



Metrolinx Finch West Light Rail Transit: Construction Staging Areas, Lane Closures and Extension of Temporary Delegation for Long-Term Road Closures

Date: April 9, 2019

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 1

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for temporary daily short-term curb lane closures on a section of Highway 27 in the vicinity of Finch Avenue West and Humber College Boulevard. The proposed lane closures will be implemented intermittently during the off-peak period and to undertake early works for the Finch West Light Rail Transit (LRT) construction.

The temporary lane closures are being requested from May 2019 to October 2019.

The report further seeks Council authority to close a portion of the boulevard space within the northwest, northeast, southeast and southwest quadrants of the intersection of Highway 27 and Finch Avenue West. These areas of land are required for construction material and equipment laydown purposes during construction of the LRT portal and guideway.

The proposed boulevard closures are being requested for a period of 51 months (May 31, 2019 to August 31, 2023). With the proposed closures in place, all traffic lanes and sidewalks on Highway 27 and Finch Avenue West will be maintained.

Finally, the General Manager's current delegated authority in relation to the Finch West LRT to temporarily close to pedestrian and vehicular traffic highways or portions of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days is valid until March 31, 2020. With the expected project completion date in 2023, extension of the current delegated authority is required until August 31, 2023 to ensure timely approval and implementation of any road closures required for the completion of the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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, despite section 937-4 of Code Chapter 937, from May 16, 2019 to October 31, 2019, the authority to temporarily close to vehicular traffic portions of the northbound and southbound curb lanes on Highway 27, between 200 metres south of Humber College Boulevard and 100 metres north of Finch Avenue West, daily between 9:30am and 3:30pm as required but ending no later than October 31, 2019, for the purposes of the construction of the Finch West LRT project, and exempt the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out this delegated authority from Section 937-5 of Chapter 937, that being 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.
2. City Council close the boulevard spaces within the northwest, northeast, southeast and southwest quadrants of the intersection of Highway 27 and Finch Avenue West, as shown shaded in Attachment 1, from May 31, 2019 to August 31, 2023.
3. City Council amend Section 937-3.8 of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, to delete the date of March 31, 2020 and replace it with the date of August 31, 2023 such that the General Manager, Transportation Services will be delegated the authority to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic highways or portions of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days, until August 31, 2023, 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 Finch West LRT corridor, and to exempt the General Manager, Transportation Services in carrying out this extended delegation from Section 937-5 of Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, that being 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.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto associated with the recommendations in this report. Metrolinx's contractor, Mosaic Transit Group (MTG), is required to implement all recommendations as conditions of permit approval, funded from the Finch West Light Rail Transit project budget.

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

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting of May 22, 2018, delegated 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, 2020 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. The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.PW29.1>

COMMENTS

The Finch West Light Rail Transit (FWLRT) line will extend for 11km from Highway 27 to Keele Street and consists of 18 transit stops, including below-grade stops at the Humber College and TTC Finch West Subway Station. The LRT vehicles will operate on an exclusive right-of-way in the middle of the roadway. The project is currently in the design phase with construction expected to span from July 2019 to 2023.

Major infrastructure upgrades in the vicinity of the intersection of Highway 27 and Finch Avenue West will include construction of the transit portal, below-grade LRT vehicle guideway, below grade LRT stop at Humber College and associated streetscape.

In order to prepare the road right-of-way for future construction activities, clearing and grubbing within the boulevard space on both sides of Highway 27, between 200 metres south of Humber College Boulevard and 100 metres north of Finch Avenue West, is required. Mosaic Transit Group (The Project Co.) are responsible for obtaining all necessary and applicable permits from the City's Parks, Forestry and Recreation division.

While the clearing and grubbing activities will be undertaken within the boulevard space, daily intermittent short-term curb lane closures on this section of Highway 27 will be required to enable removal of the organic material. These lane closures will be implemented during the directional off-peak period (9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).

Additionally, temporary construction staging areas at the intersection of Highway 27 and Finch Avenue West are required to accommodate construction material and equipment storage and worker facilities for a period of 51 months, from May 31, 2019 to August 31, 2023. The proposed construction staging areas, shown on the attached drawing in Attachment 1 will occupy a portion of the existing boulevard space in the northwest, northeast, southeast and southwest quadrants of the intersection of Highway 27 and Finch Avenue West.

With the proposed construction staging areas in place, all traffic lanes on Highway 27 and Finch Avenue West will be maintained. Pedestrian movements will also be maintained on existing sidewalks. Inbound and outbound vehicular movements to the construction staging areas will be restricted to right-in/right-out only. Traffic Control

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Persons will be stationed at the construction staging area access points to avoid any conflicts between construction traffic and general vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The construction staging areas within the south-east and south-west quadrants of the intersection of Highway 27 and Finch Avenue West are located adjacent to existing residential properties. In order to minimize the impacts of these staging areas on these residential properties, the following mitigation measures will be implemented:

- Installation of a noise barrier along the rear yards of the abutting residential properties to obstruct any noise and visual impacts.
- Implementation of lighting shields to prevent any lighting impacts.
- Limitation on access hours (i.e. between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Saturday).

Finally, the General Manager's current delegated authority to temporarily close to pedestrian and vehicular traffic highways or portions of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days for the purpose of the Finch West LRT project is valid until March 31, 2020. As project construction is expected to commence in July 2019 and complete in 2023 an extension of the current delegated authority until August 31, 2023 is requested.

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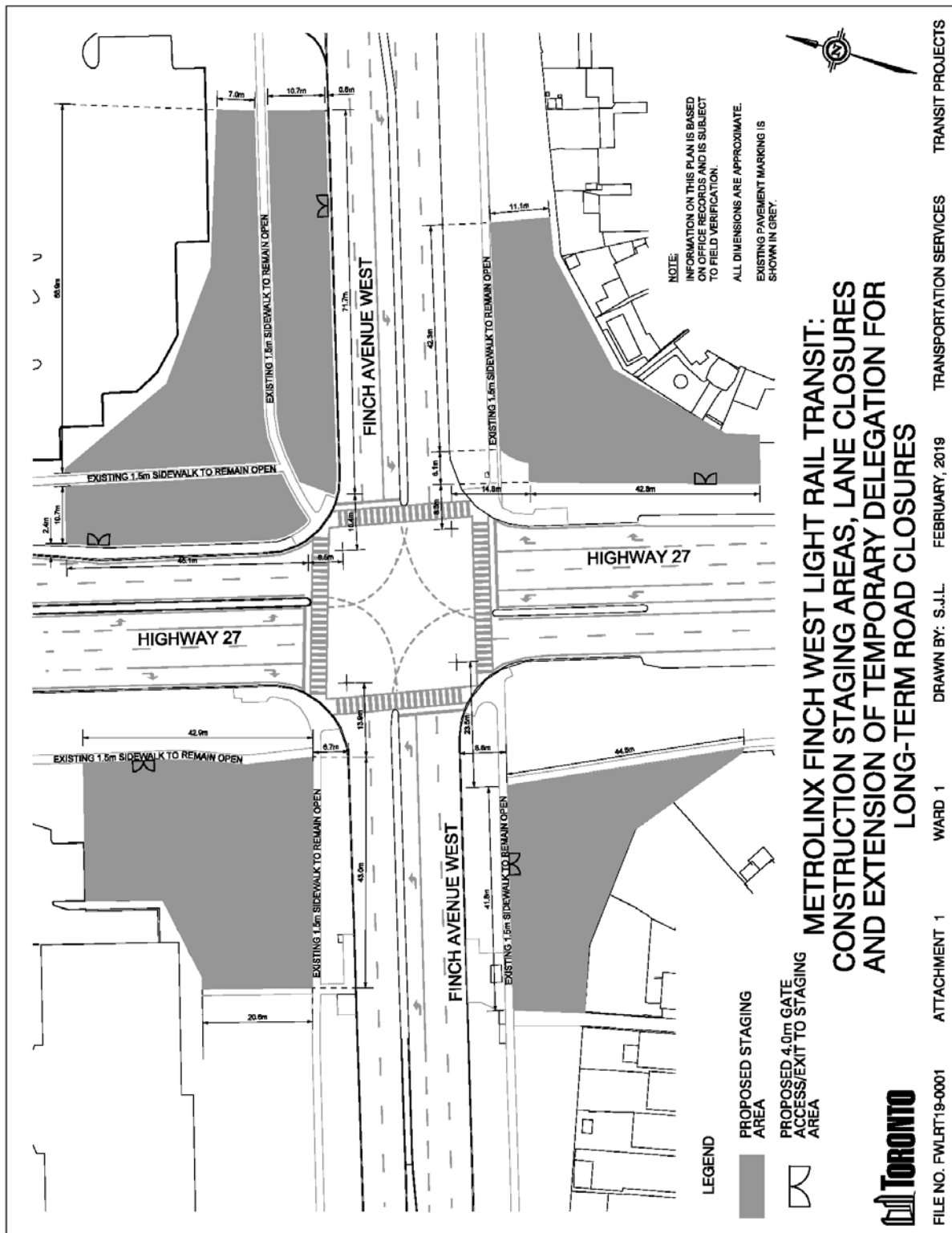
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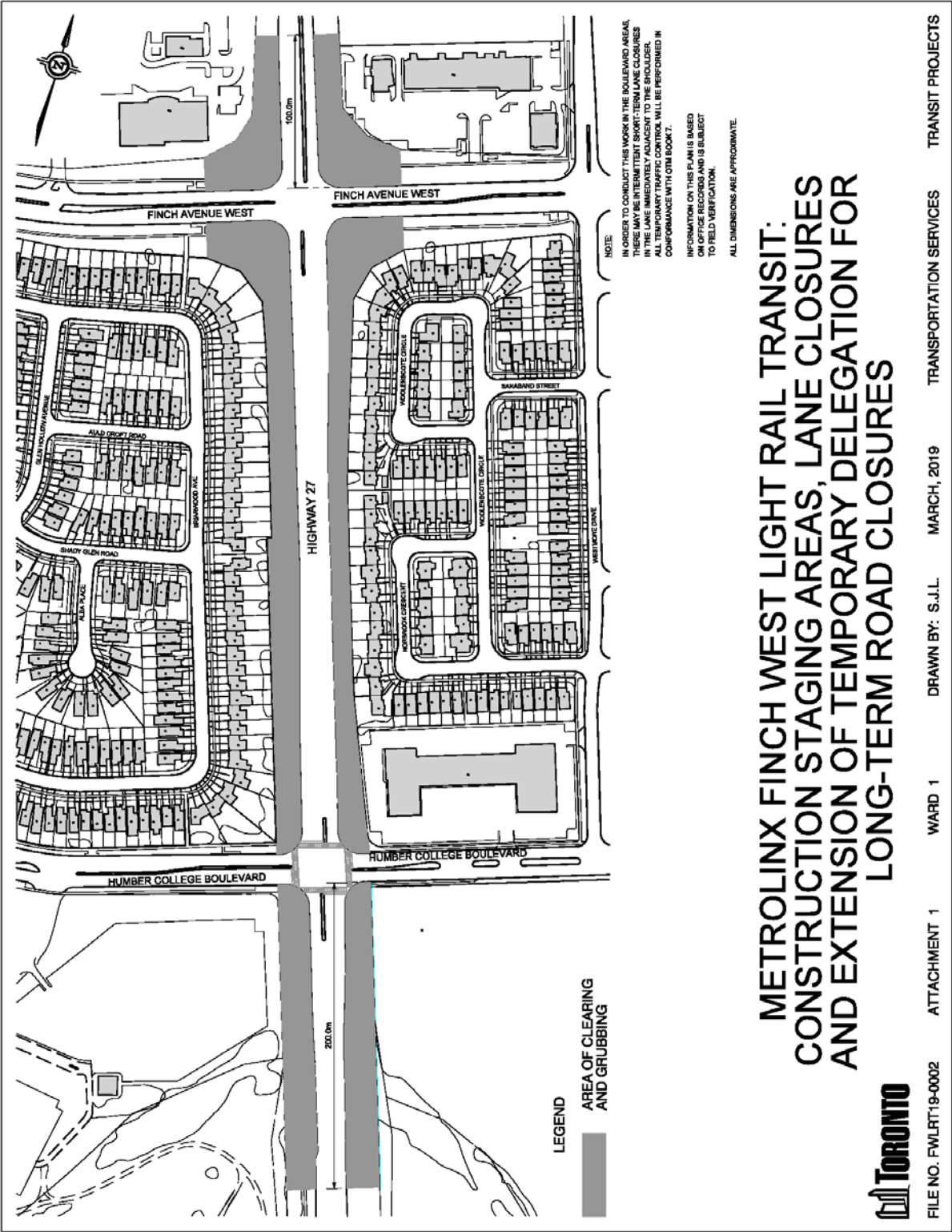
Barbara Gray
General Manager, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Finch West Light Rail Transit - Construction Staging Areas
Attachment 2: Finch West Light Rail Transit - Clearing and Grubbing Operations
Attachment 3: Finch West Light Rail Transit - Location Plan

Attachment 1: Finch West Light Rail Transit - Construction Staging Areas





Attachment 3: Finch West Light Rail Transit - Location Plan

