

Construction Staging Area – William R. Allen Road (Wilson Station Bus Underpass and Mezzanine Bridge Rehabilitation)

Date: February 12, 2025
To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee
From: General Manager, Transportation Services
Wards: York Centre, Ward 6

SUMMARY

As William R. Allen Road is classified as an expressway, City Council approval of this report is required.

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) is planning to rehabilitate the Wilson Station bus underpass structure and the Mezzanine Bridge on William R. Allen Road. The site is located on William R. Allen Road, between Wilson Avenue and a point 140 metres further north.

Transportation Services is requesting that City Council delegate to the General Manager of Transportation Services the authority to temporarily close the northbound and southbound traffic lanes, including the east and/or the west shoulders on William R. Allen Road to facilitate construction staging operations for rehabilitation of the Wilson Station bus underpass structure and the Mezzanine Bridge. The project will be undertaken in four stages. Each stage will require alternating lane closures with at least two traffic lanes maintained in each direction, for a period of nine months, from April 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Additionally, access to the Highway 401 westbound on-ramp from southbound William R. Allen Road will be restricted for a period of approximately three months from April 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025. During this phase, vehicular traffic will follow a signed diversion route to access Highway 401 using alternate interchanges nearby.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Transportation Services, recommends that:

1. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, to delegate to the General Manager, Transportation Services, despite Construction Staging Area - William R. Allen Road (TTC Wilson Station Rehabilitation Project)

Section 937-4 of Chapter 937, until December 31, 2025, inclusive, the authority to temporarily close to vehicular traffic:

A. the Highway 401 on-ramp from southbound William R. Allen Road located at the Wilson TTC Station; and

B. between Wilson Avenue (bridge) and a point 140 metres further north:

- i. a northbound and/or a southbound lane on William R. Allen Road; and
- ii. the east and the west shoulder on each or both of the northbound and southbound William R. Allen Road,

for any number of occasions and for any number of days between April 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025, inclusive, as required to facilitate rehabilitation works of the Wilson Station bus underpass structure and the Mezzanine Bridge on William R. Allen Road, and City Council exempt the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out this delegated authority from Section 937-5 of Chapter 937, that being the requirement to notify the local Ward Councillor of the pending closure and the requirement to report on the proposed closure if so requested by the local Ward Councillor.

2. City Council prohibit stopping at all times on both sides of northbound William R. Allen Road, between a point 350 metres north of Wilson Avenue and a point 200 metres south of Wilson Avenue.

3. City Council prohibit stopping at all times on both sides of southbound William R. Allen Road, between a point 350 metres north of Wilson Avenue and a point 200 metres south of Wilson Avenue.

4. City Council direct the permit applicant to sweep the construction site and adjacent roadways daily, or more frequently as needed, to be cleared of any construction debris and made safe.

5. City Council direct the permit applicant to provide a sufficient number of paid duty Police Officers as determined by the Work Zone Coordinator and Toronto Police Construction Liaison Officer during large scale concrete pours and large scale material deliveries to control vehicle access and egress to and from the site and maintain a safe environment for the public.

6. City Council direct the permit applicant to post a 24-hour monitored construction hotline number on the hoarding board, which must be prominently placed and legible from 20 metres and on all elevations from the construction site.

7. City Council direct the permit applicant to cooperate with and provide all necessary assistance to the City Engineers, staff and representatives carrying out operation, maintenance, and construction activities to municipal infrastructure within the vicinity of the construction staging area and, at no cost to the City, to remove any staging to accommodate the necessary municipal infrastructure work.

8. City Council direct that William R. Allen Road be returned to its pre-construction traffic regulations when the project is complete.

9. City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce the necessary Bills to give effect to City Council's decision and City Council authorize the City Solicitor to make any necessary clarifications, refinements, minor modifications, technical amendments, or By-law amendments as may be identified by the City Solicitor, in consultation with the General Manager, Transportation Services in order to give effect to City Council's decision.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as contained in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Project

Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) has undertaken the rehabilitation of TTC Wilson Station bus underpass structure and the Mezzanine Bridge on William R. Allen Road. The current project involves the following construction activities:

- Removal and repair works of the roadway portion as well as the parapet walls on the east and west side of northbound William R. Allen Road;
- Removal and repair works of the roadway portion at the bus underpass and removal and repair of the roadway and parapet walls at the Mezzanine bridge on the west side of southbound William R. Allen Road, and;
- Removal and repair of parapet wall at the bus underpass on the east and west side of southbound William R. Allen Road.

Existing Conditions

William R. Allen Road is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a six-lane, north-south, expressway.
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 78,000 vehicles.
- The speed limit is 80 km/h.

Proposed Construction Staging Areas

A detailed review of the construction schedule was undertaken by TTC to minimize the project duration and impacts of the construction on all road users. The project consists of four phases, commencing in April 2025 with completion expected by December 31, 2025. To facilitate construction activities, a single northbound lane and southbound lane on William R. Allen Road is required. The general limits of construction and lane closures on William R. Allen Road span from Wilson Avenue to a point approximately 140 metres further north. Two traffic lanes in each direction will always be maintained around the proposed lane closures. In some instances, the east and west shoulder on the northbound and southbound William R. Allen Road will be utilized to accommodate temporary vehicle travel lanes and the construction staging. A detailed closure plan for each stage of construction can be found in Attachments 1 to 4.

It should be noted the Stage 1 South bound (Attachment 3) involves a temporary closure of the Highway 401 on ramp at southbound William R. Allen Road, from April 2025 to June 2025. In order to mitigate the traffic impacts during this phase, the following mitigation measures are planned:

- Signal timing adjustments on diversion route;
- A signed detour route around the Highway 401 ramp closure;
- Traffic camera observations to identify congestion issues; and
- Installation of static signage and electronic message board signs in advance of the planned closures.

In coordination with the Strategic Capital Coordination Office, a review of the City's Major Capital Works Program in 2025-2026 on William R. Allen Road has determined no conflicts. Moreover, a review of the diversion routes around the Highway 401 westbound on-ramp closure, has determined there are no conflicting closures or works. The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario has been advised of the proposed closures.

Transportation Services is satisfied that TTC has looked at all options to minimize the duration and impact of the construction staging area on all road users.

Temporary Delegation of Authority

As this work is on an expressway, the need to report and obtain City Council approval for temporary lane closures could significantly delay the construction schedule due to the timeline of Council reporting cycles. To avoid these delays and promptly address the schedule and permit temporary road closures without delay for the construction, it is recommended that the General Manager, Transportation Services, be given the delegated authority between April 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025, inclusive, to temporarily close entry and exit roadway ramps, portions of the northbound and southbound traffic lanes including the east and west shoulders on William R. Allen Road, despite Section 937-4 of Chapter 937, as required for the purposes of rehabilitation works of the Wilson Station bus underpass structure and the Mezzanine Bridge on William R. Allen Road.

It is also recommended that, in carrying out this delegation, the General Manager, Transportation Services, be exempt from Section 937-5 of Chapter 937, that being the requirement to notify the local Ward Councillor of the pending closure and the requirement to report on the proposed closure if so, requested by the local Ward Councillor. City staff will hold regular meetings with local Councillors to provide updates, information and advice on the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) works.

This temporary delegation of authority will enable Transportation Services staff to efficiently handle any matters related to project scheduling, traffic control, road safety, or event coordination. Furthermore, the temporary delegation will allow staff to allocate their time towards reviewing plans, collaborating with stakeholders, and coordinating work zones to reduce construction impacts on the local communities and travelling public.

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

CONTACT

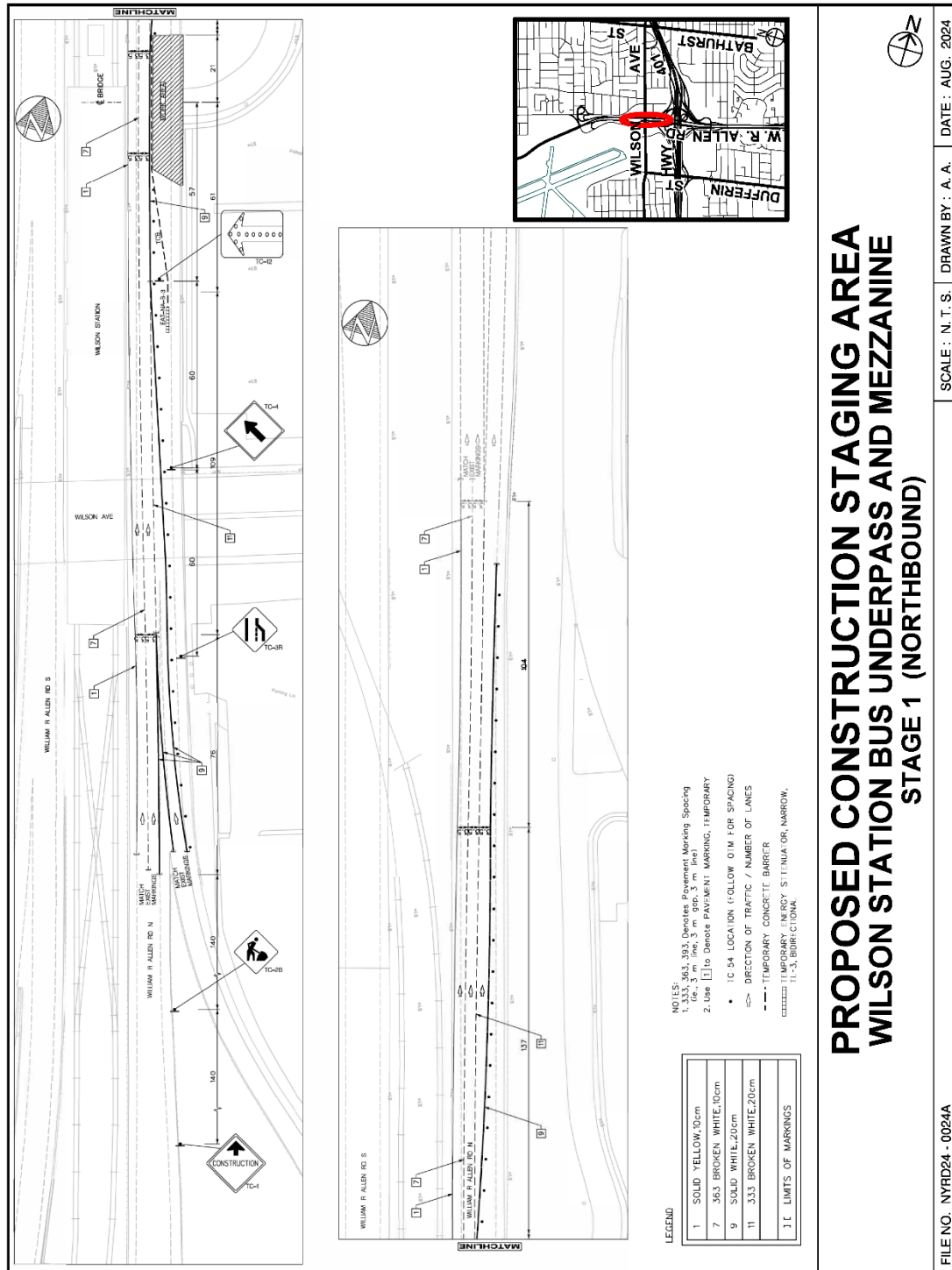
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SIGNATURE

Barbara Gray
General Manager
Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Construction Staging Area - Stage 1 Northbound - William R. Allen Road
Attachment 2: Construction Staging Area - Stage 2 Northbound - William R. Allen Road
Attachment 3: Construction Staging Area - Stage 1 Southbound - William R. Allen Road
Attachment 4: Construction Staging Area - Stage 2 Southbound - William R. Allen Road





Attachment 3: Construction Staging Area - Stage 1 Southbound - William R. Allen Road

