



## REPORT FOR ACTION

# Port Lands Flood Protection - Cherry Street Temporary Diversion Road and Traffic Control Signals

**Date:** May 21, 2020

**To:** City Council

**From:** General Manager, Transportation Services

**Wards:** Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth

### SUMMARY

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As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Cherry Street, City Council approval of this report is required.

As part of the Port Lands Flood Protection Project and Enabling Infrastructure Project, Waterfront Toronto, on behalf of the three levels of government, will re-align Cherry Street, between Lake Shore Boulevard East and Polson Street.

In order to facilitate construction of the new alignment, construction staging areas will be set-up on the west side of Cherry Street and the north side of Polson Street. Northbound and southbound vehicular traffic on Cherry Street will be temporarily shifted immediately east of the construction staging area, within the existing northbound lanes, east boulevard on Cherry Street, and additional lands on the east side of Cherry Street to be leased from TEDCO.

Authorization is being requested to designate the additional lands from TEDCO as a public highway and to implement traffic by-laws for a period of 20 months for the temporary detour (diversion) roadway, once the requisite lease between the City and TEDCO has been fully executed and the detour roadway has been fully constructed by Waterfront Toronto to the satisfaction of the City and accepted and commissioned by the City.

Transportation Services is requesting authorization to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic the two southbound lanes (including both sidewalks and the Martin Goodman Trail) on Cherry Street and a portion of the westbound lane and north boulevard on Polson Street, for a period of up to 20 months (i.e. June 29, 2020 to February 28, 2022), to accommodate construction staging operations. The aforementioned closures will not take into effect until the detour roadway is open.

Based on the geometry of the proposed diversion roadway on Cherry Street at Polson Street, sight lines will be restricted for motorists travelling eastbound on Polson Street approaching Cherry Street. Therefore, this report also requests authorization to install

temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Cherry Street and Polson Street to maintain clear and unobstructed sight lines.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic the west sidewalk and two southbound lanes on Cherry Street between a point 55 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 393.5 metres further south, from June 29, 2020 to February 28, 2022, inclusive, for purposes of the Port Lands Flood Protection Project and Enabling Infrastructure Project.
2. City Council temporarily close to pedestrian traffic the east sidewalk on Cherry Street, between a point 195 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 263 metres further south, from June 29, 2020 to February 28, 2022, inclusive, for purposes of the Port Lands Flood Protection Project and Enabling Infrastructure Project.
3. City Council temporarily close to pedestrian and cycling traffic Martin Goodman Trail on the east side of Cherry Street, between a point 195 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 263 metres further south, from June 29, 2020 to February 28, 2022, inclusive, for purposes of the Port Lands Flood Protection Project and Enabling Infrastructure Project.
4. City Council temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic each of the north boulevard and the 5.5 metre wide portion of the westbound lane on Polson Street, between Cherry Street and a point 83.5 metres west, from June 29, 2020 to February 28, 2022, inclusive, for purposes of the Port Lands Flood Protection Project and Enabling Infrastructure Project.
5. City Council authorize public highway designation for the lands to be leased from City of Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO) on the east side of Cherry Street, between a point 207.5 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 183.7 metres further south, approximately 5.8 metres in width, as shown in Attachment 1 to the report (May 21, 2020) from the City Manager ("TEDCO lands leased"), and, once the TEDCO lands leased are designated as public highway, reconfigure Cherry Street as a temporary detour (diversion) roadway as shown in Attachment 2 to the report (May 21, 2020) from the City Manager. The TEDCO lands leased will be dedicated in name as Cherry Street.
6. City Council authorize the appropriate City officials to take all steps necessary to implement the proposed dedication referred to in Part 5 above, including requesting the City Solicitor to prepare and submit the relevant bills necessary to register the resultant by-laws, if required.
7. City Council authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services, to negotiate, enter into and execute an agreement with Waterfront Toronto on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Transportation Services, in relation to, among

other things, the construction, maintenance and warranty work of the diversion road; as well as to negotiate, enter into, and execute any other necessary agreements or documents, on behalf of the City, to temporarily exercise the City's authority.

8. City Council authorize a temporary pedestrian walkway on the east side of Cherry Street, between a point 195 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 263 metres further south.

9. City Council authorize a temporary cycling lane on the east side of Cherry Street, between a point 195 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 263 metres further south.

10. City Council designate a 50 km/h speed limit, inclusive on Cherry Street, between a point 55 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 393.5 metres further south.

11. City Council rescind the existing parking prohibition in effect from 9:00 p.m. of one day to 4:00 a.m. of the next following day, on the east side of Cherry Street, between Commissioners Street and a point 457.7 metres south.

12. City Council rescind the existing parking prohibition in effect from 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m., on the west side of Cherry Street, between a point 50 metres south of Polson Street and a point 167.6 metres south of Polson Street.

13. City Council rescind the existing parking prohibition in effect at all times on the west side of Cherry Street, between Polson Street and a point 30.5 metres south.

14. City Council rescind the existing parking prohibition in effect at all times on the west side of Cherry Street, between a point opposite the south limit of Commissioners Street and a point 30.5 metres south.

15. City Council rescind the existing parking prohibition in effect from 9:00 p.m. of one day to 4:00 a.m. of the next following day, on the west side of Cherry Street, between Commissioners Street and Polson Street.

16. City Council rescind the existing maximum one-hour parking regulation in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, on the east side of Cherry Street, between Commissioners Street and a point 457.7 metres south.

17. City Council rescind the existing maximum one-hour parking regulation in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, on the west side of Cherry Street, between Commissioners Street and Polson Street.

18. City Council rescind the existing maximum one-hour parking regulation in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, on the west side of Cherry Street, between a point 50 metres south of Polson Street and a point 167.6 metres south of Polson Street.

19. City Council prohibit stopping at all times on both sides of the Cherry Street diversion road, between Commissioners Street and Ship Channel Bridge.

20. City Council rescind the existing parking prohibition in effect from 6:00 p.m. of one day to 4:00 a.m. of the next following day, Monday to Friday; 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m., Monday; 6:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. Friday; and 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. and, 12:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, on both sides of Polson Street, between Cherry Street and a point 83.5 metres west.

21. City Council prohibit stopping at all times on both sides of Polson Street, between Cherry Street and a point 185.5 metres west.

22. City Council temporarily rescind the existing pedestrian crossover on Cherry Street, immediately south of Polson Street.

23. City Council authorize the installation of temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Cherry Street and Polson Street.

24. City Council authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services, in issuing any requisite permits to include additional permit terms as the General Manager of Transportation Services deems necessary and appropriate.

25. City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce the necessary bills to give effect to City Council's decision and City Council authorize the City Solicitor to make any necessary clarifications, refinements, minor modifications, technical amendments, or by-law amendments as may be identified by the City Solicitor in order to give effect to the reasonable operation of City Council's decision.

26. City Council direct that the traffic regulations in Parts 8 to 23, inclusive, commence at such time as the TEDCO lands leased are dedicated, and that Cherry Street and Polson Street be returned to its pre-construction traffic and parking regulations when the project is complete.

27. City Council direct that Waterfront Toronto be responsible for all costs incurred with respect to road repairs, traffic signage modifications, installation of traffic control set-up, installation of temporary traffic control signals and removal of the existing pedestrian crossover.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The funding required for road operations, maintenance and repairs on the detour (diversion) roadway will be accommodated on a one-time basis within the 2020 Operating Budget for Transportation Services. Funding required for annual maintenance costs will be included for consideration as part of the 2021 Operating Budget for Transportation Services.

The funding for all other costs including those related to road repairs, traffic signage modifications, installation of traffic control set-up, removal of the existing PXO and installation of the temporary traffic control signals will be provided by Waterfront Toronto.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agreed with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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City Council, at its meeting on November 26 and 27, 2019 adopted Item TE10.29 "Construction Staging - Port Land Flood Protection and Enabling Infrastructure Project" authorizing a temporary full closure of Commissioners Street, between Cherry Street and a point 120 metres of Don Roadway; and Don Roadway, between Villiers Street and Commissioners Street to accommodate construction staging.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.TE10.29>

City Council, at its meeting on December 5, 6, 7 and 8, 2017 adopted as amended Item PG24.6 "Port Lands Planning Initiatives – Final Report" to guide the revitalization of the Port Lands.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.PG24.6>

City Council, at its meeting on November 8 and 9, 2016 adopted Item 2016 EX18.3 "Port Lands Flood Protection Due Diligence Review and Next Steps" authorizing the start of Essroc Quay Lake Filling and Naturalization capital project to be created with the Waterfront Revitalization Initiative Capital Program.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.EX18.3>

## **COMMENTS**

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### **Project Background**

The Port Lands Flood Protection Project, led by Waterfront Toronto, will provide flood protection to the level of a regulatory storm event (the equivalent of Hurricane Hazel) for the Port Lands and South of Eastern Avenue areas. As part of the project, Cherry Street will be re-aligned west of its current location from Lake Shore Boulevard East to Polson Street. The re-aligned Cherry Street will be the main north-south access route for the western portion of the Port Lands.

Waterfront Toronto has retained EllisDon to provide construction management services for the Port Lands Flood Protect Project, including the Cherry Street detour (diversion) roadway. Extensive ground improvement works within the intersection of Cherry Street and Polson Street have been incorporated into the work program and a construction staging area will be set-up on the north side of Polson Street and the west side of Cherry Street for a period of up to 20 months (i.e. June 29, 2020 to February 28, 2022).

## **Existing Conditions**

Cherry Street is a collector roadway and consists of a four-lane (two northbound and two southbound) cross-section with a speed limit of 50 km/h. The average daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 10,000 vehicles. Sidewalks are present on both sides of the roadway and the Martin Goodman Trail is located on the east side. Parking is permitted for a maximum period of one-hour, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, on both sides of Cherry Street, between Commissioners Street and a point 457.7 metres south. Parking is prohibited from 9:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m., daily, on the east side between Commissioners Street and a point 457.7 metres south, and on the west side parking is prohibited at all times from Commissioners Street to a point 30.5 metres south and from 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. daily, between a point 30.5 metres south of Commissioners Street and Polson Street. The TTC service on Cherry Street is provided by the "121 Fort York-Esplanade" bus. There is a northbound near-side stop and a southbound far-side stop at the intersection of Cherry Street and Commissioners Street and a northbound near-side stop at the intersection of Cherry Street and Polson Street.

Polson Street is a local roadway and consists of a two-lane (one eastbound and one westbound) cross-section. The average daily two-way traffic is approximately 1000 vehicles. A sidewalk is present on the south side of the roadway. Parking is prohibited on both sides of Polson Street from 6:00 p.m. of one day to 4:00 a.m. of the next following day, Monday to Friday; and 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

Polson Street intersects with the west side of Cherry Street in a 'T'-type intersection. Currently, eastbound traffic on Polson Street is required to stop, and northbound and southbound traffic on Cherry Street is free-flow. A pedestrian crossover (PXO) is located at the south leg of the intersection of Cherry Street and Polson Street, immediately south of Cherry Street.

## **Diversion Road and Traffic Control Signals**

A temporary closure of the two southbound lanes on Cherry Street, between a point 55 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 393.5 metres further south, to accommodate a construction staging area, is required. The remaining northbound lanes and east sidewalk and boulevard on Cherry Street will be repurposed to accommodate a temporary diversion roadway. With the construction staging area in place, the Cherry Street diversion road will operate as a 3.5 metre two-way highway in the northbound and southbound direction.

A portion of the temporary detour (diversion) road will be built on lands leased from TEDCO, specifically a 5.8 metre wide portion of the east lands on Cherry Street, between a point 207.5 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 183.7 metres further south. The subject lands will be dedicated as public highway once the lease between the City and TEDCO has been fully executed and the temporary diversion road has been fully constructed by Waterfront Toronto to the satisfaction of Engineering Construction Services, and accepted and commissioned. Additionally, the proposed traffic by-law amendments will take effect once the TEDCO lands leased have been dedicated.

All road operations, maintenance and repairs on the temporary detour (diversion) roadway will be undertaken by the City of Toronto. Transportation Services will be responsible for funding the road operations and maintenance costs, while, Waterfront Toronto is responsible for all other costs including those related to road repairs, removal of the existing PXO and installation of the temporary traffic control signals.

Pedestrian movements on the west side of Cherry Street will be restricted. To ensure pedestrians are aware of this temporary sidewalk closure, appropriate advanced warning signage will be installed at strategic locations to clearly inform pedestrians to use the east sidewalk on Cherry Street. On the east side of Cherry Street, the Martin Goodman Trail will be re-aligned in parallel with the temporary detour (diversion) road to accommodate a 1.5 metre pedestrian walkway and a 1.5 metre bike lane. Parks and Forestry has been advised of the required temporary changes to the Martin Goodman Trail.

The proposed construction staging area on the north side of Polson Street will be set-up within the boulevard and westbound lane. With the construction staging area in place, Polson Street in the vicinity of the site will operate as a 3.5 metre wide through traffic lane in the eastbound and westbound direction. Pedestrian operations on the south sidewalk will remain unchanged.

To enhance traffic flow through the temporary detour (diversion) road, stopping will be prohibited at all times on both sides of Cherry Street, between Commissioners Street and Ship Channel Bridge. Additionally, stopping will be prohibited on both sides of Polson Street, between Cherry Street diversion road and a point 185.5 metres west.

Based on a review of turn manoeuvre on the temporary detour (diversion) road, the construction staging area on the west side of Cherry Street at Polson Street will create a sight line obstruction for motorists traveling eastbound on Polson Street, approaching Cherry Street. Therefore, this report also requests authorization to install temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Cherry Street and Polson Street, and to remove the existing PXO. This will address the sight line issues and improve the safety of all road users at the subject intersection.

In order to maintain northbound traffic flow, TTC has agreed to temporarily remove the northbound near-side bus stop at the intersection of Cherry Street and Polson Street for the duration of the project.

Additional staff reports will be submitted in Q4 2021 and Q3 2023 for the opening of new the Cherry Street, as well as a temporary closure of Don Roadway to facilitate road alignment associated with the flood protection measures, respectively.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendations of this report.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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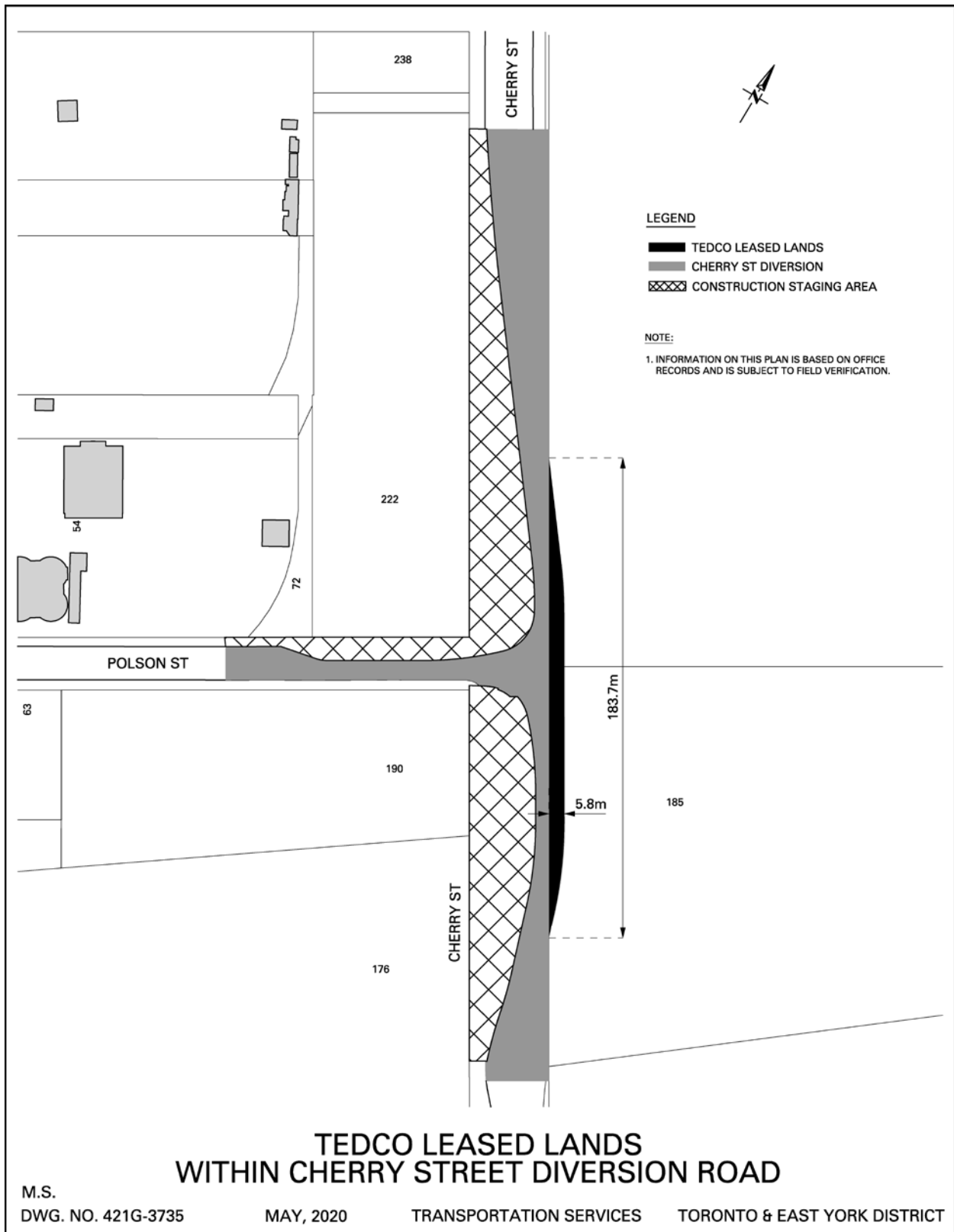
Barbara Gray  
General Manager, Transportation Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1: TEDCO Leased Lands within Cherry Street Diversion Road  
Attachment 2: Proposed Construction Staging Area on Cherry Street and Polson Street  
Attachment 3: Cherry Street Diversion Road: Port Lands Flood Protection Project





Attachment 2: Proposed Construction Staging Area on Cherry Street and Polson Street

