



Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT: Extension of Delegated Authority for Temporary Allen Road Closures

Date: November 14, 2017

To: Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 15 - Eglinton-Lawrence, Ward 21 - St. Paul's

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee to extend until 2021 the previously granted delegation of authority to the General Manager, Transportation Services for approval the short-term, weekend closures of Allen Road for the purposes of construction of the Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT project.

The General Manager, Transportation Services was granted authority by City Council in July 2016 to temporarily close Allen Road entry and exit ramps up to 12 times for a maximum period of 4 consecutive days on each occasion, up to January 1, 2018, as requested by Metrolinx and its contactor Crosslinx Transit Solutions (CTS).

CTS has experienced significant delays in receiving utility and Ministry of Environment (MOE) permits to conduct the related works. Consequently, they have had to revise their construction staging schedule, and have not undertaken a single closure of either the on-ramp or off-ramp to date. Currently CTS does not plan to request a ramp closure until 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, to delegate to the General Manager, Transportation Services, from January 1, 2018 to and including January 1, 2022, the authority to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic the W.R. Allen Road, including its entry and exit roadway ramps, for a period of up to and including 4 consecutive days, up to and including 12 occasions as required for the purposes of construction of the Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT project.
2. City Council exempt the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out her authority under Part 1 above, from Section 937-5 of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, including the requirement to notify the local Ward Councillor of the pending closure and the requirement to report on the proposed closure if so requested by the local Ward Councillor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto associated with this report. Crosslinx Transit Solutions (CTS), the contractor for this Metrolinx project, is required to implement all recommendations as conditions of permit approval.

The Acting Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of July 12, 2016, City Council adopted item PW14.10 entitled Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT Corridor Long-Term Temporary Road Closures and Temporary Traffic Signal Approval. The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.PW14.10>

COMMENTS

Request for Extension

The General Manager, Transportation Services was granted authority by City Council in July 2016 to temporarily close Allen Road entry and exit ramps up to 12 times for a maximum period of 4 consecutive days on each occasion, up to January 1, 2018, as requested by Metrolinx and its contactor Crosslinx Transit Solutions (CTS).

Due to delays in obtaining different relocation permits from utilities and the Ministry of Environment, shoring and excavation of sections of Cedarvale Station have been

delayed and is scheduled to begin in Spring 2018. The requested extension of the authority to close the Allen Road is proposed until 2021 in order to accommodate additional unforeseen delays and changes to construction schedules.

The exact timing of the closures are dependent on the completion of works by third parties, and the general rate of progress on the Eglinton Crosstown LRT work. Given this, it is not possible to advise Council of the exact dates that these closures will be required and so delegated authority for the General Manager, Transportation Services, in consultation with affected Ward Councillors, is sought to enable the closures to take place when required.

Project Status

The construction of the Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT is a complex multi-year undertaking. Construction is now at a point that requires approval of the construction traffic management plans where various construction activities are taking place at all stations. Cedarvale Station is the proposed underground LRT station located at the intersection of Eglinton Avenue and the W.R. Allen Road.

The shoring and excavation at that station requires short-term weekend lane closures of Allen Road including its entry and exit roadway ramps. The shoring and excavation milestone at the underground LRT station cannot physically be achieved without the proposed closures. The exit and entry ramps within Allen Road will be realigned while remaining in operation during the station construction.

As utility work and station construction take place across the foot of Allen Road, on the westbound side of Eglinton Avenue, the roadway ramps to and from Allen Road will need to be crossed for storm sewer installation and realigned periodically to accommodate the station structures. In order to accomplish these works, there will be a need for a number of short-term closures of the ramps including closing the affected direction of Allen Road north of Eglinton Avenue.

The construction staging of the LRT Cedarvale Station, proposed and required by Crosslinx Transit Solutions, and the basic traffic management strategies associated with the closure of W.R. Allen Road, will be reviewed by the City of Toronto Transportation Services Division staff and Metrolinx. They will also be presented to TTC staff and to affected City Councillors during focused briefings. There will be opportunities to refine the closure dates and timelines as and when unforeseen issues arise over the multi-year duration of construction.

Councillor Engagement Process

The Rapid Transit Community Relations team at Metrolinx have developed and implemented a comprehensive communications program utilizing a variety of meeting techniques to keep City Councillors and their staff apprised of plans and developments related to the project. Since January of 2016, separate regularly-scheduled monthly Councillor and Stakeholder meetings have been facilitated across the corridor. The Metrolinx consultation strategy includes one-on-one briefings of Councillors to address specific milestone events and emerging issues. Community outreach and Business Improvement Area meetings, plus newly formed Construction Liaison Committee meetings, will continue to be scheduled throughout the long-term construction period to

provide information and address current concerns and issues as they arise. The broad construction traffic management strategies have been shared with the attendees at these meetings by way of presentations made by members of the Crosslinx Transit Solutions design team, Metrolinx and City staff.

Specific details of the station traffic management plans are discussed with the local Councillors as they are prepared and evolve. Metrolinx, CTS and City staff will continue to work with local Councillors to address these issues in a timely manner.

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SIGNATURE

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