

## **Vision Zero Pop-Up Demonstration in Beaches-East York**

**Date:** May 22, 2019

**To:** Toronto & East York Community Council

**From:** Director, Project Design and Management, Transportation Services

**Wards:** 19 (Beaches - East York)

### **SUMMARY**

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Transportation Services is requesting approval to temporarily close the curb lanes to motor vehicle traffic on Danforth Avenue between Woodbine Avenue and Woodmount Avenue from Thursday August 22, 2019 to Sunday August 24, 2019 to facilitate a Vision Zero Pop-Up Demonstration hosted by the non-profit organization 8 80 Cities, and amend the necessary traffic regulations.

The Vision Zero Pop-Up Demonstration is supported by the Danforth Mosaic Business Improvement Association (BIA), the Danforth East Community Association (DECA), and the local Councillor.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager of Transportation Services to temporarily close the curb lanes to motor vehicle traffic on Danforth Avenue, between Woodbine Avenue and Woodmount Avenue from Thursday August 22, 2019 to Sunday August 24, 2019, to facilitate the Vision Zero Pop-Up Demonstration, and to amend the necessary traffic regulations; and
2. City Council authorize and direct the appropriate City Officials to take the necessary action to give effect to the recommendations above, including the introduction of any Bills that may be required.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The organization hosting the event, 8 80 Cities, will be responsible for the full costs associated with the Vision Zero Pop-Up Demonstration. Where on-street parking is removed, the revenue impact to the Toronto Parking Authority would be recovered from the organizer. There are no direct financial impacts to the City.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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On March 19, 2019, Toronto & East York Community Council requested that Transportation Services report back to the May 22, 2019 Toronto & East York Community Council meeting with a report implementing a vision zero pop-up event for one weekend in July or August 2019 in line with what has been proposed by the non-profit organization 8 80 Cities on Danforth Avenue between Woodbine Avenue and Woodmount Avenue. As part of this decision, Community Council also requested that Economic Development & Culture, in conjunction with Transportation Services, convene a meeting of the BIAs on Danforth Avenue between Broadview Avenue and Victoria Park Avenue to discuss this initiative, the Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, and the upcoming Danforth Avenue Planning and Complete Streets Study:  
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.TE4.77>

## **COMMENTS**

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8 80 Cities is a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the quality of life for people in cities by bringing citizens together to enhance mobility and public space so that together we can create more vibrant, healthy, and equitable communities.

8 80 Cities has worked with community stakeholder including the Danforth Mosaic Business Improvement Association (BIA), the Danforth East Community Association (DECA), and the local Councillor to propose a reconfiguration of the street for one block, over one weekend, as means to demonstrate how a complete street design, that prioritizes safety for vulnerable road users along Danforth Avenue could look.

Toronto's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan (2017 - 2021) is a bold pledge to improve safety across our city using a data-driven and targeted approach, focusing on the locations where improvements are most needed. The City is committed to Vision Zero and its fundamental message: fatalities and serious injuries on our roads are preventable, and we must strive to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries to ZERO. As a community initiative, the Vision Zero Pop-Up in Beaches East York complements the City's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan.

As requested by Toronto & East York Community Council, Economic Development & Culture, in conjunction with Transportation Services and City Planning, convened a meeting of the BIAs on Danforth Avenue between Broadview Avenue and Victoria Park Avenue to discuss this initiative, the Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, and the upcoming Danforth Avenue Planning and Complete Streets Study. This meeting was held on May 1, 2019. The meeting was attended by Councillor Bradford and Councillor Fletcher as

well as representatives from four BIAs (The Danforth, Greektown on the Danforth, Danforth Mosaic, and Danforth Village). Meeting participants were supportive of the Vision Zero demonstration with details such as the date of the initiative to be resolved through this report.

The proposed design of the Vision Zero Pop-Up, as depicted in Attachment 1, proposes to temporarily narrow Danforth Avenue between Woodbine Avenue and Woodmount Avenue to two lanes of traffic (approximately 200 metres), providing one lane of travel for motor vehicles in each direction, and introducing bump-outs to reduce pedestrian crossing distances to enhance safety. As part of the design, the curb lanes are proposed to be repurposed into public spaces, allowing for street-level animation like seating areas, a performance parklet, and a piano for live music.

The proposed design includes space for cyclists adjacent to the various curb lane uses, although this space would not be legally designated as bicycle lanes through diamond reserved lanes and the corresponding by-law amendments.

The proposed design includes a temporary street mural at Moberly Avenue, which is currently under review.

8 80 Cities had also proposed that the reconfiguration include a new temporary pedestrian crossing, at Moberly Avenue and Danforth Avenue, a T-intersection between the existing traffic control signals at Woodbine Avenue and Woodmount Avenue. This proposal has been determined as not feasible as pedestrian crossing of an arterial road would require traffic control such as a traffic signal. A stop sign would not be an appropriate form of traffic control for an arterial road.

The proposed timeline is as follows:

- Set-up of the demonstration would begin on Thursday August 22, at 10:00 a.m. and be completed by 5:00 p.m. on Friday August 23 and would including partial lane closures.
- Programming of the demonstration would take place from Friday August 23 at 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on Saturday August 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Take-down of the demonstration to reinstate the design of the road to existing conditions would begin on the evening of Saturday August 24 and be completed by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday August 25.
- Traffic flow would be maintained in both directions at all times.

In accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 937-3, Temporary Closing of Highways, the General Manager of Transportation Services has the authority to temporarily close to vehicular traffic any highway or portion of a highway for up to four consecutive days for social, recreational, community, athletic or cinematographic purpose, or combination of such purposes.

Typically, a closure of this nature could be granted through Municipal Code Chapter 743-7, Use of Streets and Sidewalks, Street Events. However, as a temporary reconfiguration of the street, the Vision Zero Pop-Up demonstration was not deemed to meet the definition of a Street Event. As such, Transportation Services is seeking

approval for the closure and to use the Street Event process for the permitting of this initiative.

8 80 Cities has developed a Traffic Management Plan, in consultation with City staff, which addresses traffic movement, signage, and lane marking requirements. They have submitted a Noise Exemption Permit to allow live music and amplified sound, as well as power-washing of the street as part of take-down. Other standard processes for Street Events, such as insurance and liability certificates, waste management plan, and emergency action plan have also been submitted. No significant concerns have been identified.

Transportation Services staff will continue to liaise with representatives of 8 80 Cities and other stakeholders, as required, to finalize event details.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Transportation Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1 - Vision Zero Road Safety Pop-Up Layout Plan

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