



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway
Closure - Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario - 2014,
2015 and 2016 “Ride for Heart” Event**

Date:	March 6, 2014
To:	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
From:	General Manager, Transportation Services
Wards:	Various Wards
Reference Number:	P:\2014\Cluster B\TRA\Toronto and East York District\ROW\PW2014009.te.trow.doc

SUMMARY

This report is to seek City Council’s authority to close the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario’s "Ride for Heart" event for 2014, 2015 and 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council approve the closure of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway, from the Humber River to the Don Valley Parkway, including all ramps, and the Don Valley Parkway, from the F.G. Gardiner Expressway to York Mills Road, including all ramps, on the Sundays of, June 1, 2014, May 31, 2015 and June 5, 2016 from 2:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 “Ride for Heart” event; and that
2. City Council prohibit other road closures due to events or film permits on arterial roads bounded by Highway No. 401, Warden Avenue, the Lake, Humber River, Queen Street/The Queensway, and Yonge Street, which will be required to accommodate overflow traffic from the expressway closures on the day of the 2014, 2015 and 2016 “Ride for Heart” event.

Financial Impact

The event organizers will be responsible for the costs associated with the 2014, 2015 and 2016 “Ride for Heart” event. There are no direct financial implications to the City.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services is in receipt of a communication (dated January 23, 2014) from Mr. Peter Hart of PLH & Associates Ltd., on behalf of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 “Ride for Heart” to be held on June 1, 2014, May 31, 2015 and June 5, 2016, from 2:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The applicant is requesting the same closures as 2013.

Closure of the expressways for such an event requires specific Council approval.

COMMENTS

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario “Ride for Heart” is held annually to raise money for Heart and Stroke research. In the past, portions of Lake Shore Boulevard, F.G. Gardiner Expressway, and all of the Don Valley Parkway have been closed. This is the 27th consecutive year that the event is being staged and it is expected to be the largest to date, involving some 14,000 cyclists who are expected to raise an estimated \$5,800,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

The route for the 2013 “Ride for Heart” resulted in the closure of:

1. F.G. Gardiner Expressway (both directions) from the Humber River to the Don Valley Parkway;
2. the Don Valley Parkway (both directions), from the F.G. Gardiner Expressway to York Mills Road; and
3. the westbound north curb lane of Lake Shore Boulevard from Ontario Drive to Jameson Avenue.

The proposed route and times for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 “Ride for Heart” will remain the same as 2013.

The advantages of/benefits to using the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Exhibition Place for this event and maintaining Lake Shore Boulevard open in 2013 ensured that all downtown venues had unobstructed accessibility. The use of the expressways will again provide access/egress to Exhibition Place (hosts of the event) and Ontario Place.

Vehicles travelling eastbound on the F.G. Gardiner Expressway will be diverted to Lake Shore Boulevard near the Humber River and continue eastbound unobstructed through the entire event area, once again dramatically reducing traffic congestion.

The proposal has TTC's approval and will again permit all bus and streetcar routes to be unaffected.

The applicant has agreed to, and is responsible for, extensive public notification and the costs associated with the installation and removal of advance and event day traffic signage, barricades, security and policing services as deemed necessary by the General Manager of Transportation Services. Increased advance advisory signage in 2011 and 2012 made a significant difference in the reduction of complaints on the day of the event.

Furthermore, in order to avoid further congestion, staff will make every effort to withhold the issuance of any further permits on the days of the 2014, 2015 and 2016 "Ride for Heart".

A copy of the "Ride for Heart" event route map for 2014, 2015 and 2016 is shown on Appendix 'A'.

CONTACT

Dennis Dionyssiou
Supervisor, Right of Way Management
Toronto and East York District
Telephone: 416-392-0839
Fax: 416-392-7465
E-mail: ddionyss@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Stephen Buckley
General Manager, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENT

Appendix 'A' - 2014, 2015 and 2016 "Ride for Heart" Route Map

P:\2014\Cluster B\TRA\Toronto and East York District\ROW\PW2014009.te.row.doc – bmk