



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**2007 Steelback Grand Prix of Toronto Race – Temporary
Traffic and Parking Regulations**

Date:	May 14, 2007
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Trinity-Spadina, Wards 19 and 20
Reference Number:	ts07127te.top.doc

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain authority to amend certain traffic and parking regulations required in connection with the 2007 Steelback Grand Prix of Toronto race at Exhibition Place from July 6 to 8, 2007 (and July 9, 2007, if required.)

The 2007 Steelback Grand Prix of Toronto race will use the same format as in previous years. In the event of a delay or cancellation of the Sunday event, the race will be held on Monday, July 9, 2007. Reports by staff of the municipal agencies, the Toronto Police Services and others indicate that previous races held annually since 1986 have been managed in a highly professional manner and have resulted in few public complaints. Transportation Services will again activate the telephone answering “hot line” service to receive current problems or complaints regarding the event. The “hot line” has been successfully tested from the 2001 through the 2006 event seasons, enabling staff to deal with complaints immediately for the greatest customer satisfaction. The 2007 race plans have been carefully reviewed and staff are satisfied that the race can be accommodated with minimum public disruption. The main focus of the plan is to encourage race patrons to rely on public transit for travel to and from race events.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council approve:

1. that stopping be prohibited from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from July 6 to 8, 2007 inclusive, on both sides of Fleet Street, from Bathurst Street to Strachan Avenue, and on both sides of Strachan Avenue, from Lake Shore Boulevard West to King Street West, and be extended to include July 9, 2007, if necessary.

2. that a taxicab stand for ten taxis be established in the eastbound curb lane on the south side of Lake Shore Boulevard West, between a point 30 metres east of Strachan Avenue and a point 30 metres west of Fort York Boulevard, from July 6 to 8, 2007 inclusive, and be extended to include July 9, 2007, if necessary.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with this event will be borne by the applicant, Grand Prix Association of Toronto.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council at its meeting of April 12, 13 and 14, 2005, adopted Clause No. 59 of Report No. 3 of the Toronto and East York Community Council and ratified an agreement between the City of Toronto, Molson Sports & Entertainment Inc., Molson Breweries of Canada Limited and Molson Canada to permit the annual Molson Indy race at Exhibition Place in 2005, 2006 and 2007, granting authority to the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services (later transferred to the General Manager of Transportation Services) of the City of Toronto to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic any highway or portion of highway for such period as required for the purposes of the 2005, 2006 and 2007 Molson Indy automobile race.

City Council, at its meeting of October 26, 27, 28 and 31, 2005 adopted Motion J(23), which recommended that Council consent to the assignment of the agreements to Champ Car World Series LLP, the sanctioning body and creator of the racing series of which the Molson Indy was a part. Champ Car formed a new Canadian entity known as "Grand Prix Association of Toronto, which assumed the agreements to undertake the race in 2006 and 2007.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Grand Prix of Toronto Race is a popular annual world-class racing event and tourist attraction. The 2007 event involves six races featuring more than 180 race cars and drivers from more than 10 countries.

COMMENTS

This year's event is scheduled for July 6, 7 and 8, 2007 (to be extended to July 9th, if required) with a new title sponsor, Steelback Brewery, and a peak attendance estimated at 75,000. The documentation which has been submitted addresses the obligations of the Grand Prix Association of Toronto related to such aspects as transportation plan, noise attenuation, community liaison, emergency services and clean-up, among other things. The community consultation process, which was established through a Community Liaison Committee comprised of area residents and associations, has been continued as in previous years.

In accordance with the agreement, the Grand Prix Association of Toronto is required to submit certain documentation on or before February 1st each year to address in detail their

obligations related to the staging of the race. The elements specifically set out in the agreement:

- attendance
- traffic, transit and parking
- noise
- community liaison
- operating plan and safety
- law enforcement
- set-up/clean-up
- emergency planning, and
- costs, insurance, liability

Staff have held discussions related to the transportation plan and will continue to liaise with representatives of the Grand Prix Association of Toronto, the Toronto Transit Commission, GO Transit, Exhibition Place, and the Emergency Services, as required, to ensure all of the transportation elements of this event are carried out in a comprehensive manner. The plan will again be ‘transit oriented’, with augmented TTC and GO Transit services and stringent controls on illegal parking in abutting neighbourhoods. In terms of community liaison, a meeting held after the 2006 race revealed no significant problems with last year’s operation.

Temporary Amendments to Traffic and Parking Regulations

The above-noted regulatory changes to prohibit stopping on certain City streets during the event are routinely applied in conjunction with this event. As they did last year, the changes reflect an extension of the regulations to 8:00 p.m., and an extension in the area to which the prohibition applies on Strachan Avenue, from Ordnance Street to King Street West, in an effort to minimize post-race congestion and ensure a safe operating area.

To further facilitate traffic movement and minimize event and post-race congestion on Strachan Avenue, Transportation staff previously held discussions with the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Transit Commission regarding Recommendation No. 2. All agencies previously agreed that the introduction of a temporary taxicab stand in the eastbound curb lane of Lake Shore Boulevard West, between a point 30 metres east of Strachan Avenue and a point 30 metres west of Fort York Boulevard, will assist in alleviating traffic congestion at the intersection of Strachan Avenue and Fleet Street.

Road Closure(s):

City Council has delegated authority for the temporary closings required to accommodate the race in 2005, 2006 and 2007 to the General Manager, Transportation Services.

During the first week of June 2007, work crews under contract to the event sponsor, supervised by Transportation Services staff, will install the bulk of the barrier wall system needed for the Steelback Grand prix race. No work will take place during the peak commuter periods or during Ontario Place and Exhibition peak periods. The

installation procedure only requires limited lane restrictions for short periods of time. Once installed, there will be little adverse impact on Lake Shore Boulevard West traffic operations. The sections of barrier wall that tend to restrict normal traffic operation will not be installed until the major road closures commence. At 9:00 p.m., Thursday, July 5, 2007, subject to traffic conditions, Lake Shore Boulevard West, between Strachan Avenue and Ontario Drive, will be closed to allow completion of the barrier system installation and use of the roadway for the event. Based on previous years' experience, it is proposed to re-open this portion of Lake Shore Boulevard West as soon as practicable after the final race, but not later than midnight, Sunday, July 8, 2007 (Monday, July 9, 2007 in the event Sunday event is cancelled.) This year, Strachan Avenue will be closed between Fleet Street and Lake Shore Boulevard West, to provide emergency access for Grand Prix staff.

Access to the closed portions of Lake Shore Boulevard West will be restricted to persons accessing Ontario Place, local traffic, emergency vehicles, Transportation Services vehicles and public transit vehicles. Police officers, assisted by Transportation Services staff and equipment, will control the use of all restricted areas.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Drawing No. 421F-8813, dated May 2007