

Temporary Street Closure - Market Street

Date: April 1, 2022

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Permits & Enforcement, Transportation Services

Wards: 13, Toronto Centre

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority to make a final decision, provided that it is not amended to be inconsistent with City policy or by-laws.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to temporarily close Market Street to vehicular traffic between The Esplanade and Front Street East from June 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022 and amend the necessary traffic regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Permits and Enforcement, Transportation recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council authorize the General Manager of Transportation Services to temporarily close Market Street between The Esplanade and Front Street East from June 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City. The removal of approximately 18 pay and display on-street parking spaces would reduce annual revenues generated by the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) on behalf of the City of Toronto by approximately \$45,000, based on 2019 revenues prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

DECISION HISTORY

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of May 19, 2021, by amendment of TE25.50 requested the General Manager, Transportation Services, to consult with the Manager, St Lawrence Market Complex, Corporate Services, St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, and other City divisions and stakeholders as identified about the temporary closure of Market Street, between Front Street East and The Esplanade this year, and if required, to report back to the June 24, 2021 meeting of Toronto and East York Community Council to implement this temporary closure.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.TE25.50>

COMMENTS

Municipal Code Chapter 937-3 authorizes the General Manager of Transportation Services to temporarily close to vehicular traffic any portion of a road for a period of not more than four consecutive days for social, recreational, community, athletic or cinematographic purposes. This proposed closure will be in effect for more than 4 days and, therefore, requires Community Council approval.

Market Street, between Front Street East and The Esplanade was designed as a flexible street in 2014. Adjacent to the historic St. Lawrence Market, Market Street is within a heavily pedestrianized and historic part of Toronto known for its many restaurants, shops and boutiques.

Market Street is classified as a 'Local' road in the City's Road Classification System and currently operates in a one-way southbound direction. Pay and display parking is available on both sides. During the summer months, parking is only available on the east side, the west side is altered to allow additional space for restaurant patios.

In 2021, Market Street was temporarily closed for two (2) consecutive weekends in August as part of a pilot project. An on-line survey was conducted to gauge the success of the closure which resulted in 2,200 responses. Key takeaways included;

- 92% of responses agreed they would visit Market Street more often if it were pedestrianized
- 84% of the survey responses were from the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood or within 5km of Market Street
- 29% visit St. Lawrence Market daily, while 46% visit weekly
- 94% of responses support a full summer closure for 2022

Given the findings of the survey which resulted in a strong interest to pedestrianize Market Street, The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood BIA, local councillor and St. Lawrence Market Residents Association has formed a new working group committee to support the temporary closure of Market Street for the summer months.

To help further promote the closure, this newly formed committee is looking at incremental ways to draw further interest in this initiative (i.e. street animation).

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Road Closure Site Plan

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Attachment 1: Road Closure Site Plan

