



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Ceremonial Street Dedication in Honour of Nelson Mandela

<b>Date:</b>	July 29, 2014
<b>To:</b>	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Transportation Services Director, Toronto Office of Partnerships
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2014\Cluster B\TRA\GM Office\PW14003gmo.docx

#### SUMMARY

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The purpose of this report is to respond to City Council's direction for the General Manager, Transportation Services to report back to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee concerning the dedication of a prominent street, or part thereof, in honour of Nelson Mandela.

A street dedication does not change the official street name or address information. This ceremonial street dedication would only see the installation of special signage along the selected street. While the City does have an "Honourific and Street Naming Policy", there is currently no approved process or policy for identifying the availability, suitability, and appropriate location for ceremonial dedications.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The General Manager, Transportation Services, and Director, Toronto Office of Partnerships, recommend that:**

1. City Council request the Director, Toronto Office of Partnerships, in consultation with the General Manager, Transportation Services, the Executive Director, Engineering and Construction Services, and the Director, Protocol Services to report to the Executive Committee in 2015 with recommendations to amend the "Honourific and Street Naming Policy" to include a specific policy to address ceremonial street dedications such as the one requested by City Council for Nelson Mandela.

### **Financial Impact**

There are no financial impacts resulting from the adoption of this report.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

City Council, at its meeting of April 1 and 2, 2014, adopted Member Motion MM50.21 "Ceremonial dedication of a street in honour of Nelson Mandela" authorizing the General Manager, Transportation Services to report back to City Council, through the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, with a recommendation of a prominent street, or part thereof, to dedicate in honour of Nelson Mandela.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.MM50.21>

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Nelson Mandela was the President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999, and is recognized worldwide for his human rights activism and political efforts to challenge and dismantle the legacy of apartheid. He visited Toronto three times: in 1990, 1998, and 2001. Upon Mandela's first visit to the city, he was made an Honorary Citizen of Toronto, and on his third visit, he was granted an honorary doctorate from Ryerson University. He was also made an honorary Companion of the Order of Canada in 1998, and was the first living person ever to be awarded honorary Canadian citizenship in 2001.

## COMMENTS

### Criteria for Street Selection

There is no current policy or guidelines for the selection of a location for a ceremonial street dedication. Accordingly, Transportation Services set out to identify possible locations, consult with local stakeholders regarding each of the potential street segments, and then undertake public consultation.

The criteria for identifying the initial list of streets or streets segments were as follows:

1. City Council directed that the dedication be for a "prominent street, or part thereof" within the City of Toronto. A prominent street was determined by staff to be either a minor or major arterial, as identified in the City's Road Classification System. Expressways, collector, and local roads were therefore excluded from consideration.
2. The street or location should have a geographic or symbolic connection to the honouree. An historical review was undertaken to assess which parts of the City, and subsequent streets, had a connection to any of Nelson Mandela's three visits to Toronto.
3. The street segment should have the capacity for an enhanced public realm, should future installations reflecting the dedication be desired. This reflects the potential for interpretative installations to be installed, as envisioned by the Mandela Legacy Committee in the correspondence submitted to City Council dated March 28, 2014 and in support of MM50.21.
4. The ceremonial dedication should not replace existing street dedications.

### Street Options – Alternatives Considered

Based on the above criteria, staff consulted with local stakeholders, as well as the Mandela Legacy Committee, and then produced the following shortlist of street segments to be considered for a ceremonial dedication in honour of Nelson Mandela. Boundaries for the segments were set to best match the historical connection to Mandela, while being delimited by major streets. Each option is followed by a brief historical rationale for its selection.

1. Queen Street West, bounded by Yonge Street to the east and University Avenue to the west

This stretch of Queen Street West was suggested by the Mandela Legacy Committee in its correspondence attached to Member Motion MM50.21, and has a direct connection to Nelson Mandela. During Mandela's first visit to Toronto in 1990, his then-wife Winnie Mandela spoke to a crowd at Nathan Phillips Square and then led a march to Queen's Park where Nelson Mandela gave a speech to a crowd of up to 30,000. Mandela was made an honorary Toronto citizen during this visit.

2. Shuter Street, bounded by River Street to the east and Parliament Street to the west

This location has an institutional connection to Mandela, with the Nelson Mandela Park Public School being located along this stretch of Shuter Street. Mandela attended the re-naming celebration of this school in his honour during his final trip to Toronto in November 2001. In the wake of Mandela's passing on December 5, 2013, the Toronto community and media focused on the school as a site of remembrance and celebration of Mandela's life.

3. Gerrard Street East, bounded by Jarvis Street to the east and Yonge Street to the west

On November 17, 2001, Nelson Mandela and his wife Graça Machel received honorary doctorate degrees from Ryerson University. While accepting his degree, Mandela gave a speech in celebration of the sectors of children and youth, education, and the pursuit of universal peace. Following the convocation ceremony, it is reported that Mandela spent some time engaging with a crowd that had gathered on Gerrard Street East.

4. Bathurst Street, bounded by College Street to the south and Herrick Street to the north

During Nelson Mandela's first visit to Toronto in June 1990, he spoke to 1,000 students at Central Technical Secondary School. Mandela spoke to the students about the poor treatment of black students in South Africa.

5. University Avenue, bounded by Front Street West to the south and College Street to the north

On May 31, 1986 – approximately four years prior to Nelson Mandela's release from prison – Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu led a "Rally Against Apartheid" at Queen's Park. Following Mandela's release from prison, he and his then-wife Winnie Mandela visited Toronto, during which Winnie led a march up University Ave. from City Hall with prominent Canadian politicians. The march concluded at Queen's Park where Nelson Mandela gave a speech to a crowd of up to 30,000.

## **Public Consultation**

Stakeholders associated with each of the locations above, such as Ryerson University, the Toronto District School Board, and local business improvement areas, were consulted prior to a broader public consultation process. A wider process to engage the general public commenced on June 19, 2014, and ran until July 4, 2014, which included background information on each of the proposed street options and an online voting system. A total of 1,583 submissions were received online at [www.toronto.ca/mandela](http://www.toronto.ca/mandela) during the two-week consultation period. The results below indicate the percentage and total number of votes each street segment received for each ranking. In addition, 58 comments were received indicating a preference for none of the above or no dedication.

<b>Street</b>	<b>1st Choice</b>	<b>2nd Choice</b>	<b>3rd Choice</b>	<b>4th Choice</b>	<b>5th Choice</b>
<b>University Avenue</b>	53.9% (845)	15.2% (238)	9.0% (141)	9.2% (145)	12.7% (199)
<b>Shuter Street</b>	21.0% (324)	13.9% (214)	16.5% (255)	18.7% (289)	29.9% (462)
<b>Queen Street W</b>	11.0% (171)	41.9% (652)	19.1% (297)	15.7% (245)	12.3% (191)
<b>Gerrard Street E</b>	10.7% (167)	16.5% (258)	23.8% (371)	28.4% (443)	20.5% (320)
<b>Bathurst Street</b>	4.9% (76)	12.4% (191)	32.1% (495)	27.1% (419)	23.5% (363)

Given the symbolism and significance of this dedication, staff worked to design an approach that would be as fair and transparent as possible, but do acknowledge the need for a Council-approved process going forward. There is no guidance currently available to match the prominence of a street with the dedication, to prioritize other street name sign identifiers such as business improvement areas or neighbourhoods, nor to delimit a street segment – such as the minimum or maximum number of blocks to dedicate. In the absence of that process, Transportation Services staff established a limited mechanism for identifying the availability, suitability, and potential location for a ceremonial dedication in honour of Nelson Mandela.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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