



**TORONTO  
FINANCIAL  
DISTRICT**



**ST. LAWRENCE MARKET  
NEIGHBOURHOOD BIA**

**DOWNTOWN**



# **2017 OBIAA AWARD APPLICATION**

Collaborative Planning on Richmond Street Improvements

# Collaborative Planning on Richmond Street Improvements

## WORKING TOGETHER

Since 2013, the Toronto Financial District BIA, Downtown Yonge BIA and St. Lawrence Market BIA have been working collaboratively with the City of Toronto on improvements to Richmond Street between York and Church Streets. Recognizing the opportunity to leverage a scheduled water main and TTC track replacement spanning all three neighbourhoods, the **BIA's came together under the guidance of the City to develop a cohesive vision and design to be rolled out through the entirety of the project.**



Funding provided from budgets of three Toronto BIAs and the City of Toronto through a combined cost-share application model.

# Collaborative Planning on Richmond Street Improvements



## MANAGING BIA BOUNDARIES

While BIAs have clearly defined assessment boundaries, the public doesn't always see these borders translated to the public realm. This project recognizes this and implements a consistent public experience that will serve to unify the three neighbourhoods while still allowing for opportunities for distinct branding. It is the goal that as future capital improvements are scheduled to the east and west that these standards will be rolled out further into adjacent neighbourhoods.



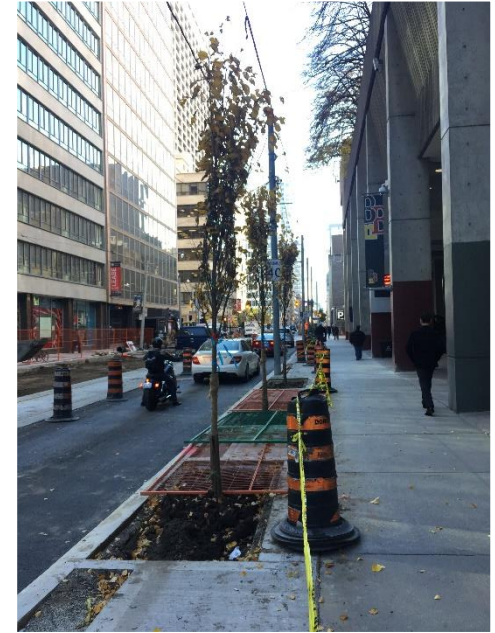
# Collaborative Planning on Richmond Street Improvements

## TEAMWORK TOWARD AN IMPROVED PUBLIC REALM

2016 improvements included new sidewalks with pavers and tactical surfaces, removal of raised concrete planters and installation of in ground trees with larger soil volume, tree grates and guards. Second phase of work will see branded banners, pole wraps and landscaped planters installed in the cycle tracks.



BEFORE



UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION

# Collaborative Planning on Richmond Street Improvements

## CONTINUING TO WORK TOGETHER

These types of collaborations are still unique amongst BIA capital cost share projects, and this project has laid a strong foundation future cross boundary improvements.

2017 will see completion of current planning along Richmond Street and further collaborations are already being discussed.



PROJECT RENDERING  
(on completion in 2017)

# Collaborative Planning on Richmond Street Improvements

## INNOVATION

- First time downtown Toronto BIAs collaborate on cost-sharing across boundaries with the City of Toronto while fulfilling their own public realm vision or the area.
- By placing trees in ground as a result of removing concrete planters will provide increased soil volumes for better tree-planting conditions and stormwater management.

## REPLICATION

- Easily replicable standard across Richmond Street for future projects within three current BIAs and other neighbouring areas.
- Any BIAs located in Toronto or any city that have overlapping or adjacent boundaries can now use this model as a best practice.

## REPRESENTATION

- Fully representative in that all BIA neighbourhoods involved were able to utilize their own member consultations and learnings from master planning exercises toward a design that suited all three neighbourhoods needs and requirements at once.

## IMPACT AND OUTCOME

- Consistent streetscape design and public experience across three BIA jurisdictions while maintaining unique public realm standards of each neighbourhood.