

Request for Temporary Delegation to the General Manager, Transportation Services, to Approve Temporary Road Closures Up To and Including 365 Consecutive Days for TTC Traction Power Upgrade Projects

Date: March 31, 2025

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 3 - Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Ward 10 - Spadina-Fort York, Ward 11 - University-Rosedale, Ward 12 - Toronto-St. Paul's, Ward 13 - Toronto Centre

SUMMARY

The TTC's Easier Access Phase Three project involves work to complete the construction of accessibility retrofits at TTC subway stations, including elevators and associated architectural, structural, mechanical, and electrical modifications. As the Easier Access Phase Three program is nearing completion, the requirement for temporary road closures beyond thirty days, extending into 2026, have been identified for five stations, including King, Spadina, Museum, Old Mill, and Islington.

The purpose of this report is to request delegated authority to the General Manager, Transportation Services, until December 31, 2032, inclusive, to temporarily close to vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic any highway or portion of highway, with the exclusion of those highways listed in Section 937-4 of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, up to 365 consecutive days, but ending no later than December 31, 2032, inclusive, as required for the purposes of the TTC's Easier Access Phase Three and Traction Power Upgrade projects in order to meet both AODA requirements, and requirements to upgrade traction power infrastructure ahead of the major transit line expansions being executed by both Metrolinx and the TTC.

This report seeks authority to make associated amendments to Code Chapter 937 and City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures.

Without the delegation of this authority, approximately 11 reports will be required seeking Council approval to grant road/lane closures lasting more than thirty days. The scope of these projects will require boulevard, sidewalk, road, and/or laneway closures associated with excavation, utility relocation, underground construction, and streetscape

restoration that will extend beyond thirty days. Delegating this authority to the General Manager, Transportation Services, will significantly reduce the administrative burden on City of Toronto and TTC project staff, enabling all parties to focus on working with the contractor, local ward councillors and the community to maximize the effectiveness of traffic management and construction scheduling, while minimizing the chance of project delay.

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, until December 31, 2026, inclusive, the authority to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic any highway or portion of highway for a period up to 365 consecutive days but ending no later than December 31, 2026, inclusive, with the exception of those highways listed in Section 937-4 of Code Chapter 937, as required for the purpose of construction of the Easier Access Projects, and City Council exempt the General Manager of 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 amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, to delegate to the General Manager, Transportation Services, until December 31, 2032, inclusive, the authority to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic any highway or portion of highway for a period up to 365 consecutive days but ending no later than December 31, 2032, inclusive, with the exception of those highways listed in Section 937-4 of Code Chapter 937, as required for the purpose of construction of the Traction Power Upgrade Projects, and City Council exempt the General Manager of 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.
3. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures, to provide that the current delegation to Community Council to temporarily close public lanes or public alleys, local roads, collector roads, and minor arterial roads does not include closures delegated to the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out the authority in Parts 1 and 2.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated revenues to Transportation Services are variable each year as it is subject to approved temporary road closures for TTC projects and requests. The expenditures to pay for the temporary road closures as well as all other applicable costs such as installation of signage and traffic control set-up will be included in TTC's Operating and Capital Budget.

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

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting on April 7, 2021 adopted Item IE20.16 with amendments and in so doing, amended By-law 217-2021 Temporary Delegation to the General Manager, Transportation Services, to Approve Temporary Road Closures Up To and Including 365 Consecutive Days for Toronto Transit Commission Easier Access Phase Three Projects.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.IE20.16>

The TTC Board, at its meeting on December 3, 2024, approved the updated program schedule for the TTC's Easier Access Phase Three program, noting the acceleration efforts underway to advance completion of this program.

https://cdn.ttc.ca/-/media/Project/TTC/DevProto/Documents/Home/Public-Meetings/Board/2024/December-3/5_EA_Phase_III_Project_Status_Update_December_2024.pdf?rev=c3a237b0012f462093a0d9ee2508d47c&hash=AEF1C511CF3AC7B913AA4968B2CE499A

COMMENTS

Project Background

The Easier Access Phase Three project involves work to complete the construction of accessibility retrofits at TTC subway stations, including elevators and associated architectural, structural, mechanical, and electrical modifications. As the Easier Access Phase Three program is nearing completion, the requirement for temporary road closures beyond thirty days, extending into 2026, have been identified for five stations, as outlined in Table 1, below. These five stations include King, Spadina, Museum, Old Mill, and Islington. Obtaining temporary delegation for these five stations will help to expedite the required construction work, facilitating completion of these projects.

Table 1: Overview of Five Stations Requiring Extensions into 2026

TTC Station	Ward	Award Date	In Service
King	13	August 2022	Q4 2026
Spadina	11	May 2022	Q3 2026
Museum	11	June 2022	Q2 2026
Islington	3	May 2023	Q1 2026
Old Mill	3	January 2025	TBA

It is expected that 90% of TTC stations will become accessible by the end of 2025, as a result of the Easier Access Phase Three program. The schedules for the remainder of stations have been re-forecasted beyond 2025, due to a number of impacts such as unexpected site conditions, design issues, third-party conflicts, subcontractor conflicts, and supply chain and other market conditions. The TTC has initiated an interim service plan to provide service connections to accessible subway stations and have employed several mitigation measures across the program, including combining construction stages where possible, providing additional shifts to recover schedule delays, and additional opportunities to accelerate critical path activities.

The Traction Power Upgrade program consists of upgrades to aging linear infrastructure that provides power to the Line 1 and Line 2 subway systems. It consists of 6 projects which include:

Positive and Negative Feeders & Duct Bank Replacement at:

Granby (S75-7)

Orde (U75-3)

Yonge Street (S75-12)

Duncan (U75-2)

Richmond Street (S75-6)

Positive and Negative Feeders at:

Berwick (S75-8)

Table 2, below, identifies each project contract, ward location, proposed award date, and projected substantial completion dates. The proposed construction will begin shortly after the projected award date and will continue in various phases until the projected in-service date.

Table 2: Project Contracts and Timeline Overview: Award and Completion Dates

Contract Name	Location Description	Ward	Award Date	Substantial Completion
S75-7	Yonge Street, south of Granby Street. Turko Parkette. Sheard Street from Granby Street to McGill Street.	13	June 2025	August 2028

U75-3	University Avenue (SB) between College Street and Orde Street. Orde Street between University Avenue and Murray Street.	11	June 2026	June 2028
S75-12	Yonge Street between Richmond Street and King Street	13	Q1 2028	Q4 2029
U75-2	University Avenue between Queen Street West and Richmond Street. Richmond Street between University Avenue and Twilight Lane. Twilight Lane between Richmond Street and Nelson Street. Nelson Street between Simcoe Street and Duncan Street.	10	Q1 2028	Q2 2031
S75-6	Richmond Street between Yonge Street and east of Victoria Street / west of Church Street.	13	Q1 2030	Q1 2032
S75-8	Berwick Avenue near Lane West Yonge North Hillsdale	12	Q1 2031	Q4 2032

The extent and duration of temporary road closures will be determined based on scope within a specific phase. These projects will require boulevard, sidewalk, road, and/or laneway closures associated with excavation, utility relocation, underground construction, and streetscape restoration.

Councillor Engagement Process

The TTC Community Relations team will continue their comprehensive communication initiative for both the Easier Access Phase Three and Traction Power Upgrade programs that includes oversight of outreach, and two-way communication. Since the proposed construction work associated with these projects have the potential to cause inconvenience during construction for neighbours and customers, the TTC Community Relations section will work to improve project implementation and reduce disruption through pro-active outreach to Councillors and local communities to identify concerns early in the process. The TTC team will ensure there is early and close communication with internal teams, City staff and Councillors throughout planning, design, and implementation of all projects. This proactive approach is intended to build public understanding and support for TTC projects from both Councillors and the general public. The TTC will work with City staff and local Councillors as issues arise to address concerns in a timely manner.

Conclusion

The requested delegated authority to the General Manager, Transportation Services, would ensure that the TTC can meet the requirement to complete the Easier Access Phase Three program to meet AODA requirements, and upgrade the traction power infrastructure ahead of the major transit line expansions being executed by both Metrolinx and the TTC by 2032. Additionally, it would relieve a significant administrative burden on Transportation Services staff, enabling them to focus on reviewing plans, working with stakeholders (including Ward Councillors and the local communities) and conducting work zone coordination to minimize construction impacts on the local communities and the travelling public.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS
