



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### **Pedestrian Zone Pilot Projects – Gould Street, Victoria Street, Willcocks Street and Devonshire Place – City Council**

<b>Date:</b>	August 8, 2010
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District Director, Public Realm Section
<b>Wards:</b>	Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20 and Toronto Centre-Rosedale, Ward 27
<b>Reference Number:</b>	p:\2010\ClusterB\tra\pr\te10003pr

#### **SUMMARY**

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At its meeting on September 15, 2009, Toronto and East York Community Council directed Transportation Services to consult with Ryerson University and University of Toronto on the feasibility of closing streets to vehicular traffic to implement pedestrian zone pilot projects and to report back on the results of the pilot projects in the third quarter of 2010. For a variety of reasons including proposed water main and on-campus construction projects, the pedestrian zone pilot projects have been delayed.

This report is seeking authority from City Council to enter into a maintenance agreement with each of Ryerson University and the University of Toronto, which agreement will outline the roles and responsibilities of the City and the respective university.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize staff to enter into such agreement(s) with Ryerson University for the Pedestrian Zone Pilot Project on such terms and conditions generally as set out in Attachment 1 to the report dated August 8, 2010, from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District, and the Director, Public Realm Section, Transportation Services, and on such other terms and conditions as may be deemed appropriate by the General Manager of Transportation Services, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, and that

- the General Manager of Transportation Services be authorized to execute any such agreement(s) on behalf of the City.
2. City Council authorize staff to enter into such agreement(s) with the University of Toronto for the Pedestrian Zone Pilot Project on such terms and conditions generally as set out in Attachment 2 to the report dated August 8, 2010, from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District, and the Director, Public Realm Section, Transportation Services, and on such other terms and conditions as may be deemed appropriate by the General Manager of Transportation Services, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, and that the General Manager of Transportation Services be authorized to execute any such agreement(s) on behalf of the City.

### **Financial Impact**

All costs associated with the installation of the Pedestrian Zone Pilot Projects are included within the Transportation Services Division's Capital Budget in Account CTP 709-09. Maintenance costs associated with the pilot project(s) will be absorbed by the universities.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

City Council adopted the Toronto Walking Strategy at the May 25, 26, and 27, 2009 meeting. At this meeting, City Council directed the General Manager, Transportation Services, to work with Ryerson University and the University of Toronto to design and implement two pedestrian street projects by 2010.

At its meeting on September 15, 2009, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted by way of a motion Item TE27.59 and directed that, "The Director of Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District, consult with Ryerson University and the local Ward Councillor to review the feasibility of closing all or part of Gould Street between Yonge Street and Church Streets to vehicular traffic in order to implement a pedestrian zone pilot project, and report back on the results of the pilot project in the third quarter of 2010."

Toronto and East York Community Council also adopted Item TE27.166 on September 15, 2009 and directed "Transportation Services staff to consult with the University of Toronto, area residents and the local ward Councillor to review the feasibility of closing sections of Wilcox, Devonshire Place and St. George Streets to vehicular traffic in order to implement a pedestrian zone pilot project and report back on the results of the pilot project in the third quarter of 2010."

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND:**

Staff has consulted closely with representatives from Ryerson University and the University of Toronto on the proposed pedestrian zone pilot projects. Due to construction projects at both schools, as well as a Victoria Street water main project which was originally proposed to proceed in late spring/early summer on the Ryerson campus, it was mutually agreed that the pilot projects should be deferred until Frosh Week (late August/early September) in 2010 with a recommendation that they remain in place for

one year in order to properly assess the impacts of the pilot. This report seeks approval to enter into a maintenance agreement with each of Ryerson University and the University of Toronto, which agreement will outline the roles and responsibilities of the City and the respective university.

## **COMMENTS**

### **Pedestrian Zone Pilot Projects – Maintenance Agreement(s)**

As part of the Pedestrian Zone Pilot Projects, the City will supply chairs, tables and umbrellas which will be further supplemented by the universities. The universities have agreed to take responsibility for their set-up and removal, as well as to reimburse the City for losses over and above a to-be-determined threshold. Each of the pilot pedestrian zones will have free WiFi access provided by and at the cost of the universities. The pedestrian zones will also be delineated with special pavement treatments, prepared in consultation with the universities as to design and staging. The Willcocks Street Pedestrian Zone will be painted to a design satisfactory to both the City and the University of Toronto. The pavement painting will occur later in the pilot at Ryerson University once issues related to the closing of Gould Street between Yonge Street and O’Keefe Lane (as a result of the partial building collapse at 335 Gould Street), the staging of the Victoria Street water main construction, and the completion of the Image Arts building and its associated landscaping are resolved.

The universities will be responsible for maintaining the agreed-upon fire routes and ensuring that the conditions in the pedestrian zone are maintained to the satisfaction of Fire Services.

The universities will be responsible for the year-round maintenance of the pedestrian zone and will continue to remove litter and maintain garbage containers in the area. The universities will be required to obtain special events permits (and to satisfy such conditions as are required by the City) for such activities deemed beyond the scope of those normally permitted in a city park or a public space.

## **Conclusion**

The implementation of Pedestrian Zone Pilot Projects in locations with significant pedestrian activity, such as the busy downtown campuses of Ryerson University and the University of Toronto, is an important element identified in the City’s Walking Strategy. In partnership with the two universities, the pilot projects will create streets that are both destinations as well as travel routes. Maintenance of the pilot pedestrian zones will be the responsibility of the universities and an evaluation report will be prepared for Council’s consideration.

Staff from Corporate Finance – Insurance and Risk Management Section, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Services, Legal Services, Technical Services, Toronto Building, and Toronto Parking Authority has been consulted in the development of the pedestrian zones pilot projects. Legal Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Staff from Ryerson University and the University of Toronto, as well as representatives from Councillor Rae and Councillor Vaughan’s offices, the Downtown Yonge BIA and the University of Toronto Liaison Committee has also been consulted in the development of the pedestrian zones pilot project proposals.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Peter Noehammer  
Director, Transportation Services  
Toronto and East York District

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Elyse Parker  
Director, Public Realm Section  
Transportation Services

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 - Principles Underlying an Agreement Between City of Toronto and Ryerson University.
- Attachment 2 - Principles Underlying an Agreement Between City of Toronto and University of Toronto