

Pedestrian Way Designation and Streetscape Improvements – Leader Lane between Wellington Street East and Colborne Street

Date: October 3, 2025

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Planning, Design and Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 13, Toronto Centre

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Leader Lane, extending between Wellington Street East and Colborne Street, is scheduled for laneway reconstruction and streetscape improvements in Spring 2026. The project includes the proposed designation of Leader Lane as a Pedestrian Way.

Transportation Services is recommending approval to redesignate the section of Leader Lane between Wellington Street East and Colborne Street as a Pedestrian Way. Leader Lane is currently designated as a Laneway. This Pedestrian Way would support pedestrian traffic in the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood area, including providing a more attractive connection to Berczy Park, consistent with the Streetscape Master Plan for the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood.

A companion report titled "Streetscape Improvements and Parking Amendments - Colborne Street between Church Street and Leader Lane" dated October 3, 2025 proposes to amend the parking regulations to accommodate streetscape improvements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Planning, Design and Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council designate Leader Lane between Wellington Street East and Colborne Street as a Pedestrian Way.

2. Toronto and East York Community Council authorize the permanent closure of Leader Lane between Wellington Street East and Colborne Street, to vehicular traffic, as shown in Drawing 1 in Attachment 1 to the Report (October 3, 2025) from the Director, Planning, Design and Management, Transportation Services.
3. Toronto and East York Community Council establish and designate Leader Lane as a Pedestrian Way as shown in Drawing 1 in Attachment 1 to the Report (October 3, 2025) from the Director, Planning, Design and Management, Transportation Services.
4. Toronto and East York Community Council amend Schedule B of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 886, Footpaths, Pedestrian Ways, Bicycle Paths, Bicycle Lanes and Cycle Tracks, by inserting Drawing 1 in Attachment 1 to the Report (October 3, 2025) from the Director, Planning, Design and Management, Transportation Services.
5. Toronto and East York Community Council rescind the existing parking prohibition in effect at all times on both sides of Leader Lane between Wellington Street East and Colborne Street, in conjunction with the permanent closure of Leader Lane to vehicular traffic.
6. Toronto and East York Community Council authorize and direct the appropriate City Officials to take the necessary action to give effect to the recommendations above, including the introduction of any Bills that may be required.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated annual financial impact is \$21,000 for paver maintenance and winter maintenance for the new Pedestrian Way. This will be included for consideration as part of the 2026 Operating Budget submission for Transportation Services.

DECISION HISTORY

On May 21 and 22, 2025, City Council authorized the release of \$1,250,000 for streetscape improvements on Colborne Street between Church Street and Leader Lane, Leader Lane between King Street and Wellington Street, and Colborne Lane; fully funded by Section 37 community benefits secured for streetscape improvements on Colborne Street between Church Street and Leader Lane, Leader Lane between King Street East and Wellington Street, and Colborne Lane from the developments at 176-178 Front Street East and 33 Sherbourne Street (Source Account: XR3026-3701237) and 60 Shuter Street and 187 and 189 Church Street (Source Account: XR3026-3700961).

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.MM30.18>

On May 19, 2021, Toronto and East York Community Council 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 interest groups as identified, regarding temporary and permanent closures of Market Street, between Front Street East and The Esplanade and Leader Lane, between Wellington Street East and Colborne Street, and to report back with recommendations regarding both roadways.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.TE25.50>

COMMENTS

As a result of a Section 37 Agreement with the adjacent developments, and with support from the Ward Councillor and the Old Town Toronto Business Improvement Area (formerly St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area), Transportation Services is proposing to redesignate Leader Lane between Wellington Street East and Colborne Street from a Laneway to a Pedestrian Way, as part of scheduled laneway reconstruction and streetscape improvements.

Existing conditions:

Leader Lane between Wellington Street East and Colborne Street is characterized by the following conditions:

- One-way south bound Laneway with approximate width of 6.2 metre and length of 60 metres;
- The speed limit is 30 km/h;
- There is no TTC service;
- No Parking on both sides of Leader Lane;
- Colborne Lane intersects Leader Lane on the east side and is the only access point to Leader Lane south of Colborne Street;
- Leader Lane abuts sidewalls of existing retail and commercial buildings; and
- Adjacent businesses do not have access from this section of Leader Lane.

Proposed conditions:

Proposed streetscape improvements and by-law amendments include:

- Redesignate Laneway to a Pedestrian Way for pedestrians with barrier curbs at both ends of extent;
- No vehicular access except for maintenance operations and public utility access, including utilities providing telecommunications, energy, water supply or wastewater related services;
- No vehicular access to Leader Lane from Colborne Lane;
- Flexible in-road sign marked "Do Not Enter - Pedestrian Zone" installed at north and south ends of Leader Lane and at interface of Colborne Lane; and
- Full width of Pedestrian Way resurfaced with unit pavers.

Transportation Services staff have consulted with Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Paramedic Services, Toronto Emergency Management, Solid Waste Management Services and Toronto Water staff as well as the Old Town Toronto Business Improvement Area and St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association regarding the proposed closure of Leader Lane between Wellington Street East and Colborne Street. The Old Town Toronto Business Improvement Area and St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association advise that they support the proposed closure. The impacted City Divisions

have advised that they do not object to the proposed closure to vehicular traffic. Heritage Preservation Services advise that they support the proposed design and confirm that it adheres to heritage guidelines.

The proposed streetscape improvements and parking amendments are shown in Attachment 1.

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

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map of Leader Lane between Wellington Street East and Colborne Street with Proposed Streetscape Improvements and Parking Amendments - Drawing 1

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