



REPORT FOR ACTION

F. G. Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway Closure – Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario – 2019, 2020 and 2021 Ride for Heart Event

Date: March 4, 2019

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Wards 4, 10, 13, 14, 16, 19

SUMMARY

The purpose of 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 2019, 2020 and 2021. The proposed route and times for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Ride for Heart event will remain the same as 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize 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 2, 2019, June 7, 2020 and June 6, 2021 from 2:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Ride for Heart event;
2. City Council prohibit other road closures due to events or film permits on arterial roads bounded by Highway 401, Warden Avenue, Lake Ontario, Humber River, Queen Street/The Queensway, and Yonge Street, as they will be required to accommodate overflow traffic from the expressway closures resulting from the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Ride for Heart event;
3. City Council request the Toronto Transit Commission to not schedule any subway closures during the period the Ride for Heart event is held; and
4. City Council require the organizer to pay, within 90 days of the City issuing an invoice, any costs incurred to the City to secure the work zones along the F. G. Gardiner Expressway during the F. G. Gardiner Expressway rehabilitation work.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The permit costs for the 2018 Ride for Heart event totalled approximately \$62,500. The event organizers will be responsible for the full costs associated with the Ride for Heart 2019, 2020 and 2021 events. There are no direct budgetary implications to the City.

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

DECISION HISTORY

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of January 31, 2017, by adoption of PW18.2, authorized the closure of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway for the Ride for Heart 2017 and 2018 events and prohibited road closures due to event or film permits on surrounding arterial roads in order to accommodate overflow traffic.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.PW18.2>

COMMENTS

Municipal Code Chapter 937-4, Temporary Closing of Highways, requires the General Manager of Transportation Services to obtain Council authority to temporarily close the F. G. Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Ride for Heart event is held annually to raise money for heart and stroke research. In the past, portions of Lake Shore Boulevard, the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and all of the Don Valley Parkway have been closed. The 2019 event will be the 32nd consecutive year the event is being held consisting of the 25 km, 50 km, 75 km distance ride routes and a 5 km walk involving some 13,000 cyclists and up to 4,000 walkers who are expected to raise an estimated \$6 million for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

The proposed route and times for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Ride for Heart will remain the same as 2018:

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 West from Ontario Drive to Jameson Avenue.

The benefit to using the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Exhibition Place for this event is that all downtown venues are accessible via Lake Shore Boulevard West which is maintained as an alternate route.

Vehicles travelling eastbound on the F.G. Gardiner Expressway will be diverted to Lake Shore Boulevard West near the Humber River and continue eastbound unobstructed through the entire event area, once again, minimizing any potential traffic congestion. The proposal has TTC's approval and will permit all bus and streetcar routes to operate normally.

The applicant has agreed to, and is responsible for, extensive public notification and bearing the costs associated with the installation and removal of advance and event-day traffic signing, barricades, security, and policing services. Increased advance advisory signing has reduced the number of complaints on the day of the event.

Over the course of the next few years, the Gardiner Expressway will be undergoing rehabilitation as part of the multi-phase Gardiner Strategic Rehabilitation Plan. The first contract (Section 1- Contract No. 18ECS-TI-01GE) will commence this year (2019) between Jarvis Street and Cherry Street. Subsequent contracts will be initiated to address the remaining rehabilitation needs of the Expressway. As a result of the rehabilitation work, there may be additional costs to the City to secure the work zones in order to provide a safe passage for pedestrians/cyclists on the Expressway through their work zone in advance of the event. Transportation Services staff will require that the organizer be required to pay for these additional costs and that these costs be paid within 90 days of the City issuing an invoice. Staff have informed the event organizer of this requirement.

A copy of the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Ride for Heart route map is shown on Attachment 1.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: 2019, 2020 & 2021 Ride for Heart Route Map

ATTACHMENT 1: 2019, 2020 & 2021 RIDE FOR HEART ROUTE MAP

