

Port Lands Flood Protection - Cherry Street Temporary Diversion Road Time Extension

Date: December 10, 2021

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Cherry Street, City Council approval of this report is required.

As part of the Port Lands Flood Protection Project and Enabling Infrastructure Project, Waterfront Toronto has undertaken the construction of the Cherry Street re-alignment, between Lake Shore Boulevard East and Polson Street. A construction staging area has been set-up on the west side of Cherry Street and the north side of Polson Street. In addition, a temporary detour (diversion) roadway has been fully constructed within the existing northbound lanes, east boulevard on Cherry Street, and the additional lands on the east side of Cherry Street (leased from City of Toronto Economic Development Corporation) to accommodate northbound and southbound vehicular traffic around the construction staging area.

City Council, at its meeting on May 28, 2020, authorized the subject construction staging area on Cherry Street, from June 29, 2020 to February 28, 2022.

Waterfront Toronto has requested an extension of the duration of the construction staging area on Cherry Street, in order to complete the construction of the Cherry Street re-alignment. Based on the information provided by Waterfront Toronto, the site has experienced construction delays due to delays in steel fabrication for the Cherry Street South Bridge and ground improvement constraints between the new bridge and Polson Street.

Transportation Services is requesting authorization to extend the duration of the construction staging area and temporary detour (diversion) roadway until May 31, 2022, in order to complete the construction of the re-alignment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the continuation of the temporary closure to vehicular and pedestrian traffic the west sidewalk and two southbound lanes on Cherry Street between a point 55 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 393.5 metres further south, from March 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022, inclusive, for purposes of the Port Lands Flood Protection Project and Enabling Infrastructure Project.
2. City Council authorize the continuation of the temporary closure to pedestrian traffic on the east sidewalk on Cherry Street, between a point 195 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 263 metres further south, from March 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022, inclusive, for purposes of the Port Lands Flood Protection Project and Enabling Infrastructure Project.
3. City Council authorize the continuation of the temporary closure to pedestrian and cycling traffic Martin Goodman Trail on the east side of Cherry Street, between a point 195 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 263 metres further south, from March 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022, inclusive, for purposes of the Port Lands Flood Protection Project and Enabling Infrastructure Project.
4. City Council authorize the continuation of the temporary closure to vehicular and pedestrian traffic each of the north boulevard and the 5.5 metre wide portion of the westbound lane on Polson Street, between Cherry Street and a point 83.5 metres west, from March 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022, inclusive, for purposes of the Port Lands Flood Protection Project and Enabling Infrastructure Project.
5. City Council direct that Waterfront Toronto continue to be responsible for all costs incurred with respect to road repairs and traffic signage modifications.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The funding required for road operations and maintenance on the detour (diversion) roadway will be accommodated within the interim 2022 Operating Budget for Transportation Services.

Waterfront Toronto will continue to provide funding for all other costs including those related to road repairs and modifications to the traffic signage.

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

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting on May 28, 2020 adopted Item CC21.16 "Port Lands Flood Protection - Cherry Street Temporary Diversion Road and Traffic Control Signals" authorizing a temporary closure of the two southbound lanes on Cherry Street, between a point 55 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 393.5 metres further south, to accommodate a construction staging area, from June 29, 2020 to February 28, 2022.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.CC21.16>

City Council, at its meeting on November 26 and 27, 2019 adopted Item TE10.29 "Construction Staging - Port Land Flood Protection and Enabling Infrastructure Project" authorizing a temporary full closure of Commissioners Street, between Cherry Street and a point 120 metres of Don Roadway; and Don Roadway, between Villiers Street and Commissioners Street to accommodate construction staging.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.TE10.29>

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

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.PG24.6>

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.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.EX18.3>

COMMENTS

Project Status

The Port Lands Flood Protection Project, led by Waterfront Toronto, will provide flood protection to the level of a regulatory storm event (the equivalent of Hurricane Hazel) for the Port Lands and south of Eastern Avenue areas. As part of the project, Cherry Street will be re-aligned west of its current location from Lake Shore Boulevard East to Polson Street. The re-aligned Cherry Street will be the main north-south access route for the western portion of the Port Lands.

The following is a summary of progress and construction activities to be completed prior to the opening of new Cherry Street and the subsequent closure of the temporary detour (diversion) roadway on Cherry Street at Polson Street on May 31, 2022:

- Delivery of Cherry Street South Bridge superstructure: Completed;
- Earthworks for the approaches to Cherry South bridge: Completed ;

- Installation of the bridge, concrete deck and bridge finishes: February 2022 to May 2022;
- Utility construction on new Cherry Street: December 2021 to March 2022;
- Utility construction on Commissioners Street, between new Cherry Street and Munition Street: to be completed by December 2021;
- Gas line installation on new Cherry Street to Polson Street: to be completed by April 2022; and
- Roadworks on new Cherry Street from Commissioners Street to existing Cherry Street and Polson Street: April 2022 to May 2022.

Construction Staging Area and Diversion Road

Construction staging operations have been set-up within the two southbound lanes on Cherry Street, between a point 55 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 393.5 metres further south. The remaining northbound lanes and east sidewalk and boulevard on Cherry Street have been repurposed to accommodate a temporary diversion roadway and multi-use trail. With the closure in place, the Cherry Street diversion road operates as a 3.5 metre wide two-way highway in the northbound and southbound direction.

A portion of the temporary detour (diversion) road is built on lands leased from TEDCO, specifically a 5.8 metre wide portion of the east lands on Cherry Street, between a point 207.5 metres south of Commissioners Street and a point 183.7 metres further south. The subject lands is dedicated as a public highway, as per the executed lease between the City and TEDCO.

All road operations and maintenance of the temporary detour (diversion) roadway will continue to be undertaken by the City of Toronto. Transportation Services is responsible for funding the road operations and maintenance costs, while, Waterfront Toronto is responsible for all other costs including those related to road repairs. Temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Cherry Street and Polson Street have replaced the Pedestrian Crossover (PXO).

Pedestrian movements on the west side of Cherry Street is currently restricted. The appropriate advanced warning signage has been installed at strategic locations to clearly inform pedestrians to use the east sidewalk on Cherry Street. On the east side of Cherry Street, the Martin Goodman Trail has been re-aligned in parallel with the temporary detour (diversion) road to accommodate a 1.5 metre pedestrian walkway and a 1.5 metre bike lane.

Construction staging operations on Polson Street have been set up on the north side of the roadway, within the boulevard and westbound lane. With the construction staging area in place, Polson Street in the vicinity of the site operates as a 3.5 metre wide two-way highway in the eastbound and westbound direction. Pedestrian operations on the south sidewalk remain unchanged.

Time Extension

Based on the information provided by Waterfront Toronto, the project has experienced a number of construction delays, which are listed below:

- Delays in steel fabrication resulting in the re-sequencing of the new bridge delivery dates. The Cherry South Bridge was originally scheduled for delivery in June 2021 but was not delivered to the site until December 4, 2021;
- Ground improvement constraints between the Cherry South Bridge and Polson Street, resulting from longer than anticipated timeframe to achieve pre-consolidation requirements; and
- Utility construction in the vicinity of Cherry Street and Polson Street intersection was delayed due to issues working through the existing dock walls in Polson Slip.

In view of the above, a time extension of the existing construction staging area on Cherry Street is being requested from March 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022. This will correspond with the partial opening of new Cherry Street and new Commissioners Street. A follow up report will be submitted in Q2 2022 to decommission a portion of old Cherry Street and the implementation of new traffic and parking regulations on new Cherry Street and new Commissioners Street.

Overall, the existing construction staging area is operating acceptably, and Transportations Services does not recommend any modifications to the area for the duration of the extension.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendations of this report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Construction Staging Area on Cherry Street and Polson Street -
Proposed Extension of Closure Duration

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