

## **Honda Indy Toronto Race - Closure of Lake Shore Boulevard 2018-2020**

**Date:** September 23, 2017  
**To:** Toronto and East York Community Council  
**From:** Manager, Right of Way Management, Transportation Services  
**Wards:** Trinity Spadina - Ward 19

### **SUMMARY**

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This report seeks Council authority to enter into a three-year agreement with GST for 2018-2020 and to amend certain traffic regulations and Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, to enable the running of the Honda Indy Toronto race at Exhibition Place on July 12, 13, 14 and 15, 2018 and on July 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2019 and on July 9, 10, 11, and 12, 2020, subject to the event satisfying all regulatory and contractual requirements in each year of the race.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Manager, Right of Way Management, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District recommends that:

1. City Council grant authority to enter into a new three-year agreement with Green Savoree Toronto ULC, to permit the holding of the Honda Indy Toronto events in the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Transportation Services, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
2. City Council amend Municipal Code Chapter 937-3.1, Temporary Closing of Highways, subject to the City's execution of the agreement between the City and Green Savoree Toronto ULC described in recommendation 1, to delegate authority to the General Manager of Transportation Services to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic any highway or portion of a highway for such periods as required for the purposes of the Honda Indy Toronto automobile race in 2018, 2019 and 2020; and
3. City Council authorize and direct the appropriate City Officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the introduction in Council of any Bills that may be required.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

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The event organizers will be responsible for the full costs associated with the Honda Indy Toronto Race event. There are no direct budgetary implications to the City.

## DECISION HISTORY

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City Council at its meeting of March 1, April 1 and 2, 2015, by adoption of TE4.57, authorized the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Honda Indy Toronto Race events:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.TE4.57>

City Council at its meeting of June 11, 12 and 13, 2013, by adoption of TE24.86 authorized a temporary taxi stand on Lake Shore Boulevard West during the 2013 Honda Indy:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.TE24.86>

City Council at its meeting of May 8 and 9, 2012 by adoption of TE15.27 authorized the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Honda Indy Toronto Race events:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.TE15.27>

City Council at its meeting of April 6, 2009, by adoption of TE24.69, authorized the 2009, 2010 and 2011 Honda Indy Toronto Race events:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2009.TE24.69>

## COMMENTS

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Documentation submitted by Green Savoree Toronto ULC ("GST") addresses the obligations of GST related to such aspects as a transportation plan, noise attenuation, community liaison, emergency services and clean-up, among other things, in connection with the proposed 2018, 2019 and 2020 Honda Indy Toronto races. The community consultation process, which was established through a Community Liaison Committee of the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place comprised of area residents and associations, has been continued as in previous years.

Pursuant to its current agreement with the City, GST is required to submit certain documentation on or before April 1<sup>st</sup> each year to address in detail its obligations related to staging of the race. The subjects specifically set out in the Agreement include:

1. Attendance
2. Traffic/Transit/Parking
3. Noise
4. Community Liaison
5. Operating Plan and Safety
6. Law Enforcement

7. Set-up/Clean-up
8. Emergency Planning; and
9. Costs/Insurance/Liability.

### **Transportation Plan**

Staff have held discussions related to the transportation plan and will continue to liaise with representatives of GST, the TTC, GO Transit, Exhibition Place, and Emergency Services, as required, to ensure all of the transportation elements of this event are carried out in a comprehensive manner. The plan will again be 'transit oriented', with augmented TTC and GO Transit services and stringent controls on illegal parking in abutting neighbourhoods. In terms of community liaison, a meeting held after the 2016 race revealed no significant problems with operation. At the time of writing this report, a 2017 post-event community liaison meeting was scheduled. If any issues arose, GST will work to mitigate the concerns to the satisfaction of the affected governing authority.

To further facilitate traffic movement and minimize event and post-race congestion on Strachan Avenue, Transportation Services staff have held discussions with the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Transit Commission, regarding Recommendation No. 2 respecting road closures. All agencies agree that the introduction of a temporary taxi cab stand in the eastbound curb lane of Lake Shore Boulevard West, from 30 metres east of Strachan Avenue to 30 metres west of Fort York Boulevard, will assist in alleviating traffic congestion at the intersection of Strachan Avenue and Fleet Street. This taxi cab stand will operate during the Honda Indy Toronto event dates in each of the three years of the agreement.

### **Delegated Authority for Road Closure**

It is recommended, subject to the City's execution of a new agreement with GST, that section 937-3.1 of Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, be amended to delegate to the General Manager of Transportation Services the power to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic any highway or portion of a highway for such periods as required for the purposes of the Honda Indy automobile races in 2018, 2019 and 2020 (being the term of the City's new agreement with GST as recommended in this report). This will authorize the General Manager of Transportation Services to close the required public highways for the period of some final installation work and the races, including an additional rain day if required. The General Manager of Transportation Services has previously exercised this power for each of the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Honda Indy races, but section 937-3.1 currently does not provide the General Manager of Transportation Services the delegated authority to temporarily close any highway or portion of a highway for any future Honda Indy race.

As with the current authority delegated to the General Manager of Transportation Services under section 937-3.1 of Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, the delegated authority for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 races would be subject to section 937-5, being the requirement that the Ward Councillor be notified of the impending closure and given the ability to require that a report be submitted to the appropriate Community Council or Standing Committee for recommendation to Council for a final decision on that temporary closure of a highway or portion of a highway.

## **Process for Road Closures**

During the first week of June in 2018, 2019 and 2020, work crews under contract to the event organizer, supervised by Transportation Services staff, will install the bulk of the barrier wall system needed for the Honda Indy race. No work will take place during the peak commuter periods or during Ontario Place and Exhibition Place peak periods. The installation procedure only requires limited lane restrictions for short periods of time, and staff are able to authorize the needed temporary highway closures for the initial installation work under the General Manager's current delegated authority in section 937-2 of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways.

Once initial installation work is completed, there will be minimal adverse impact on Lake Shore Boulevard West traffic operations and no other temporary highway closures are expected to be needed until the major road closures. The sections of barrier wall that tend to restrict normal traffic operation will not be installed until the major road closures commence on July 11, 2018, July 10, 2019 and July 8, 2020. The delegated authority sought under Recommendation No. 2 of this report seeks to cover these major road closures and will cover both the final installation work and the dates of the events themselves. At 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 11, 2018, July 10, 2019 and July 9, 2020, subject to traffic conditions, Lake Shore Boulevard West, between Strachan Avenue and Ontario Drive, will be temporarily closed to allow completion of the barrier system installation and use of the roadway for the event. Based on previous years' experience, it is proposed to re-open this portion of Lake Shore Boulevard West as soon as practicable after the final race, but no later than midnight, Sunday, July 15, 2018, July 14, 2019 and July 12, 2020 (or Monday, July 16, 2018, July 15, 2019 or July 13, 2020, in the event the Sunday event is cancelled).

Access to the closed portions of Lake Shore Boulevard West during the major road closures will be restricted to persons accessing Ontario Place, local traffic, emergency vehicles, Transportation Services vehicles and public transit vehicles. Police officers, assisted by Transportation Services staff and equipment, will control use of all restricted areas.

## **Authorization for New Agreement**

The previous Agreement with GST to permit the holding of the race in Toronto will expire December 31, 2017. This report therefore recommends that a new three-year agreement with GST be authorized on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Transportation Services in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor. As in the past, it is anticipated that such terms will be consistent, where appropriate, with the agreement to be entered into between GST and The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place.

## **Conclusions**

The Honda Indy Toronto race is scheduled for Exhibition Place from July 12 to 15, 2018, July 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2019 and on July 9, 10, 11, and 12, 2020, inclusive, using the same format as in previous years. In the event of a delay or cancellation of the Sunday event, the final race will be held on Monday, July 15, 2018, July 15, 2019 or July 13, 2020. Reports by staff of the municipal agencies, the Toronto Police Service and others, indicate that previous races held annually since 1986, have been managed in a highly professional manner and have resulted in few public complaints. The 2018

race plans have been carefully reviewed and, once again, staff are satisfied the race can be accommodated with minimal disruption to the public. The main focus of the plan is to encourage race patrons to rely on public transit for travel to and from race events.

Economic Development and Culture are working with the Honda organizers to maximize the economic impact of the race.

The City Solicitor has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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## **ATTACHMENT**

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1. Road Closure Site Plan

## ATTACHMENT 1 – ROAD CLOSURE SITE PLAN

