

## **Temporary Street Closure for Eastbound F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Northbound Don Valley Parkway - 2025 Toronto Triathlon Festival**

**Date:** October 7, 2024

**To:** Infrastructure and Environment Committee

**From:** General Manager, Transportation Services

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

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to seek City Council's authority to close portions of the eastbound lanes on the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and northbound lanes on the Don Valley Parkway for the Toronto Triathlon Festival event for 2025. The proposed route of the 2025 Toronto Triathlon Festival event will remain the same as 2024.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the closure of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway, eastbound lanes only, from the Humber River to the Don Valley Parkway, including all ramps, and the Don Valley Parkway, northbound lanes only, from the F.G. Gardiner Expressway to Eglinton Avenue East, including all ramps, on Sunday, July 27, 2025 from 2:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., for the 2025 Toronto Triathlon Festival 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, on Sunday, July 27, 2025 as they will be required to accommodate overflow traffic from the expressway closures resulting from the 2025 Toronto Triathlon Festival event; and
3. 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**

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The revenues related to permit issuance for the 2025 Toronto Triathlon Festival are approximately \$15,000 and will be included as part of the 2025 Operating Budget submission for Transportation Services. The event organizers will be responsible for full costs associated with the event.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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City Council at its meeting of December 13, 2023, by adoption of IE9.1, authorized the closure of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway for the Toronto Triathlon Festival 2024 event 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=2023.IE9.1>

City Council at its meeting of May 11, 2022, by adoption of IE29.6, authorized the closure of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway for the Toronto Triathlon Festival on the Sundays of July 24, 2022, July 23, 2023 and July 21, 2024 from 2:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 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.IE29.6>

## **COMMENTS**

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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.

The Toronto Triathlon Festival (TTF) has proven to be a successful signature event in the City of Toronto, with a corresponding growth in popularity and economic benefit since its inception in 2012.

The Ontario Honda Indy Dealers ("Honda Indy") has taken place annually since 1986, when it was originally known as the Molson Indy Toronto, has had economic impact on the community, as well as an economic impact to the city on an annual basis.

The City of Toronto looks forward to hosting the Toronto Triathlon Festival and Honda Indy as part the 2025 event schedule. These two recurring events take place in our city during the month of July. In order to accommodate the 2025 Honda Indy, the Toronto

Triathlon Festival has agreed to move its original date from July 20, 2025 to July 27, 2025.

Since 2012, City staff and related stakeholders have reported that the TTF has operated effectively and has generated minimal public concern regarding the operation of the festival and its related road closures.

The proposed route and times for the 2025 TTF will remain the same as 2024:

1. F.G. Gardiner Expressway, eastbound lanes only, from the Humber River to the Don Valley Parkway;
2. The Don Valley Parkway, northbound lanes only, from the F.G. Gardiner Expressway to Eglinton Avenue East; and
3. Lake Shore Blvd West, eastbound curb lane, from Budapest Lane to New Brunswick Way/Remembrance Drive.

The national governing body of the sport, Triathlon Canada, has awarded the TTF the Canadian National Championships designation (for the Olympic Distance in 2022 and for the Sprint Distance in 2023). In addition, the provincial governing body of the sport, Triathlon Ontario, has awarded the TTF the Ontario Provincial Championships designation for 2022 and 2023. These designations will continue to increase the festival's profile across Canada (and internationally) as will the festival's embedded races, such as the mile swim, the time trial bike and the 10k run (all components of a traditional triathlon). These factors will continue to contribute positively in growing event participation numbers.

The applicant 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. Over the last few years that the triathlon operated, increased advance advisory signing had reduced the number of complaints on the day of the event.

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 2024 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 pedestrians/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 2025 Toronto Triathlon Festival route map is shown on Attachment 1.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Barbara Gray  
General Manager, Transportation Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1: 2025 Toronto Triathlon Festival Route Map

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