

City Hall
100 Queen Street West
East Tower, 4th floor
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-392-3551
Paul.R.Johnson@toronto.ca
www.toronto.ca

December 12, 2025

Mr. John Elvidge, City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
100 Queen Street West
12th Floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Elvidge,

Re: Administrative Inquiry Regarding FIFA Traffic Management

Councillor Matlow submitted an Administrative Inquiry to seek information on the traffic management plan to be put in place to manage the impacts from Toronto hosting the FIFA World Cup 26™ (FWC26) and the City of Toronto's preparedness to meet residents' needs. This letter provides a response to this request. It has been developed in collaboration with the FIFA World Cup 26 Toronto Secretariat and the Transportation Services Division.

Introduction

As a FWC26 Host City, one of the responsibilities is to develop a Mobility Plan to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of fans, spectators, constituent groups, workforce, and teams throughout the city in the build-up to, and during, the tournament. The Mobility Plan also recognizes the importance of the travel needs for residents and goods movement that will need to continue 'as usual' for the duration of the tournament. The Mobility Plan is due to FIFA for their review in March of 2026.

Response

Please find the responses below to each of the questions submitted.

1. What is the anticipated impact on Toronto's drivers, pedestrian and public transit riders of the increased volume of visitors from June – July 2026 related to the FIFA World Cup, including for matches, community events, and Fan Zone activations?

Transportation modelling has been completed for vehicular traffic on key downtown corridors, which shows an anticipated increase of approximately 10 to 15 percent over existing volume to

capacity conditions. With the release of the Group Draw and Match Schedule on December 5 and 6 respectively, staff have begun refining the modelling numbers to better understand the impacts to vehicular, pedestrian, cycling and public transit riders. There are expected impacts to business-as-usual operations for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and public transit riders, especially on the 6 match days during the FIFA World Cup 26™. For reference, Toronto Stadium will have a maximum attendance of approximately 45,000 fans on match days and FIFA Fan Festival will have a maximum attendance of 20,000 when operating. Some of the key measures that staff are proposing to help mitigate these expected impacts include:

- o **Transportation Demand Management** – Multi-agency and partner communication strategies will be implemented to promote and influence travel behaviour, mode choices, and timing of travel to displace vehicular transportation demand.
- o **Active Traffic Monitoring** – Leveraging the City’s existing network of traffic monitoring cameras, Traffic Operations Centre, and the Road Emergency Services Communications Unit (RESCU), staff will monitor conditions to detect and mitigate incidents on roads, expressways, and highways. Mitigation efforts will include deploying resources to clear up incidents on key corridors and routes.
- o **Signal Timing Modifications** – Temporary modifications to signal timings along designated routes to prioritize direction of travel and to adapt to operational changes based on increased demand will be put into effect.
- o **Restriction of on-street parking** – Planning is underway to eliminate on-street parking for a designated period on Toronto match days along major corridors and routes, including having resources available to monitor and clear any vehicles that stop or park illegally on roads with active parking enforcement; necessary regulatory requirements will be addressed to temporarily modify by-laws.
- o **Limiting parking near the stadium** – Public parking will be limited within the vicinity of the stadium (including neighbourhoods north of site) to limit traffic infiltration and overwhelming the network with impacts on residents.
- o **Advance information and signage** – Providing advanced traffic and event information/guidance using variable message signs and portable variable message signs, and static signs for the duration of FWC26 in Toronto which will identify restrictions and closures, promoting alternative route options; clear signage will be provided for vehicles to be able to make different routing decisions to avoid the local area of the stadium. Communication specific to Toronto’s transit-first approach will be shared in advance of the Tournament on the City’s official tournament website and social media channels as well as detailed “Know Before You Go” information across all communications assets during the Tournament.
- o **Traffic Control Agents and Personnel** – Dedicated traffic agents or police officers will facilitate traffic control at key intersections, check-point locations and drop-off/pick-up areas.
- o **Expressway/Highway Volume Control** – Temporary closure of highway/expressway on-ramps/off-ramps to control volume of traffic entering and exiting depending on traffic conditions and requirements to be implemented. An example of this would be closing the Jameson Avenue ramp to the westbound Gardiner Expressway to control the volume of traffic entering the Gardiner Expressway.

- o **Limiting of Construction/Moratorium** – Suspension or postponing of construction projects that directly impact key corridors, routes and alternative routes between venues (hotels, stadium, practice facility and airport) to be put into effect.
- o **Detailed Traffic Control Plans** – Traffic control plans and drawings outlining road barriers and traffic signage requirements and placement to implement road restrictions will be developed.

2. What roads will need to be closed in relation to Fan Zones and the Outer Security Perimeter around Toronto Stadium, how long will the roads be closed, and what is the anticipated impact on Toronto's drivers, pedestrians and public transit riders?

Impacts will be greater on weekday match days where either the ingress to the stadium before the match or the egress after the match occurs during the pm peak hours. Staff are currently working through the process of identifying which roads will need to be closed during the tournament period to support Toronto Stadium and the FIFA Fan Festival at Fort York and The Bentway.

3. When is the FIFA-mandated transport mobility plan being completed and brought forward to Council?

Each FWC26 Host City is responsible for submitting a Mobility Plan to FIFA for their review by the end of March 2026. In Q2 2026, staff will submit an overview of the plan to the City's FIFA World Cup 2026 Subcommittee and, through the appropriate Committee and Council, will seek delegated authority on items such as longer-term road closures or by-law amendments related to parking changes.

Sincerely,

Paul Johnson
City Manager

cc:

Will Johnston, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Services
Sharon Bollenbach, Executive Director, FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto Secretariat
Ashley Curtis, Interim General Manager, Transportation Services