

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

**Date:** May 5, 2023

**To:** Toronto and East York Community Council

**From:** Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

**Wards:** Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth

### **SUMMARY**

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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 May 11 and 12, 2022, authorized a time extension of 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; and traffic and parking regulation amendments on Commissioners Street, Don Roadway, Villiers Street and Saulters Street South, from May 17, 2022 to May 31, 2023.

Waterfront Toronto has requested an extension of the duration of the full closure on Commissioners Street, in order to complete the road reconstruction. Based on the information provided by Waterfront Toronto, the site has experienced issues with equipment failure, high levels of groundwater infiltration coupled with poor soil conditions.

Transportation Services is requesting authorization to extend the duration of the full closure of Commissioners Street until October 31, 2023.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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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 June 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023.
2. City Council designate the north branch of Villiers Street between Cherry Street and Don Roadway as one-way westbound traffic only, from June 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023.
3. City Council designate the south branch of Villiers Street, between Cherry Street and Don Roadway as one-way for eastbound traffic only, from June 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023.
4. City Council authorize the installation of temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Villiers Street and Cherry Street, from June 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023.
5. City Council authorize the installation of temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Villiers Street and Don Roadway, from June 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023.
6. City Council authorize an all way stop control at the intersection of Villiers Street and Saulter Street South, from June 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023.
7. 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 June 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023.
8. 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 to June 1, 2023
9. City Council designate the northerly eastbound lane on Villiers Street, from Don Roadway to a point 30.5 metres west, for eastbound left turns only, from June 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023.
10. City Council designate the westerly southbound lane on Don Roadway, from Villiers Street to a point 30.5 metres north, for southbound left turns only, from June 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023.
11. 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**

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There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto. EllisDon is responsible for all costs associated with this project.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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City Council, at its meeting on May 11 and 12, 2022, adopted Item TE32.52 "Port Lands Flood Protection and Enabling Infrastructure - Construction Staging Time Extension" authorizing the time extension of the temporary full closure of Commissioners Street and Don Roadway; and parking regulation amendments on Commissioners Street, Don Roadway, Villiers Street and Saulter Street South, from May 17, 2022 to May 31, 2023. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.TE32.52>

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

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### 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 June 2023
- Construction of Sanitary Pumping Station: June 2021 to December 2023
- Construction of hydro duct bank: March 2021 to June 2023
- Road reconstruction and reopening: October 2022 to October 2023

### Road Closures and Temporary Detour

Currently, Commissioners Street, from Cherry Street to a point 120 metres east of Don Roadway; and Don Roadway, from Lake Shore Boulevard East 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 and in some cases, new sidewalks or multi-use trails were constructed to improve pedestrian connectivity.

It should be noted that Transportation Services is working with Waterfront Toronto to address maintenance issues along the temporary cycling infrastructure, as per Attachment 2.

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:

- Challenges with construction of underground utilities due to an inability to achieve drawdown to depths required for a storm sewer installation on Commissioners Street, between Cherry Street and Munitions Street;
- Following initial placement of the storm sewer pipeline, settlement occurred requiring removal and replacement of the pipeline; and
- Multiple failures with the dewatering system on-site.

In view of the above, a time extension of the existing road closures on Commissioners Street is being requested from June 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023.

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

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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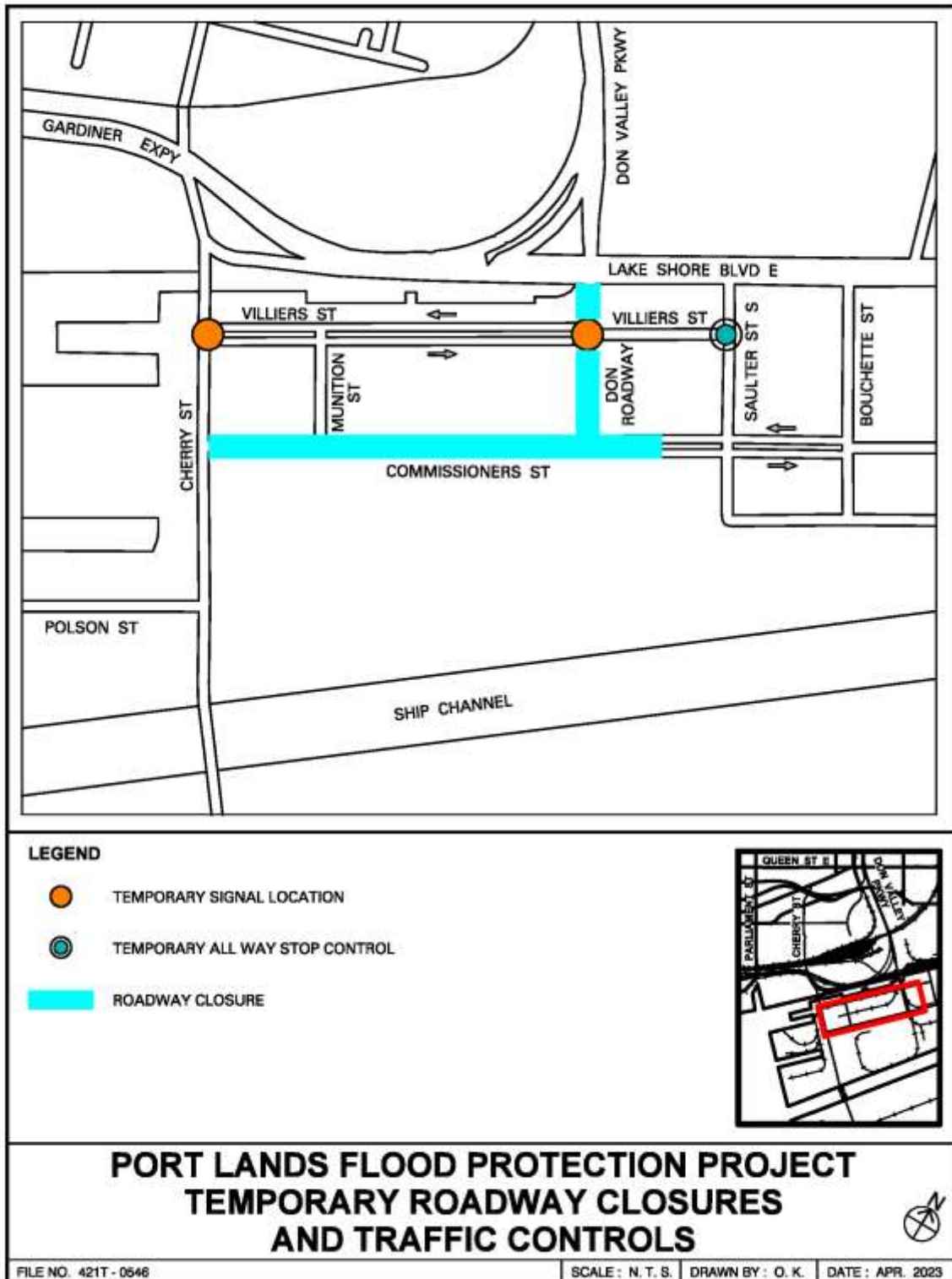
Roger Browne, M.A.Sc., P. Eng.  
Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1: Port Lands Flood Protection Project - Road Closures and Traffic Controls  
Attachment 2: Memorandum of Understanding - Detour Maintenance

Attachment 1: Port Lands Flood Protection Project - Road Closures and Traffic Controls



Attachment 2: The memorandum from Waterfront Toronto will be available on or before the May 24, 2023, Toronto and East York Community Council Meeting.