



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**

**F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway  
Closure - Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario - 2008,  
2009 and 2010 “Ride for Heart” Event**

<b>Date:</b>	January 22, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Transportation Services
<b>Wards:</b>	Various Wards
<b>Reference Number:</b>	pw08017te.row

**SUMMARY**

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This report is to seek City Council’s authority to close the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario’s "Ride for Heart" event for 2008, 2009 and 2010.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**Transportation Services recommends that City Council:**

1. approve the closure of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway, from the Humber River to the Don Valley Parkway, including all ramps, and the Don Valley Parkway, from the F.G. Gardiner Expressway to York Mills Road, including all ramps, on the Sundays of, June 1, 2008, June 7, 2009 and June 6, 2010 from 2:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for the 2008, 2009 and 2010 “Ride for Heart” event; and
2. prohibit other road closures due to events or film permits on arterial roads bounded by Highway No. 401, Warden Avenue, the Lake, Humber River, Queen Street/The Queensway, and Yonge Street, which will be required to accommodate overflow traffic from the expressway closures on the day of the 2008, 2009 and 2010 “Ride for Heart” event.

**Financial Impact**

The event organizers will be responsible for the costs associated with the 2008, 2009 and 2010 “Ride for Heart” event. There are no direct financial implications to the City.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Transportation Services is in receipt of a communication (dated November 5, 2007) from Mr. Peter Hart of Hart Productions International, on behalf of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, for the 2008, 2009 and 2010 “Ride for Heart” to be held on June 1, 2008, June 7, 2009 and June 6, 2010, from 2:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The applicant is requesting the same closures as 2007.

Closure of the expressways for such an event requires specific Council approval.

## **COMMENTS**

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario “Ride for Heart” is held annually to raise money for Heart and Stroke research. In the past, portions of Lake Shore Boulevard, F.G. Gardiner Expressway, and all of the Don Valley Parkway have been closed. This is the 21st consecutive year that the event is being staged and it is expected to be the largest to date, involving some 12,500 cyclists, and 1,500 in-line skaters who are expected to raise an estimated \$1,500,000.00 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

City Council, at its meeting of February 1, 2 and 3, 2005, adopted, as amended, the report entitled F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway Closure – Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario “2005, 2006 and 2007 Ride for Heart” (Clause 6 of Works Committee Report 2). The amendment reflected a change of the expressways reopening time from previous years, from 4:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. With the coordinated efforts of the event organizer, Toronto Police Services and Transportation Services, the safest and earliest possible reopening of all the expressways was achieved by 2:00 p.m. in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

The route for the 2007 “Ride for Heart” resulted in the closure of:

1. F.G. Gardiner Expressway (both directions) from the Humber River to the Don Valley Parkway;
2. the Don Valley Parkway (both directions), from the F.G. Gardiner Expressway to York Mills Road; and
3. the westbound north curb lane of Lake Shore Boulevard from Ontario Drive to Jameson Avenue.

The proposed route and times for the 2008, 2009 and 2010 “Ride for Heart” will remain the same as 2007.

The advantages of/benefits to using the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Exhibition Place for this event and maintaining Lake Shore Boulevard open in 2007 ensured that all downtown venues had unobstructed accessibility. The use of the expressways will again provide access/egress to Exhibition Place (hosts of the event) and Ontario Place.

Vehicles travelling eastbound on the F.G. Gardiner Expressway will be diverted to Lake Shore Boulevard near the Humber River and continue eastbound unobstructed through the entire event area, once again dramatically reducing traffic congestion.

The proposal has TTC's approval and will again permit all bus and streetcar routes to be unaffected.

The applicant has agreed to, and is responsible for, extensive public notification and the costs associated with the installation and removal of advance and event day traffic signage, barricades, security and policing services as deemed necessary by the General Manager of Transportation Services. Increased advance advisory signage in 2005, 2006 and 2007 made a significant difference in the reduction of complaints on the day of the event. Additionally, Transportation Services will activate the telephone answering "hot line" service to receive suggestions or complaints regarding this event. The "hot line" has been successfully tested throughout the 2005, 2006 and 2007 event seasons enabling staff to deal with complaints immediately for the greatest customer satisfaction.

Furthermore, in order to avoid further congestion, staff will make every effort to withhold the issuance of any further permits on the days of the 2008, 2009 and 2010 "Ride for Heart".

A copy of the "Ride for Heart" event route map for 2008, 2009 and 2010 is shown on Appendix 'A'.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Gary Welsh, P.Eng.  
General Manager, Transportation Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix 'A' - 2008, 2009 and 2010 "Ride for Heart" Route Map

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