

Honda Indy Toronto Race - Traffic Management Strategy

Date: November 6, 2017

To: City Council

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Trinity Spadina - Ward 19

SUMMARY

This report responds to a request from the Toronto East York Community Council for the General Manager, Transportation Services to report directly to City Council regarding the traffic management strategy for the area around Exhibition Place during the Honda Indy Toronto Race.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no direct budgetary implications to the City resulting from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of October 17, 2017 amended item TE27.44 recommending City Council authorize the required road closure for the Honda Indy Toronto Race 2018-2020. Through consideration of this item, Toronto and East York Community Council requested the General Manager, Transportation Services to report to City Council at its meeting of November 7 and 8, 2017 on a traffic management strategy for the area around Exhibition Place during the Honda Indy Toronto Race:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.TE27.44>

COMMENTS

Background

The Honda Indy Toronto Race ("Honda Indy") event has taken place annually since 1986, when it was originally known as the Molson Indy Toronto. The racetrack route remains the same, running through the Exhibition Place grounds and extending onto Lake Shore Boulevard West between Ontario Drive and Strachan Avenue. The road closures required for the event take place on Lake Shore Boulevard West between Ontario Drive and Strachan Avenue and southbound Strachan Avenue between Fleet Street/Manitoba and Lake Shore Boulevard West. These road closures occur for five days beginning on the Wednesday evening at 9:00 p.m. prior to the race to Sunday evening when the roads reopen at 11:59 p.m.

Traffic Mitigation Measures

Traffic Signal Timing and Intersection Sign Modifications

Transportation Services Traffic Management Centre and the race organizer undertake a number of traffic signal timing and intersection signage modifications at approximately 17 different intersections in the surrounding area impacted by the Lake Shore Boulevard West and southbound Strachan Avenue road closures in order to improve traffic flow. A list of the locations, modifications and date and time of when these signal timing and sign changes are implemented are provided in Attachment 1 to this report.

Race Track Build

The race track build requires the installation of a concrete barrier wall. The installation of the concrete wall before the event and removal afterwards, takes place during off-peak periods on weekday evenings/early mornings between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. to minimize traffic impacts.

Traffic Control and Advance Warning Signs

Before January 1st each year, the race organizer and Exhibition Place develop the initial draft of the Honda Indy road closure schedule detailing the road restrictions required to install and remove the concrete barrier wall along Lake Shore Boulevard and within Exhibition Place. Exhibition Place is very involved in many of these measures using its established network to communicate key messaging and timing.

The race organizer requests paid-duty Police at a number of intersections impacted by the road closures in order to improve vehicle and pedestrian flow during the event. A list of locations where Police are stationed is provided in Attachment 2 to this report.

The race organizer's traffic control contractor places advisory and advance warning signage at the perimeter of the road closures and is expanded to a larger impact area bounded by: Islington Avenue in the west, Leslie Street in the east and Don Valley Parkway and Bloor St at the north-most extent. The sign selection and placement are done in accordance with Ontario Traffic Manual Book 7 for Temporary Conditions which provides uniform guidelines for traffic control during temporary road closures.

Transportation Services' variable message signs provide road closure information at the following locations the Sunday prior to the event and during the event up until the road is reopened:

1. Eastbound F.G. Gardiner Expressway
 - Parklawn Avenue
 - Jameson Avenue
2. Eastbound Lake Shore Boulevard West
 - Windermere Avenue (portable VMS)
 - Spadina Avenue
3. Westbound F.G. Gardiner Expressway
 - Dufferin Street
4. Westbound Lake Shore Boulevard East
 - British Columbia Drive
 - Carlaw Avenue

A signed detour route is provided to Ontario Place. Access to and from Ontario Place is maintained along Remembrance Drive which is located at the foot of the intersection of Lake Shore Boulevard and Strachan Avenue. During the event, Remembrance Drive is converted temporarily to a two-way operation in order to maintain vehicle access to and from Ontario Place and barricades separate the bicycle lane from vehicles traffic along the seawall. In 2017, a new Martin Goodman Trail bicycle path was built just south of Lake Shore Boulevard by Parks and Recreation. This new path was under construction during this year's event but will be available to cyclists and pedestrians during future Honda Indy events.

During the event, the F. G. Gardiner Expressway ("Gardiner") on- and off-ramps at Jameson Avenue/Dunn Avenue and Jameson Avenue/British Columbia Drive remain open for eastbound and westbound traffic at all times. The traffic barrier arm located on the Jameson Avenue westbound on-ramp which typically restricts access to the Gardiner weekdays during the p.m. peak periods remains open the Thursday and Friday when Lake Shore Boulevard is closed for the event.

Media

Transportation Services and the City's Strategic Communications staff work together to provide timely and detailed information on the planned lane reductions required during the concrete barrier wall setup and takedown as well as the Lake Shore Boulevard and (southbound) Strachan Avenue road closures required for the event. This information is released by Strategic Communications to all media outlets which includes radio, television, social media and print which includes all ethnic community papers, approximately two to three days in advance of the lane restrictions and up to one week ahead of the road closures.

Notice of the Honda Indy road restrictions and closures are tweeted out by both Transportation Services' numerous Twitter accounts - @TO_Transport, @TO_MainRoads, @TO_Gardiner_LS, @TO_DVP, @TO_Cycling and Strategic Communications' Twitter account @Toronto_Comms. The lane restrictions required during the setup and takedown of the concrete barrier wall are tweeted out approximately two to three days prior to the work taking place. Notice of the Honda Indy Race event road closures are tweeted out approximately two weeks prior to the event. All road restriction and road closure information is also provided on the [City's website](#).

The Toronto Transit Commission ("TTC") manages its own media protocol for all streetcar and bus diversionary routing as well as the Honda Indy shuttle bus routing it provides to and from the event.

Community and Stakeholder Meetings

Exhibition Place together with the race organizer annually host pre- and post-event community liaison meetings. Notice of these meetings are provided to the local Councillor's offices to provide to the neighbouring communities and the Parkdale and Liberty Village Business Improvement Areas and resident associations are notified directly. Notice of the meetings are also posted on the Exhibition Place website and announced at Exhibition Place meetings.

A stakeholder meeting is held annually on or before April 1st with TTC, GO Transit, Metrolinx, Toronto Police, Toronto Fire, EMS, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment (BMO Field), Live Nation (Budweiser Stage), Ontario Place, Exhibition Place, Transportation Services and Honda Indy operations, contractors and vendors. In 2017, weekly stakeholder meetings/calls were introduced and hosted by Exhibition Place. These weekly meetings began 10-12 weeks prior to the event to discuss the move-in and construction schedule as it relates to impacted roads and any possible road restrictions/closures. These meetings were found to be beneficial from a coordination and planning perspective and will be scheduled to occur prior to the event again in future years.

Traffic Mitigation Plan Improvements

Year to year, Transportation Services and the race organizer look to make continual improvements to mitigate traffic impacts through signal timing modifications, advance warning signs, paid-duty Police positioning, improving communications through our Strategic Communications group and updating the traffic plan based on construction.

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SIGNATURE

Barbara Gray
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Honda Indy Traffic Signal Timing and Intersection Sign Modifications
Attachment 2: Honda Indy Paid Duty Police

Attachment 1: Honda Indy Traffic Signal Timing and Intersection Sign Modifications

Attachment 1: Honda Indy Traffic Signal Modifications			
Item No.	Location	Signal Modifications	Implementation Date, Time & Condition (2018 example)
1	Princes' Blvd & Nunavut Rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Turn off signal •Remove the westbound primary and northbound secondary signal pole 	Before Wednesday July 11, 2018 when required for setup
2	Strachan Ave & Fleet St/Manitoba Dr	Install westbound "No Left Turn" signs and bag them	Before Wednesday July 11, 2018
3	Strachan Ave & Fleet St/Manitoba Dr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unbag westbound "No Left Turn" signs •Enable southbound left turn phase •Disable northbound and westbound left turn phases 	Wednesday July 11, 2018 - approx. 12:00 p.m. in conjunction with closure of southbound Strachan Ave
4	Fleet St & Fort York Blvd	All Approaches: Optimize all movements and increase cycle length	
5	Lake Shore Blvd & Fort York Blvd	Fort York Blvd: favour southbound movement and increase cycle length	
6	King St, Dufferin St to Strachan Ave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •King St: Extend eastbound and westbound green times and cycle lengths •Six (6) sets of signals modified in this stretch of King St 	Wednesday July 11, 2018
7	Lake Shore Blvd & Newfoundland Rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Disable eastbound and westbound left-turn movements •Install two black on green "No Pedestrians" signs, back to back on the westbound secondary pole, for north-south pedestrians •Bag the north-south (west side) pedestrian heads •Bag the two pushbuttons on the west side and disconnect feed wire •On the eastbound secondary pole, remove the two "PEDESTRIANS CROSS AT OTHER SIDE" signs and re-mount them face to face, so that they appear blank •Install two eastbound and westbound "No Left Turn" signs 	When the temporary concrete barrier wall goes up and prohibits east-west turns and north-south pedestrian crossings at Lake Shore Blvd & Newfoundland Rd. Typically on the Wednesday (July 11, 2018) after the a.m. peak.

Attachment 1: Honda Indy Traffic Signal Modifications			
Item No.	Location	Signal Modifications	Implementation Date, Time & Condition (2018 example)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dufferin St: Extend northbound and southbound green times and increase cycle length during a.m. peak and off-peak periods Liberty St: Extend westbound green time during p.m. peak period 	
8	Dufferin St & Liberty St	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend northbound green time Westbound movement is callable and extendable by Trafficam and push buttons located at on the north side of the intersection 	
9	Lake Shore Blvd (Westbound) & British Columbia Dr	Westbound gate to F.G. Gardiner Expressway to remain in the up position during p.m. peak from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	
10	Lake Shore Blvd (Westbound) & Jameson Ave	Thursday July 12, 2018 and Friday July 13, 2018	Wednesday July 11, 2018 9:00 p.m. when Lake Shore Blvd is closed
11	Lake Shore Blvd & Newfoundland Rd	Turn off signal	
12	Lake Shore Blvd & Ontario Dr/ Remembrance Dr	Turn off signal	
13	Lake Shore Blvd & Remembrance Dr/ New Brunswick Way	Turn off signal	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eastbound to be served during race time On the west side, north-south pedestrian head to be installed on the median for a temporary shorter north-south crossing, south of the median (across eastbound traffic lanes only) Bag the east-west pedestrian heads on the north side Place signal under Remote Reconnect 	
14	Lake Shore Blvd & Strachan Av		

Attachment 2: Honda Indy Paid Duty Police

Attachment 2: Honda Indy Paid Duty Police Participation

Wednesday		
12:00-20:00	PC	Strachan Ave & Fleet St
20:00-23:59	PC	Mobile in scout car to assist with closures
20:00-23:59	PC	Lakeshore Blvd & Strachan Ave
Thursday		
06:30-09:30	PC	Lakeshore Blvd & British Columbia
10:00-20:00	PC	Lakeshore Blvd & Strachan Ave
10:00-20:00	PC x2	Strachan Ave & Fleet St
16:00-20:00	Sgt	Supervisor
16:00-20:00	PC	Fort York Blvd & Fleet St
16:00-20:00	PC	Lakeshore Blvd & Fort York Blvd
Friday		
06:30-09:30	PC	Lakeshore Blvd & British Columbia
09:30-19:30	PC	Lakeshore Blvd & Strachan Ave
09:30-19:30	PC x2	Strachan Ave & Fleet St
11:45-18:45	S/Sgt	Incident Commander
15:30-19:30	Sgt	Supervisor
16:30-19:30	PC	Fort York Blvd & Fleet St
16:30-19:30	PC	Lakeshore Blvd & Fort York Blvd
12:00-17:00	PC x2	Interior Patrol
12:00-18:00	PC x2	Interior Patrol
12:00-19:00	PC x2	Interior Patrol
Saturday		
10:00-20:00	PC	Lakeshore Blvd & Strachan Ave
10:00-20:00	PC x2	Strachan Ave & Fleet St
11:45-18:45	S/Sgt	Incident Commander
12:00-19:00	Sgt	Supervisor
16:00-20:00	Sgt	Supervisor
16:00-20:00	PC	Fort York Blvd & Fleet St
16:00-20:00	PC	Lakeshore Blvd & Fort York Blvd
12:00-17:00	PC x2	Interior Patrol **
12:00-18:00	PC x2	Interior Patrol
12:00-19:00	PC x2	Interior Patrol
Sunday		
10:00-20:00	PC	Lakeshore Blvd & Strachan Ave
10:00-20:00	PC x2	Strachan Ave & Fleet St
11:45-18:45	S/Sgt	Incident Commander
12:00-19:00	Sgt	Supervisor
16:00-20:00	Sgt	Supervisor
16:00-20:00	PC	Fort York Blvd & Fleet St
16:00-20:00	PC	Lakeshore Blvd & Fort York Blvd
12:00-17:00	PC x2	Interior Patrol **
12:00-18:00	PC x2	Interior Patrol
12:00-19:00	PC x2	Interior Patrol
18:00-23:59	PC x2	Mobile in scout cars to assist with reopening