

Construction Staging - Port Land Flood Protection and Enabling Infrastructure Project

Date: September 24, 2019
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 14, Toronto - Danforth

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Commissioners Street, which is being rerouted along Villiers Street and Saulter Street South, City Council approval is required.

Waterfront Toronto, City of Toronto, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Toronto Port Lands Company (TPLC) have developed the Port Lands Flood Protection Project (PLFPP) to protect the Lower Don Lands and adjacent areas from potential loss of life and costly flood damage associated with a flood event, while triggering economic development. The solution involves creating two additional outlets for the Don River, which ultimately will be surrounded by new parks, green space and public realm enhancements. Several roads within the Port Lands area will be impacted.

Ellis Don, a contractor hired by Waterfront Toronto, has submitted a proposal to implement PLFPP for the Lower Don Lands. An increase in the elevation of Commissioners Street by two metres is part of the proposal.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to close Commissioners Street from Cherry Street to 120 metres east of Don Roadway from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022. The exceptions are sections of roadway providing access to properties at 39 Commissioners Street and 275 Cherry Street. The closure of these sections is deferred pending transfer of ownership and alternate access agreement with the property owners respectively.

Transportation Services is also requesting approval to close a section of Don Roadway from Villiers Street to Commissioners Street, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.

Villiers Street, running parallel to Commissioners Street will serve as an alternate route during the closure period. In order to accommodate the additional traffic, Villiers Street will also have operational changes implemented.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the temporary full closure of Commissioners Street to all road users from a point 37 metres east of Cherry Street to the west curb line of Munition Street, and from the east curb line of Munition Street to a point 120 metres east of Don Roadway, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
2. City Council authorize the temporary full closure of Commissioners Street to all road users between the west curb line of Munition Street and the east curb line of Munition Street, from the later of the date that the ownership of 39 Commissioners Street has been transferred to Waterfront Toronto or the City and the date that 39 Commissioners Street has been fully vacated to May 16, 2022.
3. City Council authorize the temporary full closure of Commissioners Street to all road users from the east curb line of Cherry Street to a point 37 metres east further, from the date an access agreement with access terms acceptable to the General Manager of Transportation Services has been fully executed between Waterfront Toronto and the owner of the property at 275 Cherry Street to May 16, 2022.
4. City Council authorize the temporary full closure of Don Roadway to all road users from the south curb line of Villiers Street to the north curb line of Commissioners Street, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
5. City Council designate the north branch of Villiers Street between Cherry Street and Don Roadway as one-way westbound traffic only, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
6. City Council prohibit standing at all times on the north side of the north branch of Villiers Street from Cherry Street to a point 40 metres east of Munition Street from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
7. City Council prohibit standing at all times on the south side of the north branch of Villiers Street from Cherry Street to Don Roadway from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
8. City Council amend the designated Bus Parking Zone regulation in effect on the north side of the north branch of Villiers Street from a point 30 metres west of Don Roadway to a point 250 metres further west, to be in effect from a point 30 metres west of Don Roadway to a point 385 metres further west, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
9. City Council prohibit parking at all times (Buses Excepted) on the north side of the north branch of Villiers Street from a point 280 metres west of Don Roadway to a point 135 metres further west, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.

10. City Council amend the existing 24 hour parking (buses only) regulation in effect on the north side of the north branch of Villiers Street, between a point 30 metres southwest of Don Roadway and a point 250 metres further southwest, to be in effect from a point 30 metres west of Don't Roadway to a point 385 metres further west, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
11. City Council designate the south branch of Villiers Street, between Cherry Street and Don Roadway as one-way for eastbound traffic only, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
12. City Council prohibit Standing at all times on both sides of the south branch of Villiers Street, from Cherry Street to Don Roadway, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
13. City Council prohibit standing at all times on both sides of Villiers Street, between Don Roadway and Saulter Street South, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
14. City Council prohibit standing at all times on both sides of Saulter Street South, between Villiers Street and Commissioners Street, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
15. City Council prohibit standing at all times on both sides of Commissioners Street, between a point 120 metres east of Don Roadway and Saulter Street South, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
16. City Council authorize the installation of temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Villiers Street and Cherry Street, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
17. City Council authorize the installation of temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Villiers Street and Don Roadway, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
18. City Council authorize an all way stop control at the intersection of Villiers Street and Saulter Street South, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
19. City Council designate the northerly westbound lane on Villiers Street, from Cherry Street to a point 40 metres east, for westbound right turns only, bicycles excepted, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
20. City Council designate the southerly westbound lane on Villiers Street, from Cherry Street to a point 40 metres east, for westbound left turns only, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
21. City Council designate the northerly eastbound lane on Villiers Street, from Don Roadway to a point 30.5 metres west, for eastbound left turns only, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.

22. City Council designate the westerly southbound lane on Don Roadway, from Villiers Street to a point 30.5 metres north, for southbound left turns only, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
23. City Council designate the easterly southbound lane on Don Roadway, from Villiers Street to a point 30.5 metres north, for southbound right turns only, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
24. City Council designate the southerly eastbound lane on Villiers Street, from Saulter Street South to a point 36 metres west, for eastbound right turns only, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
25. City Council designate the northerly eastbound lane on Villiers Street, from Saulter Street South to a point 36 metres west, for eastbound left turns only, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
26. City Council designate the westerly northbound lane on Saulter Street South, from Villiers Street to a point 30.5 metres south, for northbound left turns only, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
27. City Council designate the westerly southbound lane on Saulter Street South, from Commissioners Street to a point 30.5 metres north, for southbound right and through traffic only, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.
28. City Council direct that Commissioners Street be returned to pre-construction traffic and parking regulations when the project is completed.
29. City Council direct that Villiers Street be returned to pre-construction traffic and parking regulations when the project is completed.
30. City Council direct that Saulter Street South be returned to pre-construction traffic and parking regulations when the project is completed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto. Ellis Don is responsible for all costs associated with this project.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting on November 8 and 9, 2016 adopted item 2016 EX18.3 "Port lands Flood Protection Due Diligence Review and Next Steps" authorizing the start of Essroc Quay Lake Filling and Naturalization capital project to be created with the Waterfront Revitalization Initiative Capital Program.

City Council, at its meeting on December 5, 6, 7 and 8, 2017 adopted item 2017 PG24.6 "Port Lands Planning Initiatives – Final Report" to guide the revitalization of the Port Lands.

COMMENTS

Project Background

The area bound by Lake Shore Blvd East, Leslie St and the waterfront known as the Port Lands has been identified as being at risk of flooding under a provincially-defined Regulatory Storm event. As a result, this area is within a Special Policy Area designated by the province and is effectively undevelopable and economically underutilized until the flood risk is removed.

Waterfront Toronto, City of Toronto, TRCA and the TPLC have developed the Port Lands Flood Protection Project to protect the Port Lands and adjacent areas from potential loss of life and costly flood damage associated with a major flood event, while also triggering economic development. The Project provides flood protection through the creation of a new, naturalized mouth for the Don River and other significant flood protection measures. This will result in two additional outlets for the Don River, which ultimately will be surrounded by new parks, green space and public realm enhancements.

In the process of creating two additional outlets for the Don River, several roads within the Port Lands area will be impacted. The impact will include surface improvement, realignment as well as temporary and permanent closures. As part of the project, a section of Commissioners Street will be raised two metres above its current elevation and a new bridge will be constructed along that segment.

Existing conditions

Commissioners Street is a four-lane roadway with a speed limit of 50 km/hr with parking allowed on both sides of the street. The average daily traffic is approximately 10,000 vehicles. TTC bus routes 72B and 72C operate along the street from Cherry Street to Carlaw Avenue. Traffic signals control movement at the intersections of Cherry Street and Don Roadway. The street also has eight designated 24 h motor coach parking spaces located on the north side of the street and sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Villiers Street consists of two parallel branches between Cherry Street and Don Roadway and is separated by a grass median. Each branch acts as an independent two-way roadway with parking on both sides of the street. The traffic movement is controlled by a stop control at Cherry Street (for westbound traffic), Munition Street (for northbound traffic), and Don Roadway (for eastbound traffic). The average estimated daily traffic is approximately 1,000 vehicles. Sidewalks are present on both sides of the street. The street also has fourteen designated motor coach parking spaces located on the north side of the north branch.

The section of Villiers between Don Roadway and Saulter Street South is a two-lane roadway with parking permitted on both sides of the street. Traffic movement is controlled by a stop control at Don Roadway (for westbound traffic) and Saulter Street South (for westbound traffic). No sidewalks are present on this segment.

Construction Staging

Beginning on October 30, 2019, Commissioners Street will be temporarily closed to all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, from Cherry Street to a point 120 metres east of Don Roadway in four sections. The initial closure will include sections from a point 37 metres east of Cherry Street to the west curb line of Munition Street and from the east curb line of Munition Street to a point 120 metres east of Don Roadway. The section of roadway in front of 39 Commissioners Street will close once the property ownership is transferred to either Waterfront Toronto or the City and the property is vacated. The section roadway from Cherry Street to a point 37 metres further east will close once an alternate access agreement has been reached with the property owner of 275 Cherry Street as there is currently only one access point off of Commissioners Street for this property.

Don Roadway will be temporarily closed to all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, from the south curb of Villiers Street to Commissioners Street beginning October 30, 2019.

Villiers Street will serve as the temporary detour route for Commissioners Street, and signage will be in place to direct all road users through the area.

To accommodate the volume of traffic diverted from Commissioners Street and Don Roadway, the following operational alterations to Villiers Street and Saulter Street South will be implemented at the start of the temporary closures:

Villiers Street (north branch), between Cherry Street and Don Roadway:

- Designating the north branch as a one-way westbound two-lane roadway.
- Extending the length of the motor coach bus parking on the north side to offset the removal of motor coach bus parking on Commissioners Street.
- Prohibit standing along the remainder of the roadway between Cherry Street and Don Roadway.

Villiers Street (south branch), between Cherry Street and Don Roadway:

- Designating the south branch as a one-way eastbound two-lane roadway.
- Prohibit standing along both sides of the street between Cherry Street and Don Roadway.

Villiers Street, between Don Roadway and Saulter Street South:

- Prohibit standing along both sides of the street.
- Implementation of an all way stop control at the intersection of Villiers Street and Saulter Street South.

Temporary Traffic Control Signals:

- Installation of temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Villiers Street and Cherry Street.
- Installation of temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Villiers Street and Don Roadway.

Saulter Street South:

- Prohibit standing on both sides of the street, from Villiers Street to Commissioners Street.

Commissioners Street:

- Prohibit standing on both sides of the street, from Saulter Street South to 120 metres east of Don Roadway.

TTC bus routes 72B and 72C currently operating along Commissioners Street will be rerouted along Villiers Street and Saulter Street South.

A temporary sidewalk will be installed on the south side of Villiers Street from Saulter Street South to Don Roadway and on the west side of Saulter Street South from Villiers Street to Commissioners Street to ensure the area remains accessible for pedestrians.

To provide a cycling connection between the Martin Goodman Trail on Cherry Street and an off-road multi-use facility along Don Roadway, temporary sharrow markings will be installed along Villiers Street between Don Roadway and Cherry Street.

There will also be additional staff reports for the temporary closure of Polson Street and detour of Cherry Street at a later date to facilitate the permanent connection of the New Cherry Street at the intersection of Polson Street.

Councillor Paula Fletcher's office has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. 001 – dated August 2019
Port Lands Flood Protection Project Commissioners Street Closure Implementation

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