

Port Lands Flood Protection and Enabling Infrastructure - Construction Staging Time Extension

Date: April 1, 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 Commissioners Street, City Council approval is required. The TTC service has been rerouted along Villiers Street and Saulters Street South.

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.

City Council, at its meeting on November 26, 2019, authorized a full closure of Commissioners Street, from Cherry Street to 120 metres east of Don Roadway from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022; and a full closure of Don Roadway, from Villiers Street to Commissioners Street, from October 30, 2019 to May 16, 2022.

Waterfront Toronto has requested an extension of the duration of the road closures on Commissioners Street and Don Roadway, in order to complete the road reconstruction. Based on the information provided by Waterfront Toronto, the site has experienced issues with poor soil conditions and design approvals for utility relocations and enhancements, resulting in construction delays.

Transportation Services is requesting authorization to extend the duration of the full closure of Commissioners Street and Don Roadway until May 31, 2023 and August 31, 2024, respectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. 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 120 metres east of Don Roadway, from May 17, 2022 to May 31, 2023.
2. 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 May 17, 2022 to August 31, 2024.
3. City Council designate the north branch of Villiers Street between Cherry Street and Don Roadway as one-way westbound traffic only, from May 17, 2022 to May 31, 2023.
4. City Council designate the south branch of Villiers Street, between Cherry Street and Don Roadway as one-way for eastbound traffic only, from May 17, 2022 to May 31, 2023.
5. City Council authorize the installation of temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Villiers Street and Cherry Street, from May 17, 2022 to May 31, 2023.
6. City Council authorize the installation of temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Villiers Street and Don Roadway, from May 17, 2022 to May 31, 2023.
7. City Council authorize an all way stop control at the intersection of Villiers Street and Saulter Street South, from May 17, 2022 to May 31, 2023.
8. City Council designate the northerly westbound lane on Villiers Street, from Cherry Street to a point 40 metres east, for westbound right turns only, from May 17, 2022 to May 17, 2023.
9. 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 May 17, 2022 to May 31, 2023.
10. City Council direct that Commissioners Street, Don Roadway, Villiers Street and 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. EllisDon is responsible for all costs associated with this project.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting on October 1, 2021, adopted Item TE27.28 "Port Lands Flood Protection - Don Roadway - Construction Staging Area" authorizing the temporary full closure of Don Roadway to all road users, between Lake Shore Boulevard East and Villiers Street, from October 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023 to accommodate construction staging.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.TE27.28>

City Council, at its meeting on July 14, 2021 adopted Item IE23.13 "Port Lands Flood Protection - Lake Shore Boulevard East Trail and Lower Don Trail Construction Closures and Detour Routes" authorizing the installation of temporary bicycle lanes and cycle tracks along with associated temporary traffic signals and amendments to traffic and parking regulations as part of mitigative measures required to reduce impacts associated with the reconstruction of the Lake Shore Boulevard East bridge over the Don River and right-of-way between Don Roadway and Carlaw Avenue.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.IE23.13>

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

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.

The following is an updated summary of progress and construction activities to be completed prior to the opening of Commissioners Street:

- Utility construction: August 2020 to September 2022
- Construction of Sanitary Pumping Station: June 2021 to January 2023
- Shaft installation on Storm Water Treatment Facility and outfall construction: October April 2021 to February 2023
- Construction of hydro ductbank: March 2021 to September 2022
- Road reconstruction and reopening: October 2022 to May 2023

Below is a summary of activities that need to be completed prior to the re-opening of Don Roadway, between Villiers Street to Commissioner Street:

- Installation of gasmain: May 2022 to June 2023
- Utility construction: March 2023 December 2023
- Construction of ground improvements: June 2022 to March 2023
- Dock wall and roadway reconstruction and reopening: February 2024 to August 2024

Road Closures and Temporary Detour

Currently, Commissioners Street, from Cherry Street to a point 120 metres east of Don Roadway; and Don Roadway, from the Villiers Street to Commissioners Street is closed to all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic.

Villiers Street is a temporary detour route for Commissioners Street, and signage has been installed to redirect all road users through the area. Furthermore, as a part of the Lake Shore Boulevard East, Bridge and Public Realm (LSBE) Projects, temporary cycling infrastructure has been installed along Cherry Street, Villiers Street, Saulter Street, Commissioners Street and Carlaw Avenue to accommodate cyclists around construction staging areas on Lake Shore Boulevard East. Pedestrian movements have been detoured onto existing sidewalks on and in some cases, new sidewalks or multi-use trails were constructed to improve pedestrian connectivity.

TTC bus routes 72B and 72C have rerouted to Villiers Street and Saulter Street South.

Time Extension

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

- Poor soil conditions resulting in ground improvements;

- Design approvals for utility relocations and enhancements;
- Temporary and permanent utility relocations by third party utilities; and
- Delay in obtaining vacant possession of lands on Commissioners Street.

In view of the above, a time extension of the existing road closures on Commissioners Street is being requested from May 17, 2022 to May 31, 2023; and an extension of the road closure on Don Roadway from May 17, 2022 to August 31, 2024.

Overall, the detours around the road closures are 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: Port Lands Flood Protection Project - Road Closures and Traffic Controls

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