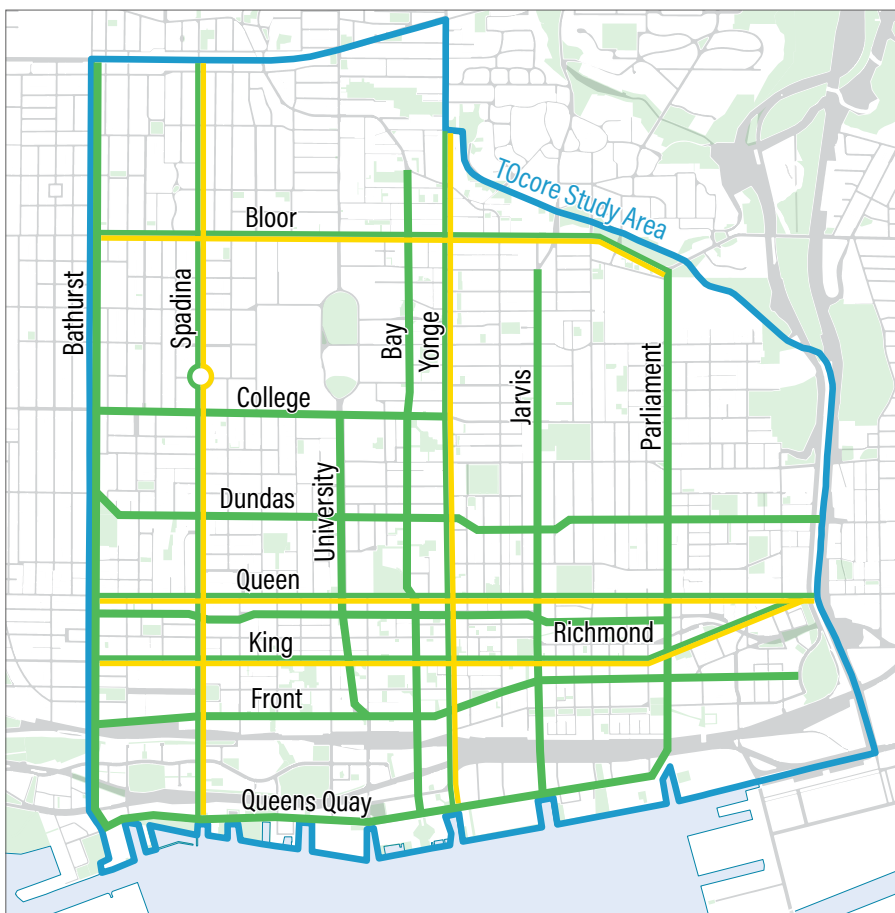
Queen • Yonge • University • Bloor • King
• Spadina • Dundas • Jarvis • Bathurst
• Front • College • Bay • Richmond •
Queens Quay • Parliament

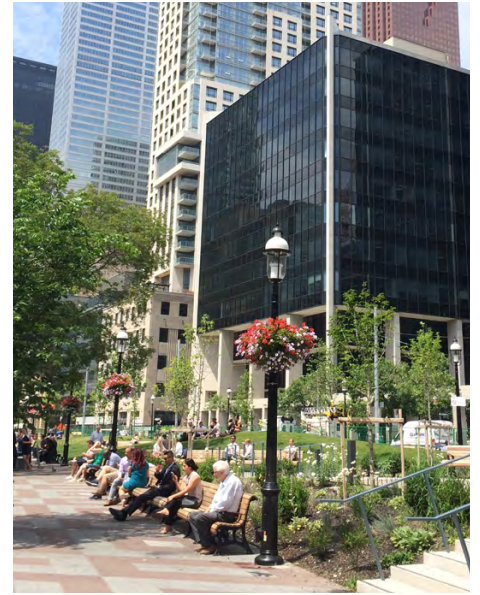
Streets most often identified as “Great Streets”:

Yonge • Spadina • Bloor • Queen • King

What are “Great Streets”?

Downtown's Great Streets hold cultural and historic significance for Toronto. As significant public places, these streets are walkable, set the stage for civic life and festivals, and support economic activity.





The size, character and programming of Downtown's parks and open spaces is varied. Examples pictured above include Grange Park, Diamond Jubilee Promenade, and Berczy Park.

All photos: Studio Jaywall

What we heard about providing a variety of experiences in parks

- » Generally, participants expressed support for multi-seasonal, multi-functional parks, open spaces, and Privately Owned Publicly-Accessible Spaces (POPS).
- » Many said that accessibility should be a key priority in the development and improvement of parks and public spaces Downtown.
- » Many said there should be more space for dogs and more enforcement for picking up after dogs.
- » Many said there should be more seating, more quiet spaces, and more public washrooms Downtown.
- » Many said that Downtown needs more play equipment for children.
- » Several said POPS must be easily discoverable, inviting, and accessible to the public — these spaces should supplement (not replace) City-owned parks and public spaces.
- » Several said that the natural environment Downtown needs to be protected and remediated: increase the number of native trees and other plant species.
- » Some said that winter maintenance is key — Downtown's public spaces should be welcoming and usable 365 days a year.
- » Some suggested the City should improve park programming. For example, there should be more spaces for community gardens.
- » Some said there should be more parks and public spaces on rooftops Downtown, especially on buildings like schools and community centres.

"Green spaces near office buildings would be great to get away from the business. It would also greatly relief stress and, thus, boost work productivity!"

"Need infrastructure that complements buildings: green space, wider sidewalks, access to retail"



Sugar Beach is one of several new waterfront parks.

Photo: Studio Jaywall



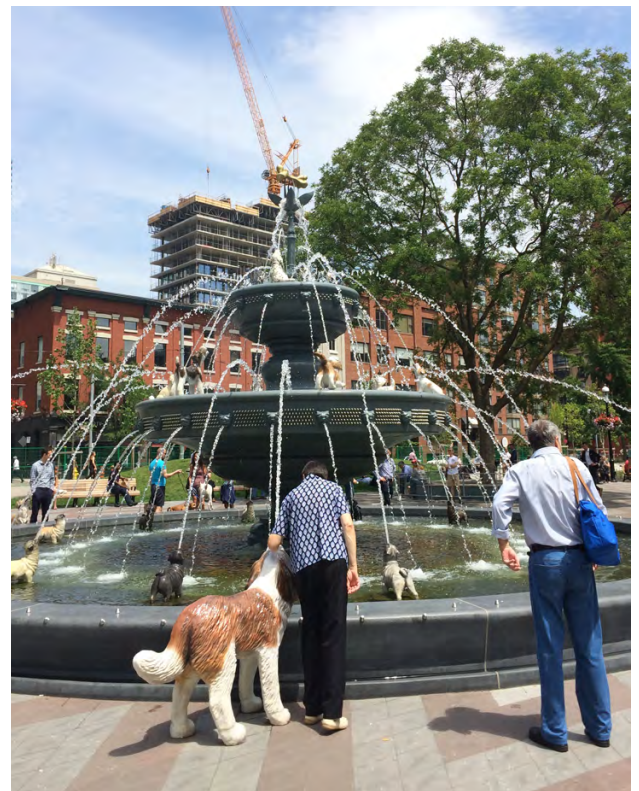
Privately Owned Publicly-Accessible Space in the Financial District

Photo: City of Toronto

What we heard about implementation

- » Overall, participants strongly supported the engagement of Indigenous communities in placemaking, improving public spaces to promote public life, acquiring new parkland to support the Downtown's growing population, and partnering with local school boards to increase public access to recreation facilities and schoolyards.
- » Several said the City should increase investment in the maintenance of existing Downtown parks and public spaces.
- » Several said trees should be protected on both public and private spaces Downtown.
- » Some participants emphasized the need to honour Indigenous history and culture within parks, including parks near water such as Lake Ontario or the Don River.
- » Some said that, if necessary, the City should expropriate land for Downtown parks. Others said the City should modify parkland dedication requirements to maximize the City's ability to acquire land for parks from developers.
- » Some said the City should partner with school boards to find ways to make better public use of schoolyards.
- » Some said the City should enhance community stewardship of parks and public spaces without downloading the maintenance of parks and public spaces onto volunteers.
- » A few said the City should mandate more Privately Owned Publicly-Accessible Spaces (POPS) Downtown.
- » A few suggested the City work with local groups and councillors to develop inventories of existing parks and public spaces to help people discover overlooked, under-used places.

"Make sure that the public realm is inviting and liveable, with high-quality public spaces including parks and street furniture."



The newly re-designed Berczy Park provides opportunities for formal and informal gathering.

Photo: Studio Jaywall

BUILDING FOR LIVEABILITY



New changes have emerged as buildings in parts of the Downtown continue to get taller. The City uses policies to guide growth and shape built form in a manner that is sustainable and improves liveability for residents, workers and visitors in the Downtown. Proposed buildings on infill sites must accommodate amenity space, public realm improvements, adequate setbacks, parking, loading, and other requirements of new development. They must be carefully considered in the context of the compact Downtown fabric, and address elements of liveability affected by the scale and form of development.

There were [16 policy directions](#) related to built form. These included policy directions about the intensity of development, the design of buildings to improve the public realm and streetscapes, protecting access to sunlight, transition and amenity spaces. For a detailed explanation of these proposed policy directions, see **Section D** of the Proposals Report.

The next few pages summarize what the public had to say about these new ideas.



View towards the Downtown core, which has a concentration of tall buildings.

Photo: City of Toronto



Numerous heritage buildings are found Downtown. Pictured here is a grouping of buildings in King-Spadina.

Photo: City of Toronto

What we heard about intensity of development

- » Generally, participants supported determining the appropriate built form, height and density based on the surrounding context and neighbourhood character.
- » Many participants were in favour of "gentle density": mid-rise buildings, duplexes, 3-4 storey walk-ups, and laneway houses.
- » Several participants suggested allowing additional density in neighbourhoods instead of directing most density to major corridors and specific areas.
- » There was a range of opinions about tall buildings. Some said that tall buildings are not pleasant to look at or live in, while others said that adding tall buildings would help Downtown be more liveable and affordable.

"Develop policies around the use of high-quality and varied material for new developments, as well as the design's relationship to the community or surroundings."

What we heard about building design

- » Overall, participants were supportive of encouraging appropriate design that complements a building's surroundings and fits with its neighbours.
- » Many said cultural and heritage conservation is very important.
- » Many said there should be higher standards for building design. The City should encourage use of high-quality materials and limit the use of glass. Improve liveability by making sure the design of the ground floor of buildings is of high quality and creates a nice experience on streets.
- » Several said there should be better transitions between buildings and setbacks to create wider sidewalks.
- » A few participants said buildings should be designed to limit wind tunnels.

"Facades on new developments should be sympathetic to existing neighbourhood character and integrate seamlessly at the street level."

What we heard about protecting access to sunlight

- » In general, there was broad support for protecting access to sunlight in the Downtown.
- » Many participants identified various Downtown parks, streets, neighbourhoods, squares, schoolyards, playgrounds, and the waterfront as important places to protect from shadowing.
- » A few participants said that sunlight access shouldn't be a priority for the City and that sunlight protection needs to be balanced with ensuring that intensification continues.

"Make sure the streets have lots of sunlight, trees, greenery and quiet so we can actually enjoy them and use as a respite from the hustle and bustle of life."



Highlight from the Survey

Places people thought should be protected from shadowing

Most common answers

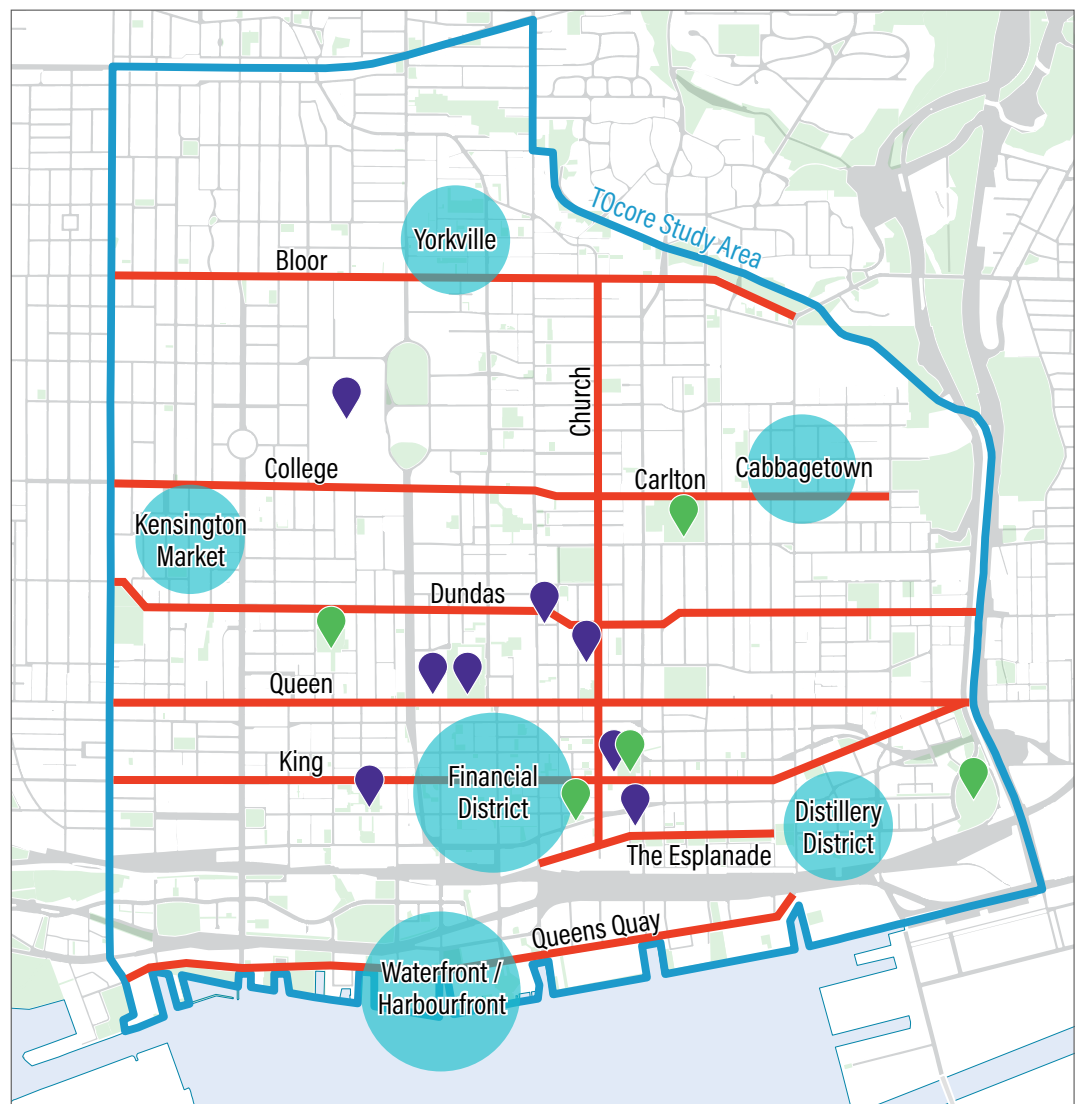
— **Streets:** Queen, King, College/Carlton, Bloor, Queens Quay, Church, Dundas, The Esplanade

● **Neighbourhoods:** Distillery District, Kensington Market, Waterfront/Harbourfront, Yorkville, Financial District, Cabbagetown

● **Parks:** Grange Park, Allan Gardens, Corktown Common, St. James Park, Berczy Park

● **Squares/other areas:** David Pecaut Square, Nathan Phillips Square, Dundas Square, St. James Cathedral, St. Michael's Cathedral, St. Lawrence Market, University of Toronto, Osgoode Hall

+ **Schoolyards**





Rooftop amenity space for office workers

Photo: City of Toronto

What we heard about amenity spaces

- » Overall, participants expressed high support for the provision of high-quality and well-designed indoor and outdoor amenity spaces in residential, mixed use, and non-residential buildings to accommodate for different users.
- » Many said both indoor and outdoor amenity spaces are key to creating a liveable Downtown.
- » Many said amenity spaces need to be flexible and designed for diverse users: families, seniors, children, people with dogs, people focused on fitness, and entrepreneurs.
- » Many expressed a desire for more family-oriented features and children's play areas in amenity spaces.
- » Many urged the City to create amenity spaces for pets in buildings (including places for dogs to relieve themselves) to address concerns over Downtown's growing dog population and their impact on parks.
- » Many wanted to see gathering spaces in the lobbies of buildings where residents can build community.



New community facilities are creating community gathering spaces. Above is a rendering of the George Street Revitalization.

Image: City of Toronto / Montgomery Sisam Architects

"We need amenities in buildings that accommodate all ages."

DOWNTOWN MOBILITY



The transportation system for Downtown should form a well-connected and integrated network that provides a range of safe and sustainable travel choices to improve mobility and accessibility for all people. The City uses policies to make our existing Downtown transportation infrastructure more efficient and provide people with more sustainable travel choices that reduce their dependence on the private automobile. Downtown's narrow streets and compact urban form create opportunities and challenges to rebalancing transportation modes, including walking, cycling and surface transit on key corridors. The current Downtown transportation system must continue to support economic growth and job creation, and facilitate the movement of goods into and out of the core.

There were [25 policy directions](#) proposed about transportation, including policies about walking, cycling, transit, and accessibility. For a detailed explanation of these proposed policy directions, see **Section G** of the Proposals Report.

The next few pages summarize what the public had to say about these ideas.

"Our city is starving for a more vibrant and dynamic pedestrian realm on our streets."



Towards complete streets: accommodating a variety of modes.

Photo: City of Toronto

What we heard about walking and cycling

- » In general, participants strongly supported active transportation, including a Downtown Pedestrian Priority Network and planning for a long-term cycling network.
- » Many said transit, walking, and cycling should be top priorities in street design, followed by street trees, patios, seating, landscaping, and public art.
- » Many expressed that Downtown should be a safer and more comfortable place to bike. There should be enough road space for cycling, signage should be clear and intuitive, and there should be clear separations of space for cyclists, pedestrians, and cars.
- » Many supported providing additional priority cycling routes; a few thought adding bicycle parking and expanding Bike Share would improve mobility. Many said cycling safety should be improved through creating separated and protected bike lanes.
- » Many suggested adding more north-south bike connections. The cycling network should also connect to the broader network outside the Downtown, and into the Don Valley.
- » Several said laneways should be re-imagined as walking routes, public spaces, and green spaces.
- » Some suggested strategies to improve and prioritize pedestrian safety and experience, like adjusting traffic light timing, reducing speed limits, and improving crossings. Other suggested strategies were to widen sidewalks, create more pedestrian-only areas and streets, and enforce regulations related to speed, parking, driving, and cycling.
- » There was a range of opinions about the PATH. Some thought expanding and improving the PATH would be an effective strategy; others said that PATH expansion needed to be balanced with making sure streets and sidewalks are dynamic and vibrant places.

"We need to get serious about *safe* cycling infrastructure. A 100% protected grid that my 7-year-old could feel comfortable on, without gaps."



Separated cycling infrastructure in Downtown

Photo: Studio Jaywall

What we heard about transit

- » Overall, participants expressed support for the prioritization of surface transit and the alignment of growth with existing and planned rapid transit infrastructure.
- » Many people want to see more subways built to improve connections to and from Downtown, especially the Relief Line.
- » Several said there should be seamless connections between surface transit and new rapid transit projects.
- » Several said safety and accessibility should be prioritized for transit, including the design of streetcar stops (to minimize conflicts with vehicles), creating pedestrian islands, and adding more clear signage for streetcar lanes.
- » In order of priority, participants said streetcars should be prioritized through:
 1. implementing transit-only streets
 2. implementing transit-only lanes
 3. signal priority
 4. limiting left/right turns
 5. limiting street parking
 6. providing more frequent and reliable streetcar service
- » A few suggested using buses instead of streetcars in the Downtown.



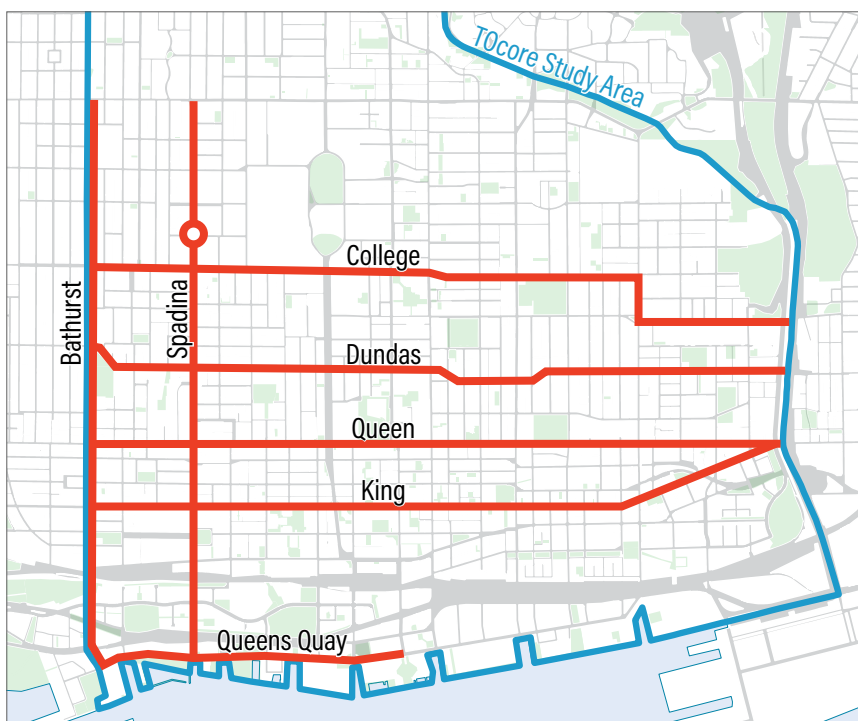
Demand on surface transit has grown Downtown. Pictured here is King Street.

Photo: City of Toronto

"Connectivity across the city for alternative methods of transit should be a priority. Cycling, walking and public transit will only become mainstream where they are more convenient than driving."



Highlight from the Survey



Streets recommended for surface transit priority

(in order of ranking)

1. King
2. Queen
3. College
4. Spadina
5. Dundas
6. Queens Quay
7. Bathurst



Photo: City of Toronto

Sidewalks should be wide enough to accommodate pedestrians and pedestrian amenities.

What we heard about accessibility

- » Generally, safety and accessibility of all road users was expressed as a priority.
- » Some participants said that the City could improve accessibility by:
 - carefully planning for Wheel-Trans and other wheelchair accessible transportation and taxi drop-off zones
 - enforcing Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements
 - incentivizing universal design

Other feedback and advice about mobility

- » Several suggested providing designated protected lanes for different types of road users to minimize user conflicts.
- » Some said the City should consider using road tolls and congestion fees to encourage transit, walking, and cycling.
- » A few suggested coming up with creative ways to accommodate delivery pick-up and drop-off Downtown.
- » A few suggested planning for technological advancements, such as self-driving cars.
- » Snow clearance on bike lanes and better wayfinding were other common themes.



Photo: Studio Jaywall

Laneways are essential for access and servicing, but are also part of how people move through Downtown.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & A DIVERSITY OF HOUSING



Access to community services and facilities – child care, schools, libraries, recreation and community centres and human services – are an important part of building complete communities and act as neighbourhood focal points where people gather, learn, socialize and access services. The real and significant challenge of future growth requires a more rigorous framework of City policies to ensure that new and improved community facilities are provided in coordination with growth and development.

The City's liveability and prosperity is intrinsically connected to the provision of housing that meets the requirements of a diverse population with varying housing needs. Housing affordability and diversity is important to achieving the liveable and inclusive Downtown residents want.

There were [9 policy directions](#) proposed about community services and facilities and co-location, and [5 policy directions](#) about housing affordability. For a detailed explanation of these proposed policy directions, see **Section F** and **Section H** of the Proposals Report.

The next few pages summarize what the public had to say about these ideas.

What we heard about Downtown's community services and facilities

- » In general, participants strongly supported the requirement for the provision of new or improved community services and facilities as new development occurs.
- » Many said Downtown's libraries are great: they have great programming, helpful computer and printing services, and useful meeting spaces, but some branches are getting overcrowded.
- » Many said their community recreation centres (especially pools and exercise facilities) are also well-liked.
- » Many said facilities do not have enough capacity, especially for programs (like swimming or baseball) and for meeting spaces.
- » Many emphasized that elder care facilities in the Downtown should be a priority as our population ages.
- » Several said child care facilities are good, but there is a limited supply Downtown and it is not affordable for all. There is a lack of after-school programs for children over 12 and a lack of child care services for those that do not work nine-to-five jobs.
- » Several suggested community services and facilities be well-maintained and fully accessible.
- » Several suggested the City provide better technology to improve program registration, and help people identify services and facilities by neighbourhood.
- » Several suggested adding more parks, more outdoor recreation opportunities (like baseball, basketball, outdoor skating rinks), and more children's play structures.
- » Several said there need to be more spaces and programs for children and seniors, and more public toilets.
- » Several shared that certain schools in the Downtown are over-subscribed. There is a need for stronger tools to expand school infrastructure.
- » Some suggested the City open up schools to after-hours use: gyms, meeting spaces, pools.
- » Affordability of space for non-profit human service agencies supporting vulnerable individuals and families is seen as a worsening trend.

"Help the homeless find shelters and employment."



Highlights from the Survey

66% of respondents access community services and facilities Downtown.

Of the respondents who access community services and facilities Downtown, over half are **satisfied** with them.



Wellesley Community Centre and St. James Town Public Library

Photo: ZAS / City of Toronto

What we heard about co-locating community facilities

- » Overall, many strongly supported co-locating facilities, especially schools, recreation centres, child care centres, and general community meeting spaces.
- » Several suggested co-located facilities be built in the base of new condos or other private buildings. There was some concern that requirements to locate community services & facilities in private buildings could slow development approval processes and timelines.
- » Some suggested co-locating spaces for employment and mental health services. Some were not convinced co-location would be successful and were concerned it could be confusing.
- » Some said co-located facilities should use a multi-generational lens (for example, combining seniors services in daycare centres) and be flexible (to respond to changing needs over time).

"Community facilities should be located at the intersection of lower- and higher- income neighbourhoods, to facilitate social integration. They should be easily accessible by public transit and walking/biking, with ample bike parking space. Libraries, after-school programs and daycares should be prioritized."



Rendering of future Railway Lands Community Centre and School

Image: City of Toronto



Regent Park was planned to integrate a variety of building scales, forms and tenure.

Photo: City of Toronto

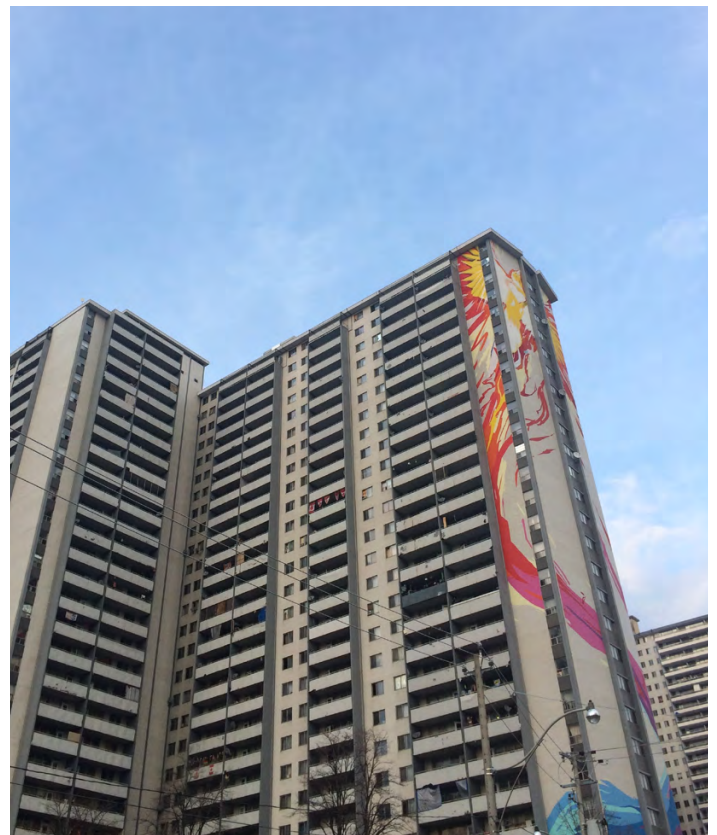


New affordable townhomes in Alexandra Park

Photo: Studio Jaywall

What we heard about housing affordability

- » In general, participants strongly agreed with the need to ensure housing affordability and diversity to keep Downtown liveable and prosperous.
- » Many said housing affordability is a serious issue.
- » Many wanted to see more family-sized housing units in buildings.
- » Several said that gentrification of the Downtown is resulting in the loss of rooming houses and should be addressed.
- » Several participants suggested integrating affordable housing into all new developments.
- » Some suggested using rent controls or other tools to help keep housing Downtown affordable.
- » Some suggested creating co-op buildings, regulating foreign buyers and Airbnb owners, and allowing laneway housing.



Apartment towers in St. James Town

Photo: Studio Jaywall

CELEBRATING CULTURE



Toronto's culture sector employs about 130,000 people, roughly equivalent to employment in Canada's automotive sector, and each year the culture sector contributes \$11.3 billion in GDP to Toronto's economy. The sector includes live performance and music, visual and applied arts, heritage and libraries, written and published works, film and television, screen-based media, sound recording, fashion and design. TOcore is advancing a suite of policies that continue to position Toronto as a leading and globally competitive 'creative capital.'

There were [6 policy directions](#) proposed about culture, including policies about retaining and expanding cultural spaces and recognizing the importance of film, music, and cultural industries. For a detailed explanation of these proposed policy directions, see **Section I** of the Proposals Report.

The next page summarizes what the public had to say about these ideas.



Live music at Nathan Phillips Square during the Pan Am Games

Photo: Soul Motivators

"Thrilled to see culture as part of the #TOcore conversation. How can we use planning to protect intangible assets?"

"There needs to be more effort in adding art like murals on empty walls."

What we heard about culture

- » Overall, participants emphasized the need for policies to promote culture and expressed support for protecting and expanding affordable cultural spaces Downtown.
- » Many suggested protecting existing diverse cultural areas and heritage that make Downtown vibrant, special, and unique.
- » Several suggested balancing residential needs of safety, privacy, and peace with neighbourhood arts and cultural activity, vibrancy, and nightlife.
- » Some suggested placing a greater emphasis on policies that promote and support culture and affordable cultural spaces Downtown.
- » Some suggested recognizing and celebrating Indigenous culture and heritage Downtown by including a business district and/or a museum.
- » Some suggested creating pedestrian-friendly cultural corridors along streets such as Yonge, Dundas, and Parliament, and implementing the John Street Cultural Corridor.
- » Some expressed the need for more spaces for practice and performance.
- » A few said the definition of culture should be expanded beyond economic development to accommodate a greater diversity of users.
- » A few asked the City to provide more arts and culture spaces in smaller venues and smaller neighbourhoods.
- » A few suggested developing a public art master plan and securing a higher percentage of public art through the development approvals process.
- » A few suggested considering the interactive parts of culture, like the experience of walking in Kensington and Yorkville, with music and food on the street.

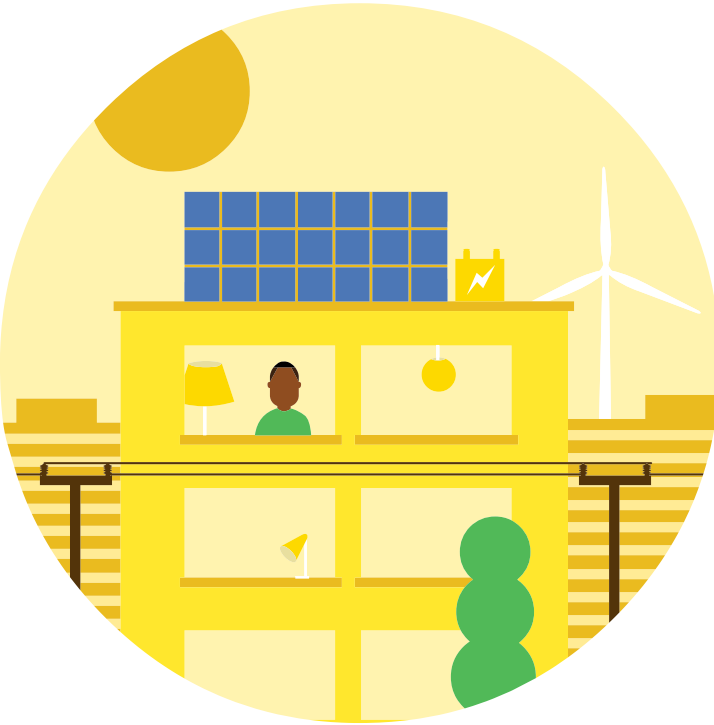


Musicians busking at St. Lawrence Market

Photo: City of Toronto

"Focus less on structures and more on streetscape cultural development."

TOWARDS A RESILIENT DOWNTOWN



Our climate is changing. Planning for a liveable, competitive and sustainable Downtown requires us to minimize emissions and build a resilient core that can withstand extreme weather and power outages. The City's Climate Change Action Plan outlines the City's response to climate change including a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050.

There were [8 policy directions](#) towards a resilient Downtown including green infrastructure, biodiversity, back-up power in multi-unit residential buildings, low-carbon energy capture, and expansion of district energy systems such as deep lake water cooling. For a detailed explanation of these proposed policy directions, see **Section J** of the Proposals Report.

The next page summarizes what the public had to say about these ideas.



Podium Green Roof at City Hall

Photo: City of Toronto

"Ensure electrical grid is able to support growth and provide services."

What we heard about creating a more resilient Downtown

- » Generally, participants expressed support and enthusiasm for green infrastructure, enhanced biodiversity, and a resilient electric grid.
- » Several said existing buildings should be encouraged to be retrofitted through incentives and programs that demonstrate a return on investment.
- » Several participants suggested strategies to improve resilience, including:
 1. reduce parking requirements
 2. add more bike parking
 3. reduce salt use in winter
 4. apply a carbon tax
 5. source local materials in construction
 6. require organic recycling in tall buildings
 7. require mature trees to be planted
 8. use tree trenches to keep street trees healthy
 9. support sustainable infrastructure
 10. ensure electrical grid is able to support growth and provide services for new residents and workers
- » A few said the City should work with the provincial government to improve Building Code standards and requirements for new developments to be greener.
- » A few said the language in the existing policies should be changed from "encourage" to "require;" there should be stricter rules, standards, and regulations to implement green infrastructure.



Laying the intake pipe for Downtown's deep lake water cooling system.

Photo courtesy of Enwave

"Explore opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure on existing City-owned properties and streets."

"New condos with plant life on each patio, vertical forests like the ones being built in Milan."

SUPPLYING WATER



The Downtown is serviced by a complex system of underground infrastructure including watermains, sewers, and stormwater pipes. The pace and magnitude of growth occurring Downtown is consuming the capacity of the City's water system faster than projected and, in some cases, placing unanticipated stress on the system due to increased height and density of many of the proposed developments. It is essential to more closely relate population growth with the ability to upgrade the water infrastructure. A Water Infrastructure Strategy will help manage growth and allow infrastructure capacity to be shared proportionately, to ensure the City's infrastructure keeps pace with long-term growth Downtown.

For a detailed explanation of the [Downtown Water Strategy](#), see **Section K** of the Proposals Report.



Watermain replacement

Photo: City of Toronto

"Ensure slush and rainwater flows away from sidewalks and pedestrian crossing points properly."

"Let's get our development community to work more proactively with us on cleaning up the water in our inner harbour and encouraging its public use."



Toronto's water-related infrastructure helps maintain the quality of Lake Ontario.

Photo: Public Work



Parks can help manage stormwater. Pictured here is Sherbourne Common.

Photo: City of Toronto



Flooding on Toronto Islands

Photo: Studio Jaywall

"Control and re-use waste and stormwater better."

"We only stand tall by leaning
on each other."

- participant at March 4th public open house

We would like to thank everyone who took their time to participate in this phase of TOcore consultations and engagement activities. A final round of consultations will take place in late 2017 and early 2018 on the Proposed Downtown Plan and the five associated infrastructure strategies. For more project updates, please visit:

toronto.ca/tocore