

## **Temporary Delegation to the General Manager, Transportation Services, to Approve Temporary Road Closures Up To and Including 365 Consecutive Days for TTC Easier Access Phase Three Projects**

**Date:** March 9, 2021

**To:** Infrastructure and Environment Committee

**From:** General Manager, Transportation Services

**Wards:** Ward 3 - Etobicoke Lakeshore, Ward 4 - Parkdale High Park, Ward 8 - Eglinton Lawrence, Ward 11 - University Rosedale, Ward 13 - Toronto Centre, Ward 14 - Toronto Danforth, Ward 20 - Scarborough Southwest

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to delegate authority to the General Manager, Transportation Services, until December 31, 2025, inclusive, to temporarily close to vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic any highway or portion of highway, with the exclusion of those highways listed in Section 937-4 of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, up to and including 365 consecutive days, but ending no later than December 31, 2025, inclusive, as required for the purposes of the TTC's Easier Access Phase Three Projects, in order to meet their intention to meet AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians Disability Act) requirements by making all transit stations accessible by 2025. This report seeks authority to make associated amendments to Code Chapter 937 and City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures.

Without the extension of this authority, approximately 64 reports will be required seeking Council approval to grant road/lane closures lasting more than 30 days. The scope of the TTC Easier Access Phase Three projects necessitates numerous concurrent and consecutive lane closures that will extend beyond thirty days during a multi-year construction period. Delegating this authority to the General Manager, Transportation Services, will significantly reduce the administrative burden on City of Toronto staff and enable them to focus on working with TTC, the contractor, local ward councillors and the community to maximize the effectiveness of traffic management and construction scheduling, while minimizing the chance of project delay.

## 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, until December 31, 2025, inclusive, the authority to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic any highway or portion of highway for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days but ending no later than December 31, 2025, inclusive, with the exception of those highways listed in Section 937-4 of Code Chapter 937, as required for the purpose of construction of the TTC's Easier Access Phase Three Projects, and City Council exempt the General Manager of 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 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 the authority in Part 1.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

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There are no current or known future year financial impacts associated with the recommendations in this report. The TTC will be responsible for all costs associated with the installation of signage and traffic control set-up.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section.

## DECISION HISTORY

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City Council, at its meeting on January 29, 2020, delegated to the General Manager, Transportation Services, the authority to temporarily close to pedestrian and vehicular traffic highways or portion of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days, until December 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 Line 2 Scarborough Subway Extension 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.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.IE11.13>

## COMMENTS

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### **Project Status**

Transportation Services received a request from the TTC requesting an exemption from City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, up to and including 365 consecutive days in support of the TTC's Easier Access Phase Three Projects, in order to implement their intention to meet AODA requirements by making all transit stations accessible by 2025.

The project consists of upgrades to 16 TTC stations which includes the construction of elevators and other additional barrier free alterations. Table 1, attached to this report, identifies each station, ward location, proposed award date, and projected in-service dates. Several of the stations also involve construction of secondary exits/entrances. Islington and Warden Stations include major redevelopment of the existing bus terminals. The proposed construction will begin shortly after the projected award date and will continue in various phases until the projected in-service date. The extent and duration of temporary road closures will be determined based on scope within a specific phase. These projects will require boulevard, sidewalk, road, and/or laneway closures associated with excavation, utility relocation, underground construction, and streetscape restoration.

### **Delegation of Authority**

Pursuant to Section 937-2 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, the General Manager, Transportation Services, is currently authorized to close any highway for a period up to and including 30 days for construction work privately initiated (other than by a utility company with statutory rights or a municipal access agreement with the City allowing occupancy).

This authorization is subject to two limitations:

- The closure of certain roads, such as the F.G. Gardiner Expressway, the Don Valley Parkway, the W.R Allen Road, Black Creek Drive or Highway 27, requires Council approval.
- Prior to authorizing a temporary road closure, the General Manager, Transportation Services, must notify the local Ward Councillor, who may require that the matter be reported to the appropriate Community Council for final decision under delegated authority pursuant to Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures, or for recommendation to Council for final decision as required.

For temporary road closures related to construction work that are privately initiated which are more than 30 days in duration, approval must be sought through the

appropriate Community Council or City Council, depending on the location of the proposed closure.

### **Proposed Road/Lane Closure Process**

In order to ensure schedule adherence, Transportation Services must be able to act quickly to issue the required permits and ensure that the necessary road/lane closures are in place during construction. Based on current information regarding the number of proposed long term temporary road closures associated with this project, it is estimated that at least 64 reports to Community Council or City Council would have to be prepared should the existing delegated authority not be extended. This volume of reporting would impose a significant burden on Transportation Services staff whose time could be spent working with the TTC, the contractor, local ward councillors, and the community to maximize the effectiveness of traffic management and construction scheduling.

Therefore, it is recommended that the General Manager, Transportation Services, be given the delegated authority, until December 31, 2025, inclusive, to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic any highway or portion of highway, with the exception of those highways listed in section 937-4 of Code Chapter 937, for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days, but ending no later than December 31, 2025, inclusive, as required for the purposes of construction of the TTC's Easier Access Phase Three Projects.

Further, it is recommended that the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out this proposed authority, be exempt from Section 937-5 of Code Chapter 937, which outlines the General Manager's requirements with regard to Councillor consultation and the ability of the Councillor to request that the proposed temporary closure be reported to the appropriate Community Council or to Council. An alternative consultation process is discussed below.

An amendment to Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures, which outlines Council procedures and the current reporting process, is also required.

Granting this extension of authority will significantly reduce the number of reports required in support of the TTC Easier Access Phase Three Projects and remove a large source of schedule risk to the project.

### **Councillor Engagement Process**

The TTC Community Relations team will oversee a comprehensive communication initiative for the Easier Access Projects that includes public consultation, oversight of outreach, and two-way communication on all of the Easier Access Projects. Since the proposed station upgrades have the potential to cause inconvenience during construction for neighbours and customers, the TTC Community Relations section will work to improve project implementation and reduce disruption through pro-active outreach to Councillors and local communities to identify concerns early in the process. The TTC team will ensure there is early and close communication with internal teams,

City staff and Councillors throughout planning, design, and implementation of all projects. This proactive approach is intended to build public understanding and support for TTC projects from both Councillors and the general public. The TTC will work with City staff and local Councillors as issues arise to address concerns in a timely manner. Transportation Services staff will be available to assist in addressing the Councillor concerns throughout the process. In addition, TTC will be required to submit a public consultation plan in order to receive their permit to occupy the roadway.

## **Conclusion**

The requested delegated authority to the General Manager, Transportation Services, would ensure that the TTC, a city agency, can meet the provincially legislated requirements to make TTC stations accessible by 2025. Additionally, it would relieve a significant administrative burden on Transportation Services staff.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Barbara Gray  
General Manager, Transportation Services

## ATTACHMENTS

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1. Table identifying station, ward location, proposed award and projected in services dates.

TTC Station	Ward	Award Date	In Service
Donlands	14	November 2020	October 2022
College	13	November 2020	July 2023
King	13	May 2021	March 2023
Castle Frank	11	May 2021	September 2023
Glencairn	8	May 2021	September 2023
Christie	11	May 2021	September 2023
Rosedale	11	May 2021	September 2023
Spadina	11	June 2021	May 2023
Greenwood	14	June 2021	May 2023
Lawrence	8	July 2021	November 2023
Summerhill	11	August 2021	September 2023
Museum	11	December 2021	March 2024
High Park	4	February 2022	December 2023
Old Mill	3	August 2022	December 2024
Islington	3	April 2023	July 2025
Warden	20	April 2023	July 2025