

F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway Closure - Bike for Brain Health

Date: January 16, 2023

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: 4, 10, 13, 14, 16, 19

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request City Council approval to close the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway on the Sundays of June 4, 2023, June 2, 2024 and June 1, 2025 for the purpose of the Bike for Brain Health event in support of the Baycrest Foundation. Historically, it has been a practice to seek authority for 3 year periods in order to give event organizers some certainty for planning these annual events.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the closure of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway, from the Humber River to the Don Valley Parkway, including all ramps, and the Don Valley Parkway, from the F.G. Gardiner Expressway to York Mills Road, including all ramps, on the Sundays of June 4, 2023, June 2, 2024 and June 1, 2025 from 2:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., for the Bike for Brain Health event;
2. City Council prohibit other road closures due to events or film permits on arterial roads bounded by Highway 401, Warden Avenue, Lake Ontario, Humber River, Queen Street/The Queensway, and Yonge Street, as they will be required to accommodate overflow traffic from the expressway closures resulting from the Bike for Brain Health event;
3. City Council request the Toronto Transit Commission to not schedule any subway closures during the period the Bike for Brain Health event is held; and

4. City Council require the organizer to pay, within 90 days of the City issuing an invoice, any costs incurred to the City to secure the work zones along the F. G. Gardiner Expressway during the F. G. Gardiner Expressway rehabilitation work.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The permit costs for the Bike for Brain Health is estimated at \$55,000. The event organizers will be responsible for the full costs associated with the Bike for Brain Health event. There are no direct budgetary implications to the City.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council at its meeting of February 2 and 3, 2022, by adoption of IE27.13, authorized the closure of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway for the Bike for Brain Health on June 5, 2022 and prohibited road closures due to event or film permits on surrounding arterial roads in order to accommodate overflow traffic.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.IE27.13#>

City Council at its meeting of March 27, 2019, by adoption of IE2.2, authorized the closure of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway for the Ride for Heart 2019, 2020 and 2021 events and prohibited road closures due to event or film permits on surrounding arterial roads in order to accommodate overflow traffic.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.IE2.2>

COMMENTS

Municipal Code Chapter 937-4, Temporary Closing of Highways, requires the General Manager of Transportation Services to obtain Council authority to temporarily close the F. G. Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway.

Previously, portions of Lake Shore Boulevard, the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and all of the Don Valley Parkway have been closed for similar events. The Bike for Brain Health in support of the Baycrest Foundation is proposing to host their 2nd annual event on June 4, 2023 consisting of 25 km, 50 km and 75 km distance rides with approximately 10,000 cyclists expected to participate in the event. The event is expected to raise over \$4 million for their foundation. New this year, the organizer has added an additional 75 km timed route which is expected to attract a broader market of participants to the event. To facilitate this, an additional two hour extension from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. has been requested by the event organizer. Understanding the traffic congestion impacts this will have on the City, Transportation Services will work with the event organizers to expedite and exhaust all measures related to reopening roads in the most efficient and safest way possible.

The proposed route for the event is as follows:

1. F.G. Gardiner Expressway, both directions, from the Humber River to the Don Valley Parkway;
2. The Don Valley Parkway, both directions, from the F.G. Gardiner Expressway to York Mills Road; and
3. The westbound north curb lane of Lake Shore Boulevard West from Ontario Drive to Jameson Avenue.

The rationale to using the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Exhibition Place for this event is that all downtown venues are accessible via Lake Shore Boulevard West which is maintained as an alternate route.

Vehicles travelling eastbound on the F.G. Gardiner Expressway will be diverted to Lake Shore Boulevard West near the Humber River and continue eastbound unobstructed through the entire event area, once again, minimizing any potential traffic congestion. The proposal has TTC's approval and will permit all bus and streetcar routes to operate normally.

The applicant has agreed to, and is responsible for, extensive public notification and bearing the costs associated with the installation and removal of advance and event-day traffic signing, barricades, security, and policing services. Increased advance advisory signing has reduced the number of complaints for past events. Councillors that are impacted by these closures are also notified.

Over the course of the next few years, the F.G. Gardiner Expressway will be undergoing rehabilitation as part of the multi-phase Gardiner Strategic Rehabilitation Plan. The second contract (Section 2 Contract No. 20ECS-TI-01GE) will commence in Q3 of 2023 between Dufferin Street to Strachan Avenue and will continue for three (3) years. As a result of the rehabilitation work, there may be additional costs to the City to secure the work zones in order to provide a safe passage for cyclists on the Expressway through the work zone. Transportation Services staff will require that the organizer pay for any additional costs and that these costs be paid within 90 days of the City issuing an invoice. Staff have informed the event organizer of this requirement.

A copy of the route map is shown on Attachment 1.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: BIKE FOR BRAIN HEALTH ROUTE MAP

