

North Toronto Collegiate Institute Planners in Public Spaces (PiPS) Summary

Yonge-Eglinton Growth, Built Form, and Infrastructure Review

December 14th, 2015

11:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

North Toronto Collegiate Institute

Overview

On Monday, December 14th, 2015, the City of Toronto hosted a Planners in Public Spaces (PiPS) event for students at North Toronto Collegiate Institute (NTCI). The PiPS event was held at NTCI during the student's lunch hour in an effort to provide youth with an opportunity to become aware of and get involved with the Yonge-Eglinton Growth, Built Form, and Infrastructure Review. The purpose of the PiPS event was to: raise awareness about the Yonge-Eglinton Growth, Built Form, and Infrastructure Review; share some of the early work done by the City and its technical consultants, and; seek input related to built form, cultural heritage, community services & facilities, and transportation.

The PiPS station consisted of six display boards arranged in the main foyer of the school, each focusing on a different component of the Review. Participating students shared feedback by annotating the boards with dots and sticky notes and by speaking with members of the study team. Over the course of an hour, approximately 50 students stopped to participate in the PiPS event. Paul Farish of the City Planning Division attended from the City of Toronto along with Matthew Wheatley and Laura Pianta of Swerhun Facilitation.

Matthew Wheatley and Ian Malczewski prepared a draft of this PiPS Summary, and City Planning reviewed it before it was finalized.

Summary of feedback

The feedback below is organized into the topics that the City Planning Division invited attendees to discuss. The topics include: landmarks, open spaces, and views (built form); cultural heritage; community services & facilities, and; transportation. Participants also shared other feedback and feedback about process.

Feedback about landmarks, open spaces, and views

Students identified a number of buildings, landmarks and open spaces that they use and think are important to the area.

Landmarks and Buildings

Buildings that students said they like and considered landmarks included: the Northern District Library, the Minto Twin Towers, their school (NTCI), Northern Secondary School, and the renovated Yonge-Eglinton Centre.

A few students said they would like to see more modern/futuristic buildings in the area.

Open Spaces

Students identified Eglinton Park and Sherwood Park as important open spaces in the area.

Feedback about cultural heritage

Students said that the history of Davisville Pottery and Mount Pleasant Cemetery are important to the cultural identity of the area.

Feedback about community services & facilities

Students identified different community services and facilities in the area that they use.

Education. Aside from North Toronto Collegiate Institute, students also identified the Northern District Library as a place they go to study and provide or receive tutoring.

Recreational facilities and activities. Students identified a wide range of activities they participate in and facilities they use, including: North Toronto Memorial Community Centre; running at Mount Pleasant Cemetery; basketball at John Fisher Public School; baseball and other sports at Eglinton Park; dry land skiing at Sherwood Park; dance; and guitar lessons.

Some students also identified the University of Toronto as a place outside of the area where they go for recreational activities such as swimming.

Cultural facilities and activities. Students identified a variety of facilities and activities in the area, including: going to the movies at the Yonge-Eglinton Centre; shopping at the Yonge-Eglinton Centre; and shopping and eating at small stores and restaurants along Yonge Street.

Health Services. Several students shared that the health services they use are located within the area, including: family doctors, dentists, and walk-in clinics.

Feedback about transportation

Students identified safety issues as well as improvements related to pedestrian safety they would like to see in the area. Students said that Yonge Street can be a dangerous and scary environment for pedestrians. Students also said that more pedestrian crossings and traffic lights along Yonge Street would make the area safer and reduce the need for jaywalking.

Next Steps

City Planning and Swerhun Facilitation thanked students and staff for taking the time to participate and told them this summary of feedback would be posted on the City's website in the coming weeks. The team handed out pieces of paper with the website and encouraged people to learn more and stay involved.