



January 17, 2018

10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Nancy Martins

RE: PW26.6 REimagining Yonge (Sheppard to Finch) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study

Dear Chair Jaye Robinson and Members, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

This is to express our support for implementing the “**Transform Yonge**” option that was identified, and recommended in Stage 1, and now reaffirmed in Stage 2 of the REimagining Yonge project, as the overall preferred alternative.

Yonge Street is the central corridor within North York Centre, one of four mixed-use and transit accessible centres identified in Toronto’s Official Plan where jobs, housing, and services will be concentrated. The overarching goals of the “REimagining Yonge” project are to provide consistency and vibrancy to the public realm in keeping with the economic importance of North York Centre, address state-of-good repair and safety issues along the corridor, provide cycling infrastructure connectivity, improve pedestrian amenities, and facilitate efficient traffic movement through better utilization of the surrounding road network.

The study has taken an evidence-based approach to transforming Yonge Street in North York Centre. The REimagining Yonge Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study finds that “**Transform Yonge**” rather than the alternative “Enhance Yonge and Transform Beecroft” **better supports the objectives of the study** based on the evaluation criteria and measures developed, and **can be implemented at a lower cost, and with less disruption to the North York Centre.**

The study finds that the “Transform Yonge” option would provide the best support for jobs, housing, and services by introducing additional pedestrian and cyclist amenities and public realm enhancements that would make the Yonge Street corridor an attractive destination at the heart of downtown North York. Further, “**Transform Yonge**” would greatly improve the environment for on-street businesses, and parking

space losses on Yonge could be replaced by existing underground capacity or on nearby streets.

The project would help to implement former Mayor Mel Lastman's vision of North York having its own vibrant, safe and active downtown, and take advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to design Yonge Street in North York as a destination, as a "mini-downtown". It would also provide needed core connectivity for a Yonge corridor cycling route that would mesh with York Region plans.

Yours truly,

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Cc: Mayor John Tory
Councillor John Filion, Ward 23
Councillor David Shiner, Ward 24
Gregg Lintern, Acting Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Transportation Services

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.