



### **Metrolinx Projects: Temporary Delegation for Long-Term Road Closures**

**Date:** April 24th, 2018

**To:** Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

**From:** General Manager, Transportation Services

**Wards:** Wards 1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28, 30, 35, 37, 42, 43 and 44

#### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to seek approval to authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services to temporarily close to pedestrian and vehicular traffic highways or portions of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days, as required for the purpose of construction of the Metrolinx Finch West LRT corridor and RER/Smarrtrack projects (including the Lakeshore East, Lakeshore West, Barrie, Stouffville, Kitchener and Union Station rail corridors), until March 31, 2022 and March 31, 2025 respectively.

This recommended delegation is similar to authority previously granted to the General Manager, Transportation Services in relation to the Eglinton Crosstown LRT Project. This authority is necessary as the scope of major transit projects such as the Finch West LRT, RER/Smarrtrack, and Eglinton Crosstown LRT necessitate numerous concurrent and consecutive lane closures that will extend beyond thirty days during a multi-year construction period.

Delegation minimizes the chance of project delay and significantly reduces the administrative burden on City of Toronto staff, enabling them to focus on working with Metrolinx, contractors, local ward councillors, and the community to maximize the effectiveness of traffic management and construction scheduling.

This report also seeks approval to authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services to approve temporary partial or full road closures in the vicinity of Black Creek Drive and Eglinton Avenue, to facilitate the construction of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT elevated guideway, including pier 2 and box girder installation, as requested by Metrolinx and its contractor Crosslinx Transit Solutions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, to delegate to the General Manager, Transportation Services, the authority to temporarily close to pedestrian and vehicular traffic highways or portions of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days, until March 31, 2022, with the exception of those highways listed in section 937-4 of Chapter 937, as required for the purpose of the construction of the Metrolinx Finch West LRT corridor.
2. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, to delegate to the General Manager, Transportation Services, the authority to temporarily close to pedestrian and vehicular traffic highways or portions of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days, until March 31, 2025, with the exception of those highways listed in section 937-4 of Chapter 937, as required for the purposes of the construction of the Metrolinx Regional Express Rail and Smart Track projects.
3. City Council exempt the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out her authority under Part 1 and 2 above, from Section 937-5 of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, the requirement to notify the local Ward Councillor of the pending closure and the requirement to report on the proposed closure if so requested by the local Ward Councillor.
4. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures, to provide that the current delegation to Community Council to temporarily close local roads, collector roads, and minor arterial roads does not include closures delegated to the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out her authority under Part 1 and 2 above.
5. City Council direct the General Manager, Transportation Services, to request Metrolinx to expand its use of a 24 hour, 7 days a week hotline to accept and track complaints and reports of issues associated with the Finch West LRT and RER projects.
6. City Council direct the General Manager, Transportation Services, to work with Metrolinx to provide details of long-term road occupancy permits to the public on project websites, consistent with current practices deployed within the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project.
7. City Council direct the General Manager, Transportation Services to ensure that affected Councillors are consulted on all traffic management plans prior to permits being issued, as outlined in the report (April 24, 2018) from the General Manager, Transportation Services.
8. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways: Section 937-3.5. Closures of Black Creek Drive to delegate authority to the General Manager, Transportation Services, to temporarily partially or fully close

Black Creek Drive to pedestrian and vehicular traffic between Photography Drive and Todd Baylis Boulevard, from May 23, 2018, to and including December 31, 2019, including up to 10-weekend full closures, as required to facilitate the construction of Eglinton Crosstown LRT elevated guideway.

9. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways: Section 937-4. Closures which require Council approval to delegate the General Manager, Transportation Services, the authority to temporarily close the north side of Eglinton Avenue West to pedestrian traffic, between Black Creek Drive and Municipal Drive, from June 1, 2018, to and including December 31, 2019, as required to facilitate the construction of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT elevated guideway.

10. City Council exempt the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out her authority under Parts 9 and 10 above, from Section 937-5 of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, the requirement to notify the local Ward Councillor of the pending closure and the requirement to report on the proposed closure if so requested by the local Ward Councillor.

11. City Council direct that the traffic lanes and sidewalks be reopened when the projects are complete.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto associated with this report. Metrolinx contractors are required to implement all traffic management recommendations as conditions of permit approval.

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

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting of March 31, 2016, City Council adopted item PW11.5 entitled Metrolinx LRT Projects – Delegation to the General Manager, Transportation Services, to Approve Road Closures up To and Including 365 Consecutive Days for the Metrolinx Crosstown LRT. This authorized the General Manager, Transportation Services, to temporarily close any highway or part of a highway, until January 1, 2022, for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days as required for the purposes of construction of the Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT project. The Council decision can be found at: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.PW11.5>

At its meeting on January 31, 2018, City Council adopted item PW26.50 City Council amended City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways: Section 937-4. Closures which require Council approval to delegate the General Manager, Transportation Services, the authority to temporarily partially or fully close Black Creek Drive to vehicular and pedestrian traffic immediately north of Eglinton

Avenue West, from February 1, 2018, to and including December 31, 2019, including up to 10-weekend full closures, as required to facilitate the construction of Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit elevated guideway. The Council decision can be found at: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.PW26.5>

## COMMENTS

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### Project Status

#### *Finch West LRT*

The design-build-finance-maintain Finch West LRT (FWLRT) contract will be awarded on May 28, 2018, and the construction works will start soon after. The Finch West LRT alignment follows the centre line of Finch Avenue West, from Keele Street in the east to Highway 27 in the west. It continues south along the west side of Highway 27 to Humber College Boulevard, reaching its terminal station on the Humber College campus.

When along the centre of the corridor the LRT guideway will be on a raised median, typically 150mm high, that separates the line from general traffic. At intersections, the track will be constructed at the same elevation as the crossing roadway. Light rail vehicles (LRVs) will operate on track embedded in street pavement. The proposed system will be double-tracked throughout, providing a separate track for each direction. Generally, the width of the LRT trackway is approximately 7.4m. Crossovers will be provided at designated locations to allow flexibility of operations by allowing trains to cross to the opposite track.

#### *Regional Express Rail and SmartTrack*

Each Regional Express Rail (RER) and SmartTrack project has its own profile in terms of contract type, project contractors, and schedule and construction methodology. The RER projects are in different phases of project lifecycle, such as design and construction. The implementation phases of these projects are anticipated to extend until March 2025.

### Delegation of Authority

The construction of the FWLRT, RER and SmartTrack projects will require road/lane and sidewalk closures associated with a variety of activities, including tunnelling, utility relocation, underground station and guideway construction, roadway restoration and streetscape implementation. In order to ensure schedule adherence, Transportation Services needs to be able to act expeditiously to issue the required permits, allowing the necessary closures to be in place during construction.

Following Eglinton Crosstown LRT (ECLRT) experience, the need to report on closures exceeding 30 days would be problematic in terms of the risks it would present to schedule adherence by Metrolinx and its contractors. The City has contractual obligations related to permit issuance on the FWLRT project pursuant to the Master Agreement signed between the City and Metrolinx. Given that Council report cycles are

numerous months in duration, there is risk that the City of Toronto's approval process could introduce delays to construction schedules.

In addition, this volume of reporting would overwhelm Transportation Services staff whose time could otherwise be spent reviewing plans, working with stakeholders (Metrolinx, contractors, affected Ward Councillors and the local communities) and conducting work zone coordination to minimize construction impacts on the local communities and the travelling public.

As an example, on the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project, during the period from April 1, 2016, to March 8, 2018, Transportation Services issued 235 permits to the contractor Crosslinx Transit Solutions in excess of 30 days duration under the delegated authority authorized by City Council.

In order to ensure the responsiveness these projects require, it is recommended that the General Manager, Transportation Services, be given the delegated authority to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic any highway or portion of a highway, with the exception of those highways listed in section 937-4 of Code Chapter 937, as required for the purposes of construction of the Metrolinx Finch West LRT and RER projects, and SmartTrack projects, for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days.

### **Eglinton ECLRT - Black Creek Drive Closures**

Preparation and the staging works for the construction of pier 2 of the ECLRT elevated guideway immediately north of Black Creek Drive commenced on February 20, 2018.

The construction of the support pier in the centre of Black Creek Drive, and the elevated guideway itself will require intermittent weekend road closures and long-term lane closures which will span the distance between Photography Drive and Todd Baylis Boulevard. Accordingly, Council approval is required for the closures of Black Creek Drive, as well as the closures of the north side of Eglinton Avenue between Black Creek Drive and Municipal Drive.

The proposed time frame for girder installation and associated frameworks is March 2018 until and including August 2019. The construction haul routes and scheduling will be reviewed and approved for permit issuance by City staff.

### **Councillor Engagement Process**

The Rapid Transit Community Relations team at Metrolinx have developed and implemented a comprehensive communications program utilizing a variety of meeting techniques to keep City Councillors and their staff apprised of plans and developments related to the project. Since January of 2016, separate regularly-scheduled monthly Councillor and Stakeholder meetings have been facilitated across the corridor. Key stakeholders, such as TTC staff, are updated and consulted frequently, often several times each week.

The Metrolinx consultation strategy includes one-on-one briefings of Councillors to address specific milestone events and emerging issues. Community outreach and Business Improvement Area meetings, plus newly formed Construction Liaison

Committee meetings, will continue to be scheduled throughout the long-term construction period to provide information and address current concerns and issues as they arise. The broad construction traffic management strategies have been shared with the attendees at these meetings by way of presentations made by members of the Crosslinx Transit Solutions design team, Metrolinx and City staff.

Specific details of the traffic management plans are discussed with the local Councillors as they are prepared and evolve. Metrolinx, CTS and City staff will continue to work with local Councillors to address these issues in a timely manner.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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