

May 04 BIA Call Notes

John Kiru
Councillor Bradford
Tobiah Abramson, CafeTO
Jodi Callan, CafeTO
Mike Major, BIA Office

John Kiru acknowledged the land we are meeting on today.

Councillor Bradford Update:

The Councillor reported on the following items:

- Increase in vaccination supply and vaccination rollout.
- Toronto Music Advisory Committee (TMAC). Councillor Bradford new Chair of that committee.
- TMAC sent letter to Province asking for further clarity on capacity limits, distancing measures, and workplace safety measures.
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ma/bgrd/backgroundfile-166527.pdf>
- Options for businesses looking to vaccinate staff. Businesses can put in a request to the Province for an onsite clinic if located in a hotspot. Email covid19taskforce@ontario.ca or visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-help-businesses-ontario#onsite-vaccination-clinic>.

John Kiru: Businesses need a heads up on whether the stay-at-home order will be lifted.

Councillor Bradford: The Mayor's office speaks with the Province daily. I can mention that point to them.

Tobiah Abramson, CafeTO Update:

CafeTO has not heard any updates prohibiting moving forward with planned installation schedule.

Decision was made last Friday to incorporate all second-round registrants into phase one installations. Around 54 restaurants total.

Many BIAs should have received traffic plans by now. CafeTO understands the urgency on getting those plans out as soon as possible. Those who have not received a plan will receive soon. Four BIAs have had ramps installed. A full-scale installation will begin this Saturday. CafeTO will reach out to confirm installation times.

St. Lawrence Market BIA: Concern on the gaps between patios. Hearing from neighbouring BIAs that we must have one between every patio resulting in loss of valuable patio space.

Tobiah Abramson: Specific ask from BIAs to delineate space for each restaurant. Preferable to have specific space for a restaurant. If we went on only 12m breaks, several restaurants who will have space in several closure areas.

The Junction BIA: Can operators begin constructing fences once closure is installed?

Tobiah Abramson: CafeTO will leave that up to operators and BIAs to determine if construction is in contradiction of the Province's reopening act.

Little Portugal on Dundas BIA: Clarity on 1.8m gap between restaurants. The request was if there is a situation between operators, CafeTO would step in to assist the BIA.

Tobiah Abramson: CafeTO has given specific instructions to IBI. Changing that will take significant time and could delay the installation. It would be on the BIA to manage the relationship of neighbouring restaurants operating in the curb lane.

Jodi Callan: Important and beneficial for all to understand the context in which we made this decision. Rooted in existing Chapter 742 regulations and result of significant consultation for several years. Need to have this gap and it has been included in guidelines from the very start and spoken to early in the process.

Significant program enhancements were made in 2021. Cafe operators, and BIAs wanted temporary platforms and linear fencing. Doing that increases the likelihood of long stretches of inaccessible curb lane closures. The gap noted in Chapter 742 is to protect those who choose to cross the street mid-block. Mid-block crossing is not something we encourage but we must plan for the reality if people do choose to make unsafe crossings. CafeTO is not able to compromise on those two issues.

Wording from Chapter 742: "Provide access between adjacent curbside cafes or parklets for pedestrians from the street to the property line that is unobstructed and at least 1.8 m in width"

GreekTown on the Danforth BIA: Will CafeTO do friendly tows for vehicles in the way of installations?

Tobiah Abramson: Installation team is working with permits team to look into that.

Riverside BIA: If a given patio/business closure is larger than 12m. There would be a gap and the same patio would continue?

Tobiah Abramson: Correct. Gap would be in the middle.

Mirvish Village BIA: timeline for parkette furniture?

Tobiah Abramson: Will be delivered once stay-at-home order is lifted.

Mike Major, BIA Office Update:

Transportation Services has a responsibility for public safety as well as responding to the economic crisis. Important to keep in mind.

City is moving forward on the small business tax subclass. Revenue Services has identified several options on how this may be implemented. Waiting on Provincial regulation. Next step will be to present options to an expert panel (not the city), and consultation with the business community including BIAs.

BIA Office is still exploring the expansion of the Façade Improvement Program to provide funding for improvements inside of buildings to not only meet new public health standards that may arise but attract new tenants.

Leslieville BIA: We are required to obtain three quotes again for same project, same vendor. Can we use our established relationship as reasoning?

Mike Major: Depends on value of contract. Suggest you have a rationale in place for using same vendor and disclose that to the board. In future contracts, the BIA could include the option to renew annually for a period of three years for example and put out to market after that.

New Business:

Discussion held on what can be done with respect required gaps in CafeTO closures. Many businesses feel these gaps will only shrink their patio space.

TABIA to support group of BIAs in letter submission to Mayor Tory asking for flexibility on the gaps.

The 1.8-metre gap between patios CafeTO requirement has been changed since circulation of meeting notes.

TABIA AGM to be held via Zoom on Monday, May 31 at 6:00pm. Registration details to come soon.