



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Permanent Closure to Vehicular Traffic of a Portion of Willcocks Street between St. George Street and Huron Street, and Portions of Gould Street and Victoria Street**

<b>Date:</b>	December 12, 2011
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
<b>Wards:</b>	Trinity-Spadina – Ward 20 and Toronto Centre-Rosedale – Ward 27
<b>Reference Number:</b>	Ts2012011te.top

**SUMMARY**

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Public Realm staff has completed its assessment of two pedestrian zone pilot projects which were originally approved for a 12 month period in August of 2010 for Willcocks Street between St. George Street and Huron Street, and portions of Gould Street and Victoria Street. In view of the positive assessment results for these projects, Transportation Services recommends that the subject portions of the highways be permanently closed to vehicular traffic.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**Transportation Services recommends that:**

1. City Council permanently close, to vehicular traffic, a portion of Willcocks Street between St. George Street and Huron Street, shown as Part 1 on attached Sketch No. PS-2011-083, and portions of Gould Street and Victoria Street, shown as Parts 1 and 2 on attached Sketch No. PS-2011-105 (collectively, the "Highways"), attached to the report, dated December 9, 2011, from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District.
2. City Council enact a by-law substantially in the form of the draft by-law attached as Appendix "A" to the report (December 12, 2011) from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District.
3. City Council authorize the City to enter into an agreement with Ryerson University and with The Governing Council of the University of Toronto

("University of Toronto") substantially on the terms and conditions set out in Appendix "B" and Appendix "C", respectively, to the report (December 12, 2011) from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District, and on such other terms and conditions as may be deemed appropriate by the General Manager of Transportation Services, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, and that City Council authorize the General Manager of Transportation Services to execute such agreements on behalf of the City.

### **Financial Impact**

There will be no financial impact to the City by the adoption of this report as the highway lands will remain under the jurisdiction of the City of Toronto. Maintenance costs, such as landscaping maintenance for the plants and planters, set-up/lock-up of street furniture, event space programming, fire route maintenance, snow removal, and litter collection, associated with the pedestrian zones will be borne by the universities pursuant to the terms of the agreements to be entered into with each of them.

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

### **DECISION HISTORY**

On August 17, 2010, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE36.111, entitled "Pedestrian Zone Pilot Projects – Gould Street, Victoria Street, Willcocks Street and Devonshire Place – Community Council," which granted authority to implement Pedestrian Zone Pilot Projects by temporarily closing certain streets to vehicular traffic at Ryerson University and the University of Toronto for a year-long period, and to report back on the results of the pilot projects by the fourth quarter of 2011.

On August 25, 26 and 27, 2010, City Council adopted Toronto and East York Community Council Item TE36.112, entitled "Ryerson University and University of Toronto – Pedestrian Zone Pilot Projects – Gould Street, Victoria Street, Willcocks Street and Devonshire Place – City Council," which authorized staff to enter into maintenance agreements with each of Ryerson University and the University of Toronto setting out the roles and responsibilities of the City and the respective university.

On September 12, 2011, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE9.66, entitled "Pedestrian Zones – Gould Street/Victoria Street and Willcocks Street", which extended the temporary closure to vehicular traffic of the Highways for an additional six month period until March 31, 2012, and directed Transportation Services staff to report back on the proposed permanent closure of the Highways prior to the expiry of the six-month extension period.

On September 21 and 22, 2011, City Council adopted Item TE9.65, entitled "Pedestrian Zones – Gould Street/Victoria Street and Willcocks Street – Maintenance Agreements", which authorized staff to extend the maintenance agreements with Ryerson University and University of Toronto for an additional six month period expiring March 31, 2012

and directed Transportation Services to report back on the principles underlying longer term maintenance agreements with Ryerson University and the University of Toronto prior to the expiry of the six-month extension period.

Delegated Approval Form No. 2011-342, executed by the Chief Corporate Officer on November 23, 2011, authorized the General Manager, Transportation Services, to give notice to the public of a proposed by-law to close the Highways in accordance with the requirements of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 162 and the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Schedule "A+" activities.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Transportation Services staff was directed to report back to City Council on the permanent closure to vehicular traffic of the Highways, being a portion of Willcocks Street between St. George Street and Huron Street, and portions of Gould Street and Victoria Street, prior to the expiry of the six-month extension period.

In addition, Transportation Services staff was directed to report back to City Council on the principles underlying longer term maintenance agreements with each of Ryerson University and the University of Toronto prior to the expiry of the six-month extension period.

## **COMMENTS**

Transportation Services staff has reviewed the feasibility of permanently closing the Highways to vehicular traffic and has determined that the Highways can be permanently closed to vehicular traffic.

## **Closing Process**

The closing process requires only one approval from City Council. The draft by-law is an Appendix to the report that recommends the closure of the Highways and is tabled at the same Toronto and East York Community Council meeting that the public has the opportunity to speak to the matter if they wish to do so.

Public notice of the proposed by-law to permanently close the Highways is being given in accordance with the requirements of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 162, by posting notice on the notices page of the City's web site for at least five working days prior to the Toronto and East York Community Council meeting at which the proposed by-law will be considered. The notice on the City's web site also satisfies the notice requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Schedule "A+" activities.

## **Maintenance Agreements**

In August 2010, City Council authorized Transportation Services staff to enter into maintenance agreements with each of Ryerson University and the University of Toronto, setting out the roles and responsibilities of the City and the respective university for the

one-year pilot pedestrian zones. The longer term maintenance agreements are similar to the ones approved for the pilot projects. The only substantial changes to each maintenance agreement are that:

- the new term for each agreement is five years with the requirement for annual reviews to monitor the pedestrian zone and its operations;
- the ability of either party to discontinue or terminate on not less than six months notice. However, no notice is required to terminate if the City deems it to be a public safety concern;
- City approval is required for any proposed changes by the University to the current design and layout of the pedestrian zone; and
- each University is responsible for the costs of returning its respective pedestrian zone to its original form should the agreement be terminated, discontinued or should it expire without renewal.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

Andrew Koropeski, P. Eng.  
Director, Transportation Services  
Toronto and East York District

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Sketch No. PS-2011-083, dated September 07, 2011 and
  2. Sketch No. PS-2011-105, dated November 03, 2011
- Appendix "A" – Draft By-law  
Appendix "B" – Principles Underlying Agreement Between City of Toronto and The Governing Council of the University of Toronto ("University of Toronto")  
Appendix "C" – Principles Underlying Agreement Between City of Toronto and Ryerson University

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