



# STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

## Temporary Road Closure – Simcoe Street

<b>Date:</b>	June 16, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
<b>Wards:</b>	Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20
<b>Reference Number:</b>	Ts08114te.top.doc

### SUMMARY

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This staff report is about a matter for which the Toronto and East York Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

To accommodate special “red-carpet” events at Roy Thomson Hall during the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), organizers are requesting the closure of the two most westerly lanes of Simcoe Street, between King Street West and Wellington Street West during the period from September 3 to 13, 2008.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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**Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council approve the following actions:**

1. Close the westerly curb lane and centre lane of Simcoe Street, to vehicular traffic, from King Street West to Wellington Street West for the period from September 3 to September 13, 2008, inclusive.

### Financial Impact

Approval of this closure has no financial impact on the City. The Toronto Film Festival organizers are responsible for the costs of barricading the street, erection of signs and off-duty police officers to control traffic access to the enclosed area.

### ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Toronto Film and Television Office and Councillor Adam Vaughan have requested Transportation Services to consider closing Simcoe Street, from King Street West to Wellington Street West in its entirety during the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival to accommodate “red-carpet” activities at Roy Thomson Hall.

Chapter 937-3 of the Municipal Code authorizes staff to temporarily close to vehicular traffic any road or portion of a road for a period of not more than four consecutive days for social, recreational, community, athletic or cinematographic purposes. This closure will be in effect for 10 days and needs Toronto and East York Community Council's approval.

## **COMMENTS**

### **Road characteristics**

Simcoe Street is a 3-lane collector road operating one-way southbound on a pavement width of about 10.4 metres. Roy Thomson Hall occupies the entire west side of the street, between King Street West and Wellington Street West. The east side of the street is a mixture of religious, residential and commercial properties. Parking, standing, and/or stopping are prohibited at all times on both sides of the street. Premises No. 71 to 73 Simcoe Street is a high-rise senior citizens residence (St. Andrew's Centre). Pedestrian entry to this building is from Simcoe Street, where wheelchair ramps for disabled persons are provided.

Immediately south of Nos. 71-73 Simcoe Street is the entrance/exit ramp for a commercial parking garage (Canada Auto Parks) located under No. 180 Wellington Street West.

### **Investigation**

Full closure of Simcoe Street as requested denies access to the entrance of St. Andrew's Centre by Wheeltrans buses, ambulances transporting residents for medical appointments and other vehicles picking up/dropping off residents at Nos. 71-73 Simcoe Street. Staff has observed this activity occurring on a regular basis over the course of a day. Full closure of Simcoe Street for 10 days would place significant hardship on the operation of the parking garage under No. 180 Wellington Street West, since there is no other ingress/egress for this garage. Based on the impact to residents and business operations, full closure of all lanes of Simcoe Street, between King Street West and Wellington Street West on a continuous basis for a 10-day period would be quite problematic.

### **Alternatives**

Recognizing the value of the Toronto International Film Festival to the cultural and social fabric of the City, staff in consultation with the Toronto Film and Television Office and TIFF organizers investigated alternative options to full closure. Transportation Services proposed the following two options as feasible.

## OPTION 1

- Full closure of the most westerly two lanes of Simcoe Street, between King Street West and Wellington Street West. This will maintain the most easterly lane of Simcoe Street for locally generated traffic throughout the closure period. Off-duty police officers employed by TIFF organizers would monitor vehicular access at King Street West and at Wellington Street West, on a daily basis between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. to ensure only vehicles generated by the seniors building and the parking garage are allowed access to the block.

## OPTION 2

- A full closure of all lanes of Simcoe Street would be allowed, from King Street West to a point about 65 metres north of Wellington Street West and full closure of the most westerly curb lane of Simcoe Street all the way to Wellington Street West. The most easterly curb lane of Simcoe Street would be maintained from Wellington Street to the front of No. 71 Simcoe Street and the centre lane would be maintained to the entrance of the parking garage. Temporary two-way traffic operation would be allowed on the southerly section of the street. TIFF organizers would be responsible for all costs involved to adjust directional signage and modify the pavement markings on the southerly section of Simcoe Street prior to the closure and following the closure to reinstate normal traffic operation.

## Resolution

Transportation Services has been advised that Option 1 (shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421F-9332, dated June 2008) is preferred by the Toronto International Film Festival organizers.

## CONTACT

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## SIGNATURE

Andrew Koropeski, P.Eng  
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## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Drawing No. 421F-9332, dated June, 2008