

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM7.24	ACTION			Ward: 17
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### **Mitigating Disruption of Betty Sutherland Trail Closure - by Councillor Shelley Carroll, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

#### **Recommendations**

Councillor Shelley Carroll, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Ministry of Transportation, in consultation with appropriate City Divisions, to investigate alternatives to the trail closure, including:

- a. providing alternative routes for pedestrian and cyclist access under the Highway 401; and
- b. exploring opportunities to open the trail for special events such as the Annual North York General Hospital Rally in the Ravine.

#### **Summary**

A portion of the Betty Sutherland Trail is currently closed as part of ongoing work being completed by the Provincial Ministry of Transportation along Highway 401 between Avenue Road and Warden Avenue. Work commenced in March 2023, and the trail will remain closed at the Highway 401 crossing for the duration of the project, which is slated for completion in Winter 2025. The trail is open north and south of the Highway 401 structure, but users of the trail are not able to cross under the 401. This severely disrupts one of the most-used recreational trails in North York.

The Ministry of Transportation has stated that it is not possible to provide a detour for cyclists or pedestrians. This answer is not acceptable for the thousands of residents who utilize this trail, both for recreation and to commute to work and school. The ongoing Ministry of Transportation work forces cyclists and pedestrians to take a significant detour and pushes them onto major streets, making their trips significantly more dangerous. The trail is also used for important community events throughout the year.

The Ministry of Transportation must explore solutions to this significant closure that maintains access for local residents and takes into account the special events that are hosted on the trail each year.

#### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM7.24