

Metrolinx Projects: Eglinton Crosstown West Extension, Yonge North Subway Extension and Ontario Line - Temporary Delegation for Long-term Road Closures

Date: December 18, 2020

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 2 - Etobicoke Centre, Ward 5 - York South-Weston, Ward 10 - Spadina-Fort York, Ward 13 - Toronto Centre, Ward 14 - Toronto-Danforth, Ward 15 - Don Valley West, Ward 16 - Don Valley East and Ward 18 - Willowdale

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services until December 31, 2030 to temporarily close to pedestrian and vehicular traffic highways or portion of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days, but ending no later than December 31, 2030, inclusive, as required for the purpose of construction of the Metrolinx Transit Expansion projects Ontario Line, Eglinton Crosstown West Extension and Yonge North Subway Extension.

This recommended delegation is similar to the authority previously granted to the General Manager, Transportation Services in relation to the Line 2 Scarborough Subway Extension, Line 5 Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit, Line 6 Finch West Light Rail Transit and GO Expansion projects. This authority is necessary as the scope of the new Transit Expansion projects requires numerous concurrent and consecutive lane closures that will extend beyond thirty days during a multi-year construction period.

Delegation minimizes the chance of project delay and significantly reduces the administrative burden on City of Toronto staff, enabling them to focus on working with Metrolinx, contractors, local ward councillors, and the community to maximize the effectiveness of traffic management and construction scheduling.

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, until December 31, 2030, inclusive, the authority to temporarily close to pedestrian and

vehicular traffic highways or portions of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days but ending no later than December 31, 2030, inclusive, with the exception of those highways listed in Section 937-4 of Chapter 937, as required for the purpose of the construction of Ontario Line and City Council exempt the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out this delegated authority from Section 937-5 of Chapter 937, that being 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.

2. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, to delegate to the General Manager, Transportation Services, until December 31, 2030, inclusive, the authority to temporarily close to pedestrian and vehicular traffic highways or portions of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days but ending no later than December 31, 2030, inclusive, with the exception of those highways listed in Section 937-4 of Chapter 937, as required for the purpose of the construction of Eglinton Crosstown West Extension and City Council exempt the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out this delegated authority from Section 937-5 of Chapter 937, that being 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.

3. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, to delegate to the General Manager, Transportation Services, until December 31, 2030, inclusive, the authority to temporarily close to pedestrian and vehicular traffic highways or portions of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days but ending no later than December 31, 2030, inclusive, with the exception of those highways listed in Section 937-4 of Chapter 937, as required for the purpose of the construction of Yonge North Subway Extension and City Council exempt the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out this delegated authority from Section 937-5 of Chapter 937, that being 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.

4. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures, to provide that the current delegation to Community Council to temporarily close local roads, collector roads, and minor arterial roads does not include closures delegated to the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out the authority in Parts 1, 2 and 3 above.

5. City Council direct the General Manager, Transportation Services, to request Metrolinx to expand its use of a 24 hour, 7 days a week hotline to accept and track complaints and reports of issues associated with the Ontario Line, Eglinton Crosstown West Extension and Yonge North Subway projects.

6. City Council direct the General Manager, Transportation Services, to work with Metrolinx to provide details of long-term road occupancy permits to the public on project websites, consistent with current practices deployed on the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit, Finch West Light Rail Transit and GO Expansion projects.

7. City Council direct that the traffic lanes and sidewalks be reopened when the projects are complete.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto associated with the recommendations in this report. Metrolinx's contractors are responsible for all costs required to implement all traffic management recommendations as conditions of permit approval.

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

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting on January 29, 2020, delegated to the General Manager, Transportation Services, the authority to temporarily close to pedestrian and vehicular traffic highways or portion of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days, until December 31, 2020, with the exception of those highways listed in section 937-4 of Chapter 937, as required for the purpose of the construction of the Line 2 Scarborough Subway Extension and exempt the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out this delegated authority from Section 937-5 of Chapter 937, that being 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.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.IE11.13>

COMMENTS

As part of implementing the Metrolinx Subway Program projects (i.e. Ontario Line, Eglinton Crosstown West Extension, Yonge North Subway Extension and Scarborough Subway Extension), City staff have been working with Metrolinx to facilitate early works and review project design plans and studies. As these projects advance into active construction phase, road/lane closures will be required to accommodate various construction related activities.

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief background on the Ontario Line, Eglinton Crosstown Extension and Yonge North Subway Extension projects and discuss the need for delegation of authority to General Manager, Transportation Services, to implement long-term road closures for the purposes of construction of these transit projects. City Council has already granted delegation of authority on the Scarborough Subway Extension project.

Ontario Line will be a 15.5 kilometre long rapid transit line connecting the Ontario Science Centre to the Exhibition Station. The alignment will include connections to Line 5 Eglinton Crosstown LRT at the Science Centre Station, TTC subway Line 2 at Pape Station, TTC subway Line 1 at Queen and Osgoode Stations and GO Transit service network at the East Harbour and Exhibition Stations. The project is currently in planning stage with reference concept designs being finalized and early works underway to collect subsurface and geotechnical data through boreholes.

Eglinton Crosstown West Extension will be a 9.2 kilometre long light rail transit line running mostly underground from Renforth Station in the City of Mississauga to Mount Dennis Station in the City of Toronto. There are a total of six transit stops planned between the Mount Dennis Station and Renforth Station. The stations at Scarlett Road and Jane Street will be elevated. The stations at Royal York Road, Islington Avenue, Kipling Avenue and Martin Grove Road. The station at Renforth Avenue will be partially underground. The project is currently in the planning stage working towards finalizing the Tunnelling Contract.

Yonge North Subway Extension will span multiple jurisdictions including City of Toronto, City of Markham, City of Richmond Hill and City of Vaughan and will include extension of TTC subway Line 1 from the Finch Station to Richmond Hill. The alignment will be 7.4 kilometres long consisting of six stations. The project is in the planning stage with work beginning on the Transit Project Assessment Process.

Delegation of Authority

The construction of the Ontario Line, Eglinton Crosstown West Extension and Yonge North Subway Extension projects will require road/lane and sidewalk closures associated with a variety of activities, including utility relocation, tunnelling, underground station, elevated structure construction, guideway construction, roadway restoration and streetscape implementation. In order to ensure schedule adherence, Transportation Services needs to be able to act expeditiously to issue the required permits, allowing the necessary closures to be in place during construction.

Following Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit, Finch West Light Rail Transit and GO Expansion Project Experience, the need to report on closures exceeding 30 days would be problematic in terms of the risks it would present to schedule adherence by Metrolinx and its contractors. Given that Council report cycles are numerous months in duration, there is risk that the City of Toronto's approval process could introduce delays to construction schedules.

In addition, this volume of reporting would overwhelm Transportation Services staff whose time could otherwise be spent reviewing plans, working with stakeholders (Metrolinx, contractors, affected Ward Councillors and the local communities) and conducting work zone coordination to minimize construction impacts on the local communities and the travelling public.

In order to ensure the responsiveness these project require, it is recommended that the General Manager, Transportation Services, be given the delegated authority until December 31, 2030 inclusive to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic any Metrolinx Ontario Line, Eglinton Crosstown West, Yonge North Subway - Temporary Delegation for Long-term Road Closures

highway or portion of a highway, with the exception of those highways listed in Section 937-4 of Code Chapter 937, as required for the purposes of construction of the Ontario Line, Eglinton Crosstown West Extension and Yonge North Subway Extension projects, for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days but ending no later than December 31, 2030, inclusive. It is also recommended that, in carrying out this delegation, the General Manager, Transportation Services, be exempt from Section 937-5 of Chapter 937, that being 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.

Councillor Engagement Process

Through its work on other major transit projects such as the ECLRT, FWLRT and GO Expansion, Metrolinx has 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. Metrolinx facilitates regular monthly councillor and stakeholder meetings (including local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), local Councillors, Metrolinx staff, project partners and City staff) across the project corridors. Key stakeholders, such as TTC staff, are updated and consulted frequently, often several times each week. This strategy will also be put in place for the new Transit Expansion projects Ontario Line, Eglinton Crosstown West Extension and Yonge North Subway Extension.

The Metrolinx consultation strategy includes one-on-one briefings with Councillors to address specific milestone events and emerging issues. Community outreach and Business Improvement Area (BIA) meetings, plus Construction Liaison Committee meetings (which include BIAs and local businesses), are scheduled throughout the long-term construction period to provide information and address current concerns and issues as they arise. Broad construction traffic management strategies are shared with the attendees at these meetings by way of presentations made by members of third-party project delivery teams, Metrolinx and City staff.

Specific details of the traffic management plans are discussed with the local Councillors as they are prepared and evolve. Metrolinx, project partners and City staff will work with local Councillors to address these issues in a timely manner. Specifically, City staff will hold timely one-on-one briefings with the local councillors to provide information and advice on concerns related to the project. Briefings will be provided prior to any significant road closure required for project construction work. Further, City staff will liaise with Metrolinx and Project Co. to minimize disruption during construction activities.

Details of the complex staging and discussions of lane closures are the subject of the monthly stakeholder meetings, routinely attended by Councillors and their staff. Similarly, the construction phasing at various station sites is an agenda item during monthly stakeholder meetings, and the subject of direct and frequent email communication between Transit Infrastructure Projects Unit office and the project team.

In all cases, when a significant change is planned at any of the construction sites, Metrolinx issues public notices in advance of the work, both on their website and

delivered door-to-door. Major changes are also widely reported on television and radio and through social media platforms.

Metrolinx also operates community offices, which are positioned in key areas along the corridor. These offices work with residents, businesses and stakeholders to identify and respond to issues and find ways to mitigate against construction impacts.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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