

# City of Toronto's Coordinated Street Furniture Program

*Designing streets that serve Toronto's diverse communities*

Interest Group Engagement  
February 2026



# Purpose/Presentation Overview

## Purpose

- City staff are engaging with external groups to gather insights that will inform the future of the Street Furniture Program. Our goal is to understand diverse perspectives to better inform future program improvements
  - **TABIA** identified key discussion priorities including accessibility, equity, road safety, and urban design excellence
  - Understanding the unique street furniture needs from a BIA perspective

## Overview

- Background of Coordinated Street Furniture (CSF) Program
- Lessons learned
- Considerations for a future agreement
- Discussion questions
- Next steps

We encourage comments and questions throughout the presentation!

# Toronto Streets, Pre 2007



## Common Feedback:

- No consistency in design or materials
- Visual clutter
- Advertising on all assets, superseded functionality
- Obstructed pedestrian clearways
- Elements were neither durable nor well maintained

# 2007-2027 Program Overview

- The **Coordinated Street Furniture (CSF) Program** aimed to provide a cohesive, flexible, durable and functional high quality, aesthetic design standard for elements within the street allowance
- Program objectives included:
  - Reduce physical and visual clutter
  - Integrate accessibility and safety considerations in the design and placement of Street Furniture
  - Ensure economic viability by requiring appropriate levels of maintenance obligations and enhancing City revenue streams
- In 2007, the City of Toronto entered into **a 20-year agreement with Astral Media** for the supply, manufacturing, installation and maintenance of 25,000 Street Furniture elements
  - Largest Street Furniture program in North America
- The agreement provides Astral with **advertising exclusivity** in the right-of-way
  - Advertising on ~15% of assets (transit shelters and information pillars)

# Benefits of the Agreement

- \$945M public-private partnership
  - \$200M in capital construction of street furniture
  - \$300M in maintenance and repair costs
  - \$445M cash revenue to the City
- 25,000 new pieces of furniture
- A unique-to Toronto design across the City
- More amenities for pedestrians
- Reduced amount of advertising
- Free public service advertising space for the City and BIAs



# Street Furniture Revenue Supports City Initiatives

\$445M cash revenue from the Street Furniture Agreement supports the following programs:



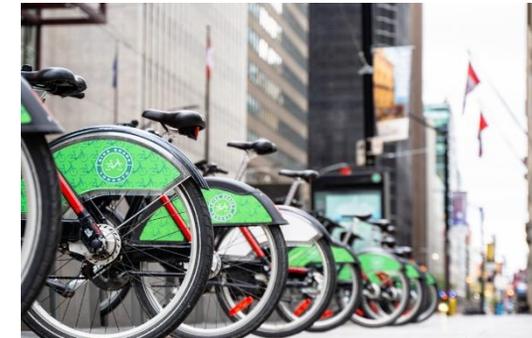
City Bike Ring Program



TO360 Wayfinding Program



Street Sweeper Equipment and Operators



Expansion of Bike Share Toronto (150 stations)



Neighbourhood Improvements



Graffiti Management Plan and StreetARToronto

And more:

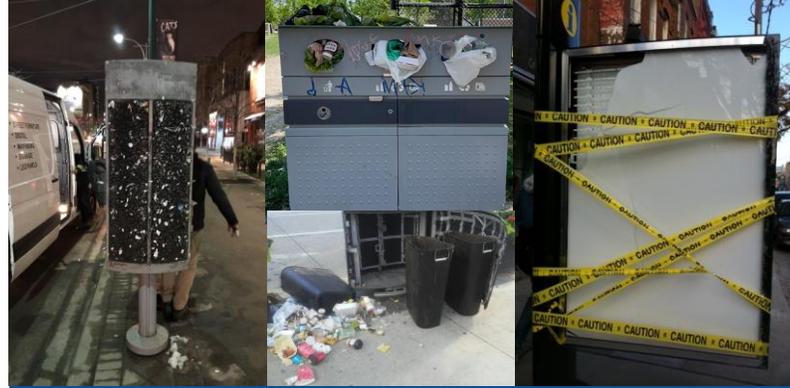
- Green Streets Infrastructure Maintenance
- Other Beautiful City initiatives (ex. Orphaned Spaces program)
- City staff resources to manage program
- Funding Bike Share Deficits (2013-2018)
- Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization
- Scholarships and Summer Student funding

# Lessons Learned

The Agreement and our operations have adapted in response to trends, innovations, and challenges



On-street bin design changes



Operations, maintenance and cleanliness of elements



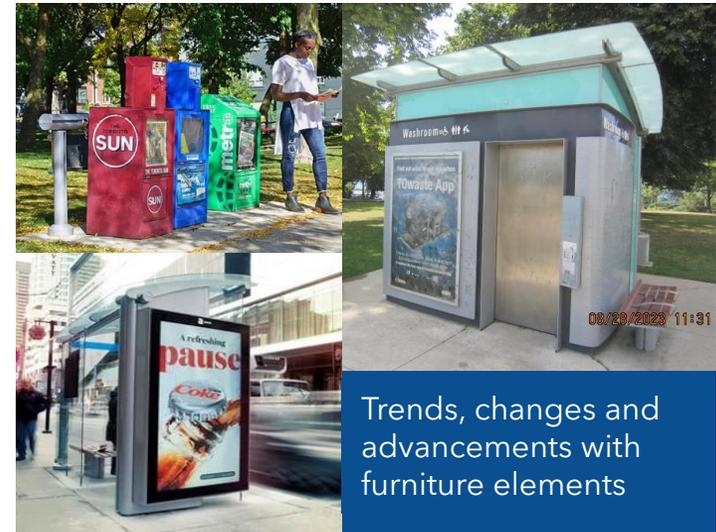
Bus shelter design and function



Program coverage, convenience and consistency



Third party advertising, revenues and public service announcements



Trends, changes and advancements with furniture elements

# Approaching 2027

- City staff are studying **industry changes** that could be adopted into the future SF Program, including:
  - Preference for digital infrastructure and advertising
  - New street furniture forms and functionalities
  - Best practices for integrating street furniture into street design projects
- As we approach **August 31, 2027**, the City has a generational opportunity to reimagine how Street Furniture can be reflective of and responsive to community needs and City goals, with special considerations towards
  - Accessibility
  - Road safety
  - Urban design excellence
  - Innovation
  - Sustainability
  - Equity
  - Placemaking
  - Economic Viability

# Considerations<sup>(1/3)</sup>

## Accessibility

- Minimizing barriers in the right of way, and ensuring **inclusive designs** and access for all
  - Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines

## Road Safety

- Designing and positioning Street Furniture to avoid **obstructing sightlines** for road users and considering **safety features**, such as lighting
  - Toronto's Vision Zero Safety Plan

# Considerations<sub>(2/3)</sub>

## Urban Design Excellence

- Focuses on the **visual aesthetics** of Street Furniture elements, aligning design with the character of Toronto
  - What cities should Toronto learn from?
  - Toronto's Beautiful City Initiative

## Innovation

- Considers the integration of **digital and data-enabled technologies** into Street Furniture to enhance functionality and user experience
  - Ensuring best practices and rigorous standards for digital privacy

## Sustainability

- Ensures that the design, materials, and lifecycle of Street Furniture **minimize environmental impacts** and contribute to TransformTO goals
  - Designs that mitigate the effects of climate change, including extreme heat and Urban Heat Islands

# Considerations<sup>(3/3)</sup>

## Equity

- Refers to how the City allocates Street Furniture assets across Toronto communities to **ensure fair and inclusive access** for all residents
  - Develop a prioritization matrix where equity, among other factors, will help determine which locations receive updated amenities

## Placemaking

- Supports the creation of vibrant public spaces that **foster community gathering** and reflect Toronto's diverse cultural identities
  - Leverage StreetARToronto program to have SF be a canvas for local artists, celebrating the creativity of Indigenous, Black, and other equity-deserving communities
  - Ensure the development of Complete Streets, where SF is thoughtfully placed alongside other pedestrian-level amenities

## Economic Viability

- Continue to position the CSF Program to advance the City's economic objectives
  - Support **revenue growth** and investment in City services, programs and initiatives
  - Considers policy/operational changes to increase the program's long-term economic viability

# Discussion Questions

## Equity

- How do you see SF contributing to equitable and inclusive public spaces?
- What criteria should the City prioritize when deciding where to place new SF elements to promote equity?

## Accessibility

- What accessibility barriers currently exist in the design or placement of SF? Should there be changes to the placement of SF within the right-of-way to increase safe navigation?
- Are there specific elements of SF (e.g., armrests, tactile surfaces, audio cues) that should be prioritized in design?

## Road Safety

- What design changes can be made to SF (e.g., lighting, reflective materials) to contribute to safer public spaces for road users?
- How do we balance the need for SF with maintaining safe clear and safe pathways for road users?

## Urban Design Excellence

- How can SF be designed to support multiple uses (e.g., rest, shelter, wayfinding, community gathering)?
- What design elements can make SF more visually appealing and complement Toronto's character?
- Are there examples of design excellence in other municipalities that the City should consider?

## Placemaking

- What components of SF can promote creative placemaking and encourage community interaction?
- How can SF help celebrate the sociocultural diversity of Toronto?

## Sustainability

- What materials should the City prioritize in SF to reduce environmental impact?
- How can SF be designed for durability and easy maintenance to extend its lifecycle?

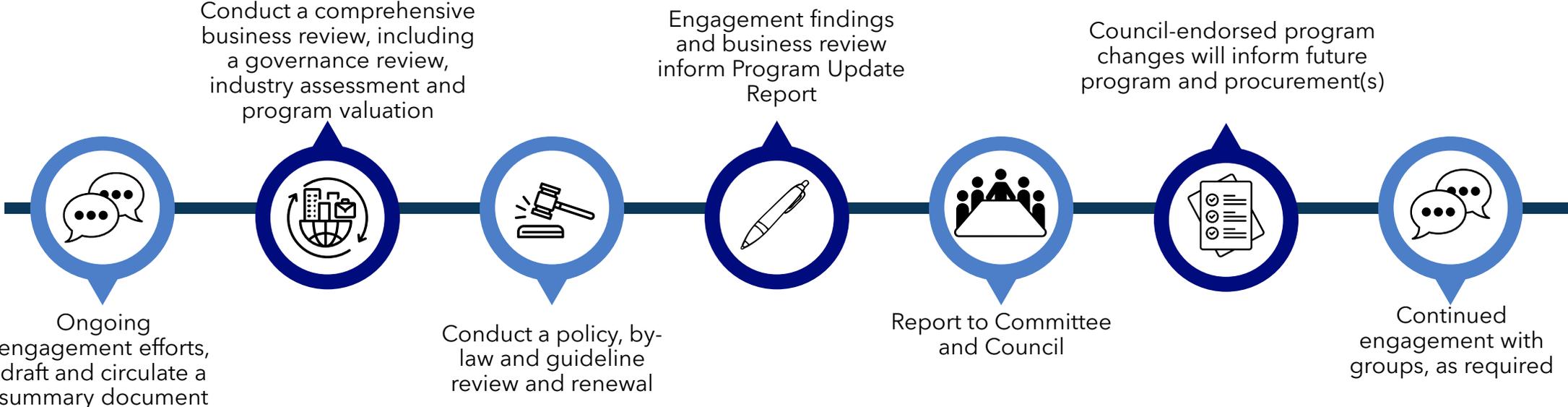
## Innovation

- What digital or data-enabled features could enhance the functionality of SF? (e.g., Wi-Fi, sensors)?
- Are there examples of innovative technology use in SF in other municipalities that the City should consider?

## Economic Viability

- How can the program adapt to emerging trends in advertising and technology to remain economically viable?
- What innovative business models or partnerships do you think the City should explore?

# Immediate Next Steps



**Thank you so much for sharing your insights with us!**