

## TRANSIT GATEWAY PROJECT - UPDATE

Wellesley, College, Dundas, Queen and King Subway stations are the transit gateways to the Downtown Yonge area. How visitors, residents and employees experience these gateways affects how they experience their visit to shop, work, or dine in Downtown Yonge and, by extension, the city of Toronto.

A sub-committee struck by the DYBIA Board has identified three main goals for the revitalization and beautification of these transit gateways.

In the short term (now and ongoing) BIA staff has focused on the state-of-good-repair in these stations. The medium term goal, identified by the Subway Sub-Committee, concerns upgrades and repairs to stairwells, canopies, and external signage at the subway stations. The longer term goal is to "beautify" the three central area station to create attractive, safe and interesting stations part of the "downtown experience".

To track basic state-of-good-repair issues the DYBIA publishes a Transit Scorecard. The Transit Scorecard is an audit conducted by the Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area (DYBIA) in response to concerns from our members regarding the subway stations in our district. All five stations have consistent, unaddressed issues with lighting, removal of graffiti, maintenance, and overall cleanliness. Dealing with these maintenance issues in a timely manner

will improve the overall safety, cleanliness, functionality and aesthetics for residents, commuters, customers and tourists.

The state of good repair in the subway stations is monitored and reviewed by Downtown Yonge's Streetscape Manager and copies of this report are sent to the TTC for follow up. Throughout this process TTC staff has been extremely helpful. With their cooperation we have regular access to the five stations of interest and they have also provided important background information about basic maintenance, procurement and staffing questions as they arise.

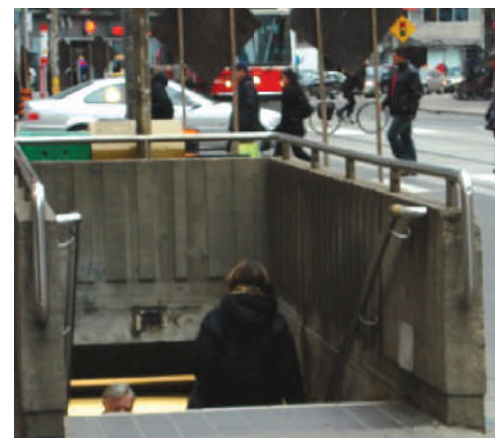
The exposed stairwells at Yonge and Shuter, College and Yonge and Yonge and Dundas are in a tragic state of disrepair raising safety concerns and comfort concerns; concrete is crumbling, railings are bent and all are open to the elements, rain or shine.



College entrance, northeast corner, Yonge & Carlton



Exposed stairwell, Yonge & Shuter



Stairwell, northwest corner, Yonge & Dundas

In March, 2007 TTC staff recommended "that the sidewalk entrances at the following stations be considered for an urban design upgrade: Museum, Queen's Park, St. Patrick, Osgoode, St. Andrew, King, Dundas and College" and that "Staff believe that the addition of canopies and enhanced finishes to these sidewalk entrances will improve the appearance, safety and cleanliness of these open stairways." Design of

these canopies was to “be developed for the entrances that are compatible with architectural surroundings.”

By September of 2007 TTC staff had amended the list of stations targeted for upgrades: the new list - “Museum, St. Patrick, Osgoode, Finch, Lawrence, Kennedy, Ellesmere and Lawrence East” - no longer included King, Dundas or College stations. Design concepts for only three of these stations were submitted and the TTC asked for the go ahead for Osgoode and Lawrence stations. Other stations would be addressed through other projects but nowhere were King, Dundas and College mentioned.

The DYBIA considers the omission of the downtown stations a grave oversight. They are four (King, Queen, Dundas and College) of the most heavily used stations in the system and are the stations most often used by tourists and visitors to Toronto. Not only that, but the design concepts accepted by the TTC for further review are expensive, unnecessary and widely inappropriate for downtown stations.



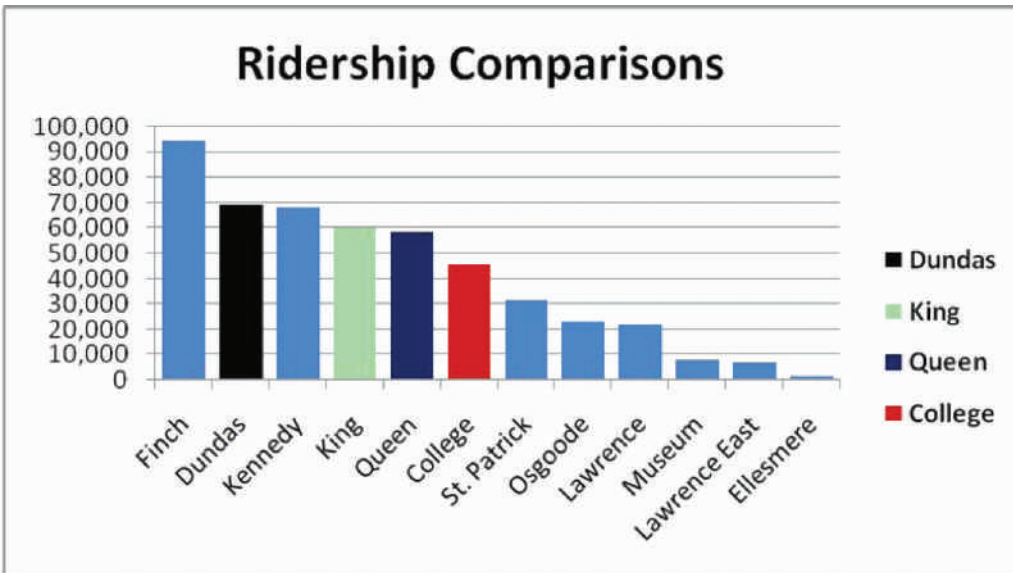
Entrance to Queen Street?



No “sign” of a subway entrance anywhere on the south west corner of Yonge & College.



Dundas “what”? Which way?



External signage is also a concern. Signs are ugly, inconsistent in design and information: some stations lack any signage at all; some tell you a “subway” entrance is here, but not the name of the

station; or they tell you are at Dundas “something”, but with no directional sign; vicinity maps are woefully out of date if they exist at all. From the point of view of a visitor or casual TTC user existing signs are not helpful at all.

Long term, station beautification is the ultimate goal of the DYBIA. The three central stations (Queen, Dundas and College) accounted for 54,576,984 million rides (Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) in 2009. These stations serve the heart of Toronto and how they look contributes to the overall “downtown experience” of Torontonians and visitors alike. Looking forward to 2014 and World Pride and then the Pan Am Games in 2015, beautification of these stations is critical.

To this end, the Subway Subcommittee has engaged three design agencies to develop Conceptual Strategic Designs for these stations to act as the centrepiece for BIA efforts to beautify and revitalize these key transit gateways.

## DOWNTOWN YONGE DISCOVERY TEAM READY TO ROLL!

This year's Discovery Team is ready to meet, greet and inform visitors to the Downtown Yonge BIA for the 2010 season. Two members are returning from last year – Andrew Harvey and Jose Andrade – and they are joined by Laura Gabor, Greta Chiu, Neal Sengupta.

This multilingual team (languages spoken by this year's team, besides English, are, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Hungarian, Italian, Cantonese, and Hindi) will be set up in a new location for 2010 on the south west corner of Yonge and Dundas in front of the Toronto Eaton Centre.

As always, the Discovery Team will be conducting free walking tours of the downtown are beginning June 9th. These tours are conducted twice daily at 11am and 3pm, 7 days a week. For more information about the walking tours please visit [www.downtownyonge.com/freewalkingtours](http://www.downtownyonge.com/freewalkingtours) for details.

## DYBIA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN & PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

Throughout the spring and summer of 2010 the Downtown Yonge BIA is working diligently on a new Public Realm Strategy. The goal of the Public Realm Strategy is to identify area wide programs and site specific projects within the BIA. In recognition of the unique characteristics of different streets and nodes within the BIA, the Public Realm Strategy divides Downtown Yonge into eight distinct precincts. A significant amount of

time is spent in each precinct taking notes and photographs, looking at maps, in an effort to better identify the opportunities, challenges and characteristics of each precinct.

To date Downtown Yonge has completed 4 of the 8 precincts. The end result of this process will be a comprehensive document which uses maps, photographs and text illustrating how the site specific projects and

area wide programs identified by Downtown Yonge connect with the urban environment.

The Public Realm Strategy is a part of a larger Community Improvement Plan (CIP) which be adopted by City Council. The CIP allows for funding to be directed to projects and programs identified by Downtown Yonge as development occurs or resources become available.

## G20 –WHAT WE KNOW TODAY

G20 will have a tremendous impact on the downtown area, whether or not you are located in one of the security zones. BIA staff has been briefed by representatives of the Integrated Security Unit/Toronto Police Services as well as attending various other meetings concerned with the G20 Summit.

What we know today could change tomorrow but the essentials will remain the same.

The summit will be held at the Metro Convention Centre June 25, 26, 27. Media and delegations will be arriving Toronto any time up to 14 days before the summit, and Friday June 25 will see the bulk of G20 leaders arriving in Toronto. We can all expect traffic and transit disruptions as motorcades travel from Pearson Airport to the downtown. Saturday June 26 will be devoted entirely to summit business and will wrap up Sunday June 27. Summit organizers assure us TTC and Go Transit service will run as scheduled and Union Station,

the Gardiner Expressway and Lakeshore will remain open, subject to motorcade interruptions.

For security reasons two "zones" (details of which will be released closer to the date of the summit) will be created. The larger zone will be managed by the Toronto Police Service (TPS). This zone will be created about two weeks out from the summit date and will take approximately one week to dismantle.

TPS will be contacting those who live and/or work in this zone to offer a voluntary registration. Registration will ease access to this zone and TPS will make every effort to maintain pedestrian and vehicular traffic in this area until, and unless, a significant security issue arises.

A smaller, more restricted zone around the G20 conference site will be open only to those with accreditation, a process that

involves security and background checks and which is not voluntary.

Of most interest to DYBIA members are the suspected impacts beyond these two zones. While Trinity-Bellwoods Park is the current site for organized protest and demonstrations, there are no guarantees all such activity will be nicely confined to "official" protest locations. Unfortunately, there is no way of knowing what will happen, if it does, or where.

The DYBIA is holding a briefing for members on May 17 at 2:30 at the Marriott Toronto Eaton Centre, 525 Bay Street, in the Carlton Room. Members of the ISU (integrated security unit) will bring us up to date and answer, where ever possible, your questions.

To RSVP for this meeting please contact Joe MacDonald, Partnerships & Public Affairs Manager at [jmacdonald@downtownyonge.com](mailto:jmacdonald@downtownyonge.com).

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Follow these links to connect directly with the Downtown Yonge BIA!

Mobile Yonge:

<http://www.downtownyonge.com/MobileYonge>

Transit Scorecards:

<http://downtownyonge.com/node/3512>

Yonge Buzz:

<http://downtownyonge.com/yongebuzz>

Partnership Bulletin:

<http://downtownyonge.com/partnership/bulletin>

Press Releases:

[http://downtownyonge.com/Press\\_releases\\_list](http://downtownyonge.com/Press_releases_list)