

Temporary Adjustments to Traffic and Parking Regulations for 2025 Distillery Winter Village (Non-delegated)

Date: October 3, 2025
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York
Ward 13, Toronto Centre

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Parliament Street, Mill Street and Front Street East, City Council approval of this report is required.

Each year, the organizers of the Distillery District Winter Village submit their operational plans to the City for review. Transportation Services reviews these plans in detail and recommends changes informed by lessons learned from previous years. The Distillery Winter Village is a highly successful event that draws significant crowds, contributing positively to the city's cultural vibrancy and supporting local businesses and community engagement.

Transportation Services also acknowledges the transportation-related challenges that arise during the event, including increased traffic congestion on surrounding neighbourhood streets, pressure on curbside space, and impacts to both event attendees and local residents. Transportation Services remains committed to supporting the event through continuous improvement in traffic management planning, working collaboratively with event organizers and other City divisions to mitigate impacts and enhance mobility for all road users.

The purpose of this report is to seek City Council's authority to enact temporary traffic and parking amendments required to enhance traffic operations and pedestrian safety during the annual Distillery Winter Village event, which takes place from November 13, 2025 to January 4, 2026, inclusive.

A companion report, "Temporary Adjustments to Parking Regulations for 2025 Distillery Winter Village (Delegated)" outlines the required delegated temporary parking amendments for locations without TTC Service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the temporary traffic and parking regulations on streets in the vicinity of Distillery District that are impacted during the Distillery Winter Village, identified in Attachment 2, attached to the report dated October 3, 2025 from the Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services, subject to Toronto and East York Community Council adoption of the companion report entitled, "Temporary Adjustments to Parking Regulations and the Extension of Permit Parking Hours - 2025 Distillery Winter Village (Delegated)". The temporary parking regulations will override all existing regulations for the duration of this event (November 13, 2025 to January 4, 2026).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The permit cost for the Distillery Winter Village event is estimated at \$1,385.45. The event organizers will be responsible for the full costs associated with the Distillery Winter Village event. There are no direct budgetary implications to the City.

Any costs associated with the removal of the Pay and Display parking will be at the cost of the event organizers.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council at its meeting of May 21 and 22, 2025, by adoption of TE22.19 directed Transportation Services and Municipal Licensing and Standards to develop a set of criteria for managing festivals and events on private property and report back in the fourth quarter of 2025.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.TE22.19>

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of October 24, 2024, by adoption of TE17.31 authorized the temporary parking regulations on streets in the vicinity of Distillery District that are impacted during the Distillery Winter Village.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.TE17.31>

City Council at its meeting of November 13 and 14, 2024, by adoption of TE17.32 authorized the temporary traffic and parking regulations on streets in the vicinity of Distillery District that are impacted during the Distillery Winter Village.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.TE17.32>

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of October 18, 2023, by adoption of TE8.31 authorized the temporary parking regulations on streets in the vicinity of Distillery District that are impacted during the Distillery Winter Village.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.TE8.31>

City Council at its meeting of November 9, 2023, by adoption of TE8.32 authorized the temporary traffic and parking regulations on streets in the vicinity of Distillery District that are impacted during the Distillery Winter Village.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.TE8.32>

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of June 29, 2022, by adoption of TE34.119 authorized the temporary parking regulations on streets in the vicinity of Distillery District that are impacted during the Distillery Winter Village.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.TE34.119>

City Council at its meeting of July 19, 2022, by adoption of TE34.120 authorized the temporary traffic and parking regulations on streets in the vicinity of Distillery District that are impacted during the Distillery Winter Village.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.TE34.120>

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of November 24, 2021, by adoption of TE29.81 authorized the temporary parking regulations on streets in the vicinity of Distillery District that are impacted during the Distillery Winter Village.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.TE29.81>

Toronto City Council at its meeting of December 15, 2021, by adoption of TE29.82 authorized the temporary traffic and parking regulations on streets in the vicinity of Distillery District that are impacted during the Distillery Winter Village.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.TE29.82>

COMMENTS

The Distillery Winter Village is an annual winter festival that takes place on private property in the Distillery District. For the 2025/2026 season, the event will take place from November 13, 2025 to January 4, 2026, inclusive.

After collaborative debriefing meetings from the 2024 event and pre-emptive meetings and site visits for the 2025 event with Transportation Services, the event proponent and their consultant, the event organizer submitted a traffic management plan to minimize impacts on local residents and address safety concerns, due to the high volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic generated by the event. In order to implement the traffic management plan, Transportation Services is recommending the following temporary by-law changes (as shown in Attachments 1 and 2):

- Implementing a Passenger Loading Zone on Front Street East, from Trinity Street to a point 70 metres west of Cherry Street
- Implementing No Stopping on both sides of Parliament Street, from King Street East to Lake Shore Boulevard East

- Implementing No Stopping on the south side of Mill Street, from Parliament Street to Trinity Street, except for an 11-metre section where 15-minute Parking is allowed adjacent to an access point at 33 Mill Street
- Implementing No Standing on the south side of Front Street East, from Trinity Street to Cherry Street
- Designating Front Street East as one-way eastbound, and prohibiting associated affected northbound right-turn, southbound left-turn and westbound through movements at Cherry Street and Front Street East
- Designating the first lane north of Mill Street, from Trinity Street to Front Street East, as one-way eastbound, and prohibiting associated affected northbound left-turn and southbound right-turn movements at Cherry Street and the first Lane north of Mill Street.

Similar to previous years, these changes will help to maintain efficient traffic conditions in the general area, while ensuring that local residents have minimal impact by removing on-street parking to allow for better vehicular movement within the Distillery District area and providing passenger loading zones. A map of the affected streets is shown in Attachment 1.

In comparison with the previous year, below is a list of changes that are proposed for the 2025 event:

- Paid parking machine spaces on the north side of Mill Street, adjacent to the property at 70 Mill Street, will not be removed as had been done for the 2024 event, where No Stopping had been temporarily implemented.
- Paid parking machine spaces on the north side of Front Street, between Trinity Street and Cherry Street, will not be removed as had been done for the 2024 event, where No Stopping had been temporarily implemented.
- Should the City assume the new lane north of Mill Street, between Trinity Street and Cherry Street, during the course of the event, one-way operation will be implemented along with prohibitions to conflicting turning movements.

During the Distillery Winter Village Event, Toronto Police personnel will temporarily close/provide restricted vehicle access (to local residents, taxis and buses) to Mill Street (from Parliament Street to Cherry Street) and Trinity Street (from Front Street East to Mill Street). The schedule for restricted access times at the time that this report was prepared is as follows, noting that Toronto Police have authority to change these on an as-needed basis:

- From Thursday, November 13 to Sunday, December 14, 3:00 pm to close Thursdays and Fridays, and 12:00 pm to close Saturdays and Sundays
- From Monday, December 15 to Friday, December 19, 3:00 pm to close daily

- From Saturday, December 20 to Sunday, January 4, 12:00 pm to close daily, except on Wednesday, December 31, 3:00 pm to 1:00 am the following morning

Transportation Services will coordinate road works in the surrounding area and conduct ongoing monitoring of the area using its available traffic cameras to identify the need for, and to implement, any necessary traffic signal timing changes.

Upon completion of the event, Transportation Services staff, in consultation with the local Councillors, the event organizers and other stakeholders will evaluate the traffic management plan to identify any amendments to improve the traffic management plan for the following year.

Transportation Services staff are satisfied that the permit fee adequately covers costs that the City incurs for making the proposed amendments.

A companion report is also submitted relating the temporary parking adjustments for the 2025 Distillery Winter Village for streets not served by transit routes.

The local Ward Councillors have been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

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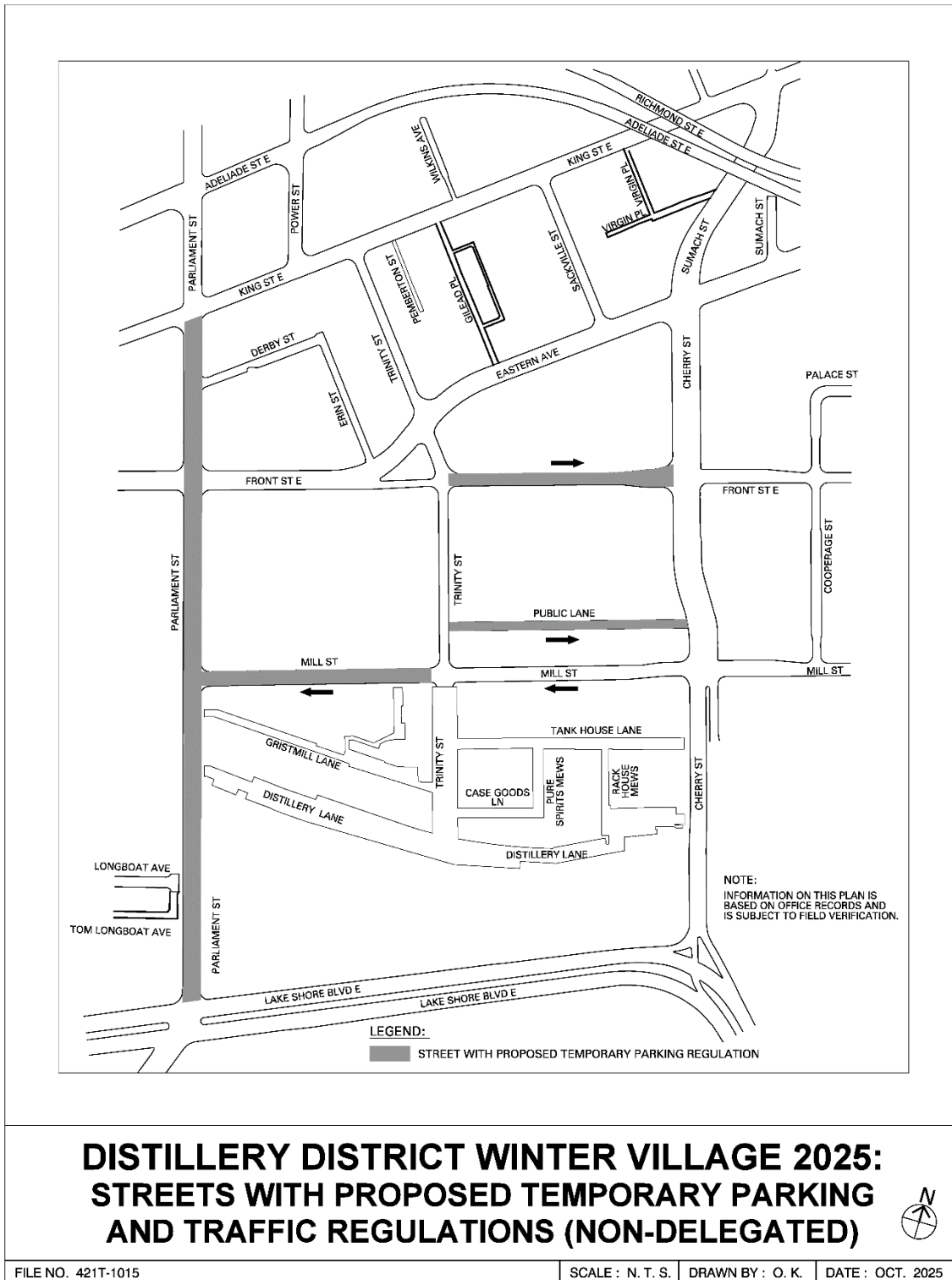
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Roger Browne, M.A.Sc., P. Eng.
Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

1. Map - Distillery District Winter Village 2025: Streets with Proposed Temporary Parking and Traffic Regulations
2. Temporary Traffic and Parking Regulations to be enacted in connection with the 2025 Distillery Winter Village.

Attachment 1: Map - Distillery District Winter Village 2025: Streets with Proposed Temporary Parking and Traffic Regulations



Attachment 2: Temporary Traffic and Parking Regulations to be enacted in connection with the 2025 Distillery Winter Village.

Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking - Schedule VII: Passenger Loading Zones

Highway	Side	Location	Times and/or Days
Front Street East	South	Between Trinity Street and a point 70 metres west of Cherry Street	Anytime from and including Thu. Nov. 13, 2025 to and including Sun. Jan. 4, 2026

Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking - Schedule XIV: No Stopping

Highway	Side	Between	Prohibited Times and/or Days
Parliament Street	Both	King Street East and Lake Shore Boulevard East	Anytime from and including Thu. Nov. 13, 2025 to and including Sun. Jan. 4, 2026
Mill Street	South	Parliament Street and a point 90 metres east	Anytime from and including Thu. Nov. 13, 2025 to and including Sun. Jan. 4, 2026
Mill Street	South	A point 101 metres east of Parliament Street and Trinity Street	Anytime from and including Thu. Nov. 13, 2025 to and including Sun. Jan. 4, 2026

Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking, Schedule XVI: No Standing

Highway	Side	Between	Prohibited Times and/or Days
Front Street East	South	Trinity Street and Cherry Street	Anytime from and including Thu. Nov. 13, 2025 to and including Sun. Jan. 4, 2026

Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking - Schedule XVIII: One-Way Highways

Highway	Between	Location Times and/or Days	Direction
Front Street East	Trinity Street and Cherry Street	Anytime from and including Thu. Nov. 13, 2025 to and including Sun. Jan. 4, 2026	Eastbound
Lane first north of Mill Street	Trinity Street and Cherry Street	Anytime from and including Thu. Nov. 13, 2025 to and including Sun. Jan. 4, 2026	Eastbound

Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking - Schedule XXIII: Prohibited Turns

Intersection or Portion of Highway	Direction	Turns Prohibited	Times and/or Days
Cherry Street and Front Street East	Northbound	Left	Anytime from and including Thu. Nov. 13, 2025 to and including Sun. Jan. 4, 2026
Cherry Street and Front Street East	Southbound	Right	Anytime from and including Thu. Nov. 13, 2025 to and including Sun. Jan. 4, 2026
Cherry Street and Front Street East	Westbound	Through	Anytime from and including Thu. Nov. 13, 2025 to and including Sun. Jan. 4, 2026
Cherry Street and Lane first north of Mill Street	Northbound	Left	Anytime from and including Thu. Nov. 13, 2025 to and including Sun. Jan. 4, 2026
Cherry Street and Lane first north of Mill Street	Southbound	Right	Anytime from and including Thu. Nov. 13, 2025 to and including Sun. Jan. 4, 2026