



TORONTO SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

His Worship Mayor John Tory and Toronto Councillors
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2

December 14, 2020

RE: REimagining Yonge Street

Dear Mayor Tory and Toronto City Councillors,

We are members of the volunteer Executive Board of the Toronto Society of Architects (TSA), an organization that was established in 1887. The TSA has a tradition of playing an advocacy role in the city, ensuring that architecture and urban design are key considerations in public discussions and processes that have an impact on our built environment. It is with this mandate in mind that we are writing to you regarding the REimagining Yonge Street initiative. Attached is a letter dated February 14, 2018 outlining our views regarding the options for Yonge Street between Sheppard Avenue and Finch Avenue.

We are pleased that the Infrastructure and Environment Committee has endorsed the recommendation of Transportation Services to support the “Transform Yonge” option for REimagining Yonge Street. The COVID pandemic has brought home the necessity of promoting urban health by creating streets that serve to enhance, increase and beautify the public realm while providing multi-modal transportation options.

When Janette Sadik-Khan who successfully reengineered many streets of New York City into dynamic safe spaces for pedestrians and cyclists was asked by then Mayor Michael Bloomberg in her initial job interview, “Why do you want to be traffic commissioner?”, she responded “I don’t want to be traffic commissioner, I want to be transportation commissioner.” We strongly encourage Council to adopt this more holistic approach to streets and transportation and to in turn endorse the recommendations of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and Transportation Services.

Respectfully,

Megan Torza
Chair

Ana-Francisca de la Mora
Vice-Chair