



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Celebrate Yonge – Street Event

Date:	April 27, 2012
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto Centre-Rosedale - Ward 27
Reference Number:	Te2012042te.row

SUMMARY

This report is to seek authority to temporarily close two lanes of traffic on Yonge Street, between Gerrard Street East/West and Richmond Street East/West, from Friday August 17, 2012 to Sunday September 16, 2012 to facilitate the "Celebrate Yonge" street event hosted by the Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area (DYBIA) and amend the necessary traffic regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council approve the two lane closure on Yonge Street, between Gerrard Street East/West and Richmond Street East/West, from Friday August 17, 2012 to Sunday September 16, 2012 to facilitate the "Celebrate Yonge" street event;
2. City Council authorize the General Manager of Transportation Services to temporarily close a portion of a highway as required for the duration of the event and amend the necessary traffic regulations; and
3. City Council authorize and direct the appropriate City Officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the introduction in Council of any Bills that may be required.

Financial Impact

The event organizers will be responsible for the full costs associated with the "Celebrate Toronto" street event. There are no direct budgetary implications to the City.

BACKGROUND

The Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area in conjunction with the Ward Councillor, Kristyn Wong-Tam, Toronto Centre-Rosedale, Ward 27, would like to co-produce "Celebrate Yonge", a destination event scheduled for four weeks from Friday August 17, 2012 to Sunday September 16, 2012.

The event area is located on Yonge Street, which varies from the east side of the street to the west side of the street throughout the closure area, as shown on the proposed event map (Attachment 1). Reduced traffic lanes are required to accommodate pedestrians and patio extensions for the event. The proposed extensions into the roadway will reduce this portion of Yonge Street from four lanes of traffic to two lanes of traffic for the duration of the event. In addition, lane modifications are required on Yonge Street to accommodate traffic merging requirements.

COMMENTS

This event is scheduled from Friday August 17, 2012 to Sunday September 16, 2012 with participation from the abutting property owners. The Downtown Yonge BIA has developed a Traffic Management Plan, in consultation with City staff, which addresses traffic movement, signage and lane marking requirements. In addition, documentation submitted also addresses temporary loading/delivery zones, garbage collection points, street maintenance and emergency vehicle considerations.

The proposed pedestrian area, patio area and sidewalk extensions will be created by expanding the pedestrian zone on one side of the street into the two adjacent traffic lanes, with the remaining two lanes providing one lane of travel for cars in each direction. The side of Yonge Street in which the additional pedestrian space is proposed is determined based on traffic lane alignment requirements in conjunction with the needs of the BIA members.

The newly created zone will add approximately 5.0 metres of pedestrian space along Yonge Street within the roadway, which when added to the existing sidewalk width of approximately 3.0 metres will provide an overall pedestrian zone width of approximately 8.0 metres.

The pedestrian space located in the roadway will be vertically separated from the sidewalk by the curb. Pedestrians with accessibility devices such as wheelchairs will be able to access the patio extension areas from access points at the existing curb depressions located at the corner of the intersections. The pedestrian space will be separated from vehicles by the placement of a variety of planters with attractive seasonal plantings.

Staff has held discussions related to the Transportation Plan and will continue to liaise with representatives of the Downtown Yonge BIA, Toronto Transit Commission and

Emergency Services, as required, to ensure all of the transportation elements of this event are carried out in a comprehensive manner. In terms of community liaison, the Ward Councillor and BIA have held meetings with their members, Solid Waste Management, TTC and Transportations Services which have not revealed any significant problems with the proposed event.

The General Manager of Transportation Services requires the ability to authorize the temporary closing of two lanes of traffic for the duration of the event and amend the necessary traffic regulations to facilitate traffic movement.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Jacqueline White, P.Eng.,
Acting Director
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Toronto and East York District

ATTACHMENT

Celebrate Yonge – Road Closure Plan

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