

Honda Indy Toronto Race 2021-2023 - Temporary Street Closures

Date: December 2, 2020
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Director, Permits and Enforcement, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 10, Spadina Fort-York

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision provided it is in keeping with City policy or by-laws.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to temporarily close and amend the necessary traffic regulations on Lake Shore Boulevard, between Strachan Avenue to Ontario Drive and on Strachan Avenue, between Fleet Street to Lake Shore Boulevard from July 8, 2021 to July 11, 2021 and July 14, 2022 to July 17, 2022 and July 13, 2023 to July 16, 2023. In the event of a delay or cancellation of the Sunday event, the final race will be held on Monday, July 12, 2021, July 18, 2022 or July 17, 2023. This temporary closure to vehicular traffic is required to facilitate the Honda Indy Toronto hosted by Green Savoree Toronto, ULC.

The proposed street event does not meet the requirements of the City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Permits and Enforcement, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council authorize the General Manager of Transportation Services to temporarily close Lake Shore Boulevard, between Strachan Avenue to Ontario Drive and Strachan Avenue, between Fleet Street to Lake Shore Boulevard to facilitate the Toronto Honda Indy street event and to amend the necessary traffic regulations for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023; and
2. Toronto and East York Community Council authorize and direct the appropriate City Officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the introduction of any Bills that may be required.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City associated with the recommendations in this report. The event organizer is responsible for all costs, including payment of fees to the City for occupancy of the right-of-way. These fees will be approximately \$11,680 per year (not including HST) and may increase the first day of January in each subsequent year by the approved annual rate increase.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council at its meeting of November 7, 8, and 9, 2017, by adoption of TE27.44, authorized the 2018, 2019 and 2020 Honda Indy Toronto Race events:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.TE27.44>

City Council at its meeting of March 1, April 1 and April 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

The General Manager, Transportation Services requires approval to temporarily close to vehicular traffic on any highway or portion of a highway beyond four consecutive days for social, recreational, community, athletic or cinematographic purposes. As this proposed closure exceeds four consecutive days and takes place on a major arterial road, Toronto and East York Community Council approval is required.

The Honda Indy Toronto Race ("Honda Indy") has taken place annually since 1986, when it was originally known as the Molson Indy Toronto. The racetrack route remains the same, running through the Exhibition Place grounds and extending onto Lake Shore Boulevard West between Ontario Drive and Strachan Avenue. The road closures required for the event take place on Lake Shore Boulevard West between Ontario Drive

and Strachan Avenue and southbound Strachan Avenue between Fleet Street/Manitoba and Lake Shore Boulevard West. These road closures occur for five days beginning on the Wednesday evening at 9:00pm prior to the race to Sunday evening when the roads reopen at 11:59pm.

Traffic Mitigation Measures

Traffic Signal Timing and Intersection Sign Modifications

Transportation Services Traffic Management Centre and the race organizer undertake a number of traffic signal timing and intersection signage modifications at approximately 17 different intersections in the surrounding area impacted by the Lake Shore Boulevard West and southbound Strachan Avenue road closures in order to improve traffic flow. A list of the locations, modifications and date and time of when these signal timing and sign changes are implemented are similar to previous years and will be confirmed in the Stakeholder Planning Meeting to take place each year.

Race Track Build

The race track build requires the installation of a concrete barrier wall. The installation of the concrete wall before the event and removal afterwards, takes place during off-peak periods on weekday evenings/early mornings between 9:00pm and 5:00am to minimize traffic impacts.

Traffic Control and Advance Warning Signs

Before January 1st of each year, the race organizer and Exhibition Place develop the initial draft of the Honda Indy road closure schedule detailing the road restrictions required to install and remove the concrete barrier wall along Lake Shore Boulevard and within Exhibition Place. Exhibition Place is very involved in many of these measures using its established network to communicate key messaging and timing.

The race organizer requests paid-duty Police Officers at a number of intersections impacted by the road closures in order to improve vehicle and pedestrian flow during the event. A list of locations where Police are stationed will be provided in the planning meeting(s) leading up to the event.

The race organizer's traffic control contractor places advisory and advance warning signage at the perimeter of the road closures and is expanded to a larger impact area bounded by: Islington Avenue in the west, Leslie Street in the east, and Bloor St at the north-most extent. The sign selection and placement are done in accordance with Ontario Traffic Manual Book 7 for Temporary Conditions which provides uniform guidelines for traffic control during temporary road closures.

On the Sunday prior to the event, during the event, and until the road is reopened, Transportation Services will be providing road closure information through the use of variable message signs at the following locations:

1. Eastbound F.G. Gardiner Expressway

- Parklawn Avenue
- Jameson Avenue

2. Eastbound Lake Shore Boulevard West

- Windermere Avenue (portable VMS)
- Spadina Avenue

3. Westbound F.G. Gardiner Expressway

- Dufferin Street

4. Westbound Lake Shore Boulevard East

- British Columbia Drive
- Carlaw Avenue

A signed detour route is provided to Ontario Place. Access to and from Ontario Place is maintained along Remembrance Drive which is located at the foot of the intersection of Lake Shore Boulevard and Strachan Avenue. During the event, Remembrance Drive is converted temporarily to a two-way operation in order to maintain vehicle access to and from Ontario Place and barricades separate the bicycle lane from vehicles traffic along the seawall. In 2017, a new Martin Goodman Trail bicycle path was built just south of Lake Shore Boulevard by Parks and Recreation. This new path is available to cyclists and pedestrians during the Honda Indy events.

During the event, the F.G. Gardiner Expressway ("Gardiner") on and off-ramps at Jameson Avenue/Dunn Avenue and Jameson Avenue/British Columbia Drive remain open for eastbound and westbound traffic at all times. The traffic barrier arm located on the Jameson Avenue westbound on-ramp which typically restricts access to the Gardiner on weekdays during the p.m. peak periods will remain open on the Thursday and Friday when Lake Shore Boulevard is closed for the event.

Media

Transportation Services and the City's Strategic Communications staff work together to provide timely and detailed information on the planned lane reductions required during the concrete barrier wall setup and takedown as well as the Lake Shore Boulevard and (southbound) Strachan Avenue road closures. This information is released by Strategic Communications to all media outlets which include radio, television, social media and print (including all ethnic community papers) approximately two to three days in advance of the lane restrictions and up to one week ahead of the road closures.

Notice of the Honda Indy road restrictions and closures are tweeted out by both Transportation Services' affiliated Twitter accounts and Strategic Communications' Twitter account. The lane restrictions required during the setup and takedown of the concrete barrier wall are tweeted out approximately two to three days prior to the work taking place. Notice of the Honda Indy Race event road closures are tweeted out approximately two weeks prior to the event. All road restriction and road closure information is also provided on the [City's website](#).

The Toronto Transit Commission ("TTC") manages its own media protocol for all streetcar and bus diversionary routing as well as the Honda Indy shuttle bus routing it provides to and from the event.

Community and Stakeholder Meetings

Exhibition Place together with the race organizer annually host pre and post-event community liaison meetings. Notice of these meetings are provided to the local Councillor's offices in order to notify the neighbouring communities and the Parkdale and Liberty Village Business Improvement Areas. Resident Associations are notified directly. Notice of the meetings are also posted on the Exhibition Place website and announced at Exhibition Place meetings.

An annual Stakeholder Planning Meeting is held on or before April 1st with TTC, GO Transit, Metrolinx, Toronto Police, Toronto Fire, EMS, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment (BMO Field), Live Nation (Budweiser Stage), Ontario Place, Exhibition Place, Transportation Services and Honda Indy operations, contractors and vendors. In 2017, weekly stakeholder meetings/calls were introduced and hosted by Exhibition Place. These weekly meetings began 10-12 weeks prior to the event to discuss the move-in and construction schedule as it relates to impacted roads and any possible road restrictions/closures. These meetings were found to be beneficial from a coordination and planning perspective and will be scheduled to continue prior to the event each year.

Traffic Mitigation Plan Improvements

Year to year, Transportation Services and the race organizer look to make continual improvements to mitigate traffic impacts through signal timing modifications, advance warning signs, paid-duty Police positioning, improving communications through our Strategic Communications group and updating the traffic plan based on construction.

A site plan is included in Attachment 1.

Transportation Services is satisfied that the event organizer has explored all options to minimize the impact of the closure on all road users. City staff will continue to liaise internally and with area stakeholders as required, to ensure all of the traffic management measures for this event are carried out in a comprehensive manner. Upon completion of the event, Transportation Services staff, in consultation with the local Councillor(s), event organizers and other stakeholders will evaluate the traffic management plan. Lessons learned will be implemented in the design of traffic management plans for future street event closures.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendation(s) of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE



David J. Twaddle, CET
Director, Permits and Enforcement, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Temporary Street Closure - Honda Indy Toronto

