

Temporary Street Closure for Eastbound F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Northbound Don Valley Parkway - 2026 Toronto Triathlon Festival

Date: May 28, 2025

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

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

SUMMARY

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 on Sunday July 26, 2026. The proposed route of the 2026 Toronto Triathlon Festival event will remain the same as 2025.

In previous years, Transportation Services has recommended approval of these closures for this annual event for a three-year period. At this time, Transportation Services is recommending approval for a one-year period (2026), considering the ongoing provincially led due diligence review related to the upload of the F. G. Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway to the Province.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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 26, 2026 from 2:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., for the 2026 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 26, 2026 as they will be required to accommodate overflow traffic from the expressway closures resulting from the 2026 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

The revenues related to permit issuance for the 2026 Toronto Triathlon Festival are approximately \$17,000 and will be included as part of the 2026 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

City Council at its meeting of November 13, 2024, by adoption of IE17.3, authorized the closure of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway for the Toronto Triathlon Festival 2025 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=2024.IE17.3>

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

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.

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 2026 TTF will remain the same as 2025:

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.

Motorists will continue to have access to westbound on the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and southbound on the Don Valley Parkway. Access to Lake Shore Blvd West will be maintained in both directions, with the exception of the westbound curb lane on Lake Shore Blvd West between British Columbia Drive and Ontario Drive, as well as the eastbound curb lane on Lake Shore Boulevard from Ontario Drive to approximately 300 metres east of British Columbia Drive, minimizing any potential traffic congestion.

The proposal has TTC's approval and will permit all bus and streetcar routes to operate normally.

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.

The construction of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway is currently undergoing rehabilitation as part of the multi-phase Gardiner Strategic Rehabilitation Plan. The work between Dufferin Street to Strachan Avenue is currently ongoing and is currently on track to be completed by Spring 2026.

A copy of the 2026 Toronto Triathlon Festival route map is shown on Attachment 1.

Future Ownership of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway

On December 13, 2023, City Council approved in principle the Ontario-Toronto New Deal, which includes a provincial commitment to upload the F.G. Gardiner Expressway

and the Don Valley Parkway to the Government of Ontario, subject to a due diligence review that is still underway. The due diligence review is a provincially led process and includes an assessment of the highways, financial and legal reviews, and corridor management controls.

City staff have informed the Province of Transportation Services' recommendation to City Council to authorize the requested closures for this event. The event organizer has also been informed that if ownership of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway transfers to the Province before the event, authorization for the closures will need to be obtained directly from the Province.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Barbara Gray
General Manager, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: 2026 Toronto Triathlon Festival Route Map

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