

## **Temporary Street Closure - Market Street**

**Date:** April 10, 2025

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

**From:** Director, Permits and Enforcement, Transportation Services

**Wards:** 13, Toronto Centre

### **SUMMARY**

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This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority to make a final decision, provided that it is not amended to be inconsistent with City policy or by-laws.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to temporarily close Market Street to vehicular traffic between The Esplanade and Front Street East from May 11, 2025 to January 10, 2026.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Director, Permits and Enforcement, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council authorize the General Manager of Transportation Services to temporarily close Market Street to vehicular traffic between The Esplanade and Front Street East from May 11, 2025 to January 10, 2026.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There is no financial impact to the City associated with the recommendations in this report.

Any financial impacts associated with the removal of the pay-and-display parking are expected to be resolved between the event organizers and the Toronto Parking Authority.

## DECISION HISTORY

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Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of October 24, 2024, by adoption of TE17.25, requested the General Manager, Transportation Services, to extend the temporary closure to vehicular traffic of Market Street between Front Street East and The Esplanade until January 18, 2025.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.TE17.25>

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of October 18, 2023, by adoption of TE8.38, requested the General Manager, Transportation Services to extend the temporary closure of Market Street between Front Street East and The Esplanade until November 30, 2024 to report back with recommendations regarding closing this section of Market Street permanently, including working with stakeholders to explore possibilities for addressing logistical barriers to permanent closure.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.TE8.38>

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of February 23, 2023, by adoption of TE3.40, authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services to temporarily close Market Street between Front Street East and The Esplanade from June 1, 2023 to October 15, 2023.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.TE3.40>

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of April 21, 2022, by adoption of TE32.23, authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services to temporarily close Market Street between Front Street East and The Esplanade from June 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.TE32.23>

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of May 19, 2021, by amendment of TE25.50, requested the General Manager, Transportation Services, to consult with the Manager, St Lawrence Market Complex, Corporate Services, St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, and other City divisions and stakeholders as identified about the temporary closure of Market Street, between Front Street East and The Esplanade this year, and if required, to report back to the June 24, 2021 meeting of Toronto and East York Community Council to implement this temporary closure.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.TE25.50>

## COMMENTS

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Municipal Code Chapter 937-3 authorizes the General Manager of Transportation Services to temporarily close to vehicular traffic any portion of a road for a period of not

more than four consecutive days for social, recreational, community, athletic or cinematographic purposes. This proposed closure will be in effect for more than 4 days and, therefore, requires Community Council approval.

Market Street, between Front Street East and The Esplanade, was designed as a flexible street in 2014. Adjacent to the historic St. Lawrence Market, Market Street is within a heavily pedestrianized and historic part of Toronto known for its many restaurants, shops, and boutiques.

Transportation Services has received an application from The Business Improvement Area (BIA) for the seasonal closure of Market Street. This request is aimed at enhancing the pedestrian experience, boosting local commerce, and providing a safe environment for community events.

In 2024 the Market Street seasonal closure was extended into January to accommodate a new 'Winter Market' event, organized by the St Lawrence Market. The market ran from December 5th to 23rd and took place Thursdays through Sundays, featuring an open to all festive shopping experience filled with unique local vendors offering artisanal goods, seasons foods and drinks, and exciting entertainment.

The extended closure was well received by the local community and businesses, and has been proposed again in 2025.

Transportation Services staff are working to develop policies and formalized processes addressing the long term pedestrianization of streets. Staff propose to report to the appropriate committee with a status update in Summer 2025, to coincide with high-season for these types of requests.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendation of this staff report.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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