

Temporary Street Closure - Market Street

Date: March 13, 2026

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Acting Director, Street Permits, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 13 - Toronto Centre

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council does not have delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to temporarily close Market Street to vehicular traffic between The Esplanade and Front Street East from May 10, 2026, to January 9, 2027. This temporary closure is required to facilitate the Market Street Closure hosted by the Old Town Toronto BIA.

Given that Transportation Services does not have the authority to close a road for longer than four (4) days, approval from City Council is required in accordance with Section 937-3 of Municipal Code Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Director, Street Permits, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City 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 10, 2026, to January 9, 2027.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

The permit costs for the 2026 Temporary Market Street Closure are approximately \$8,064.81 if the road closure is maintained for the full duration being requested (May 10, 2026 to January 9, 2027). The event organizers will be responsible for all costs associated with the 2026 '*I Heart Market Street*' / '*Winter Market*' on Market Street.

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

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of May 1, 2025, by adoption of TE22.17, authorized the General Manager, Transportation Services to temporarily close Market Street to vehicular traffic between Front Street East and The Esplanade from May 11, 2025, until January 10, 2026.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.TE22.17>

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>

COMMENTS

The General Manager, Transportation Services requires approval to temporarily close any highway or portion of a highway to vehicular traffic for more than four consecutive days when the closure is intended for social, recreation, community, athletic or cinematographic purposes. As this proposed closure exceeds four consecutive days, approval from Toronto and East York Community Council is required.

Market Street, between Front Street East and The Esplanade, was redesigned as a flexible street in 2014. Adjacent to the historic St. Lawrence Market, Market Street sees a significant amount of foot traffic and is a historic part of Toronto, known for its many restaurants, shops, and boutiques.

Transportation Services has received an application from the Old Town Toronto Business Improvement Area (BIA) for the seasonal closure of Market Street. This request aims to enhance the pedestrian experience, boost local commerce, and provide a safe environment for community events.

In 2025, the 5th annual Market Street seasonal closure was in place between May 2025 and January 2026. The street hosted the 'I Heart Market Street' event, between May and October, and the 2nd annual 'St Lawrence Winter Market' event, between November and January.

The extended seasonal closure was well-received by the local community and businesses and has been proposed again in 2026.

A site and traffic management plan of the temporary closure is included in Attachment 1.

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

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

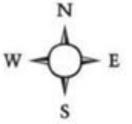
Nazzareno A. Capano, P.Eng.
Acting Director, Street Permits, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Site and Traffic Management Plan for the Market Street Closure

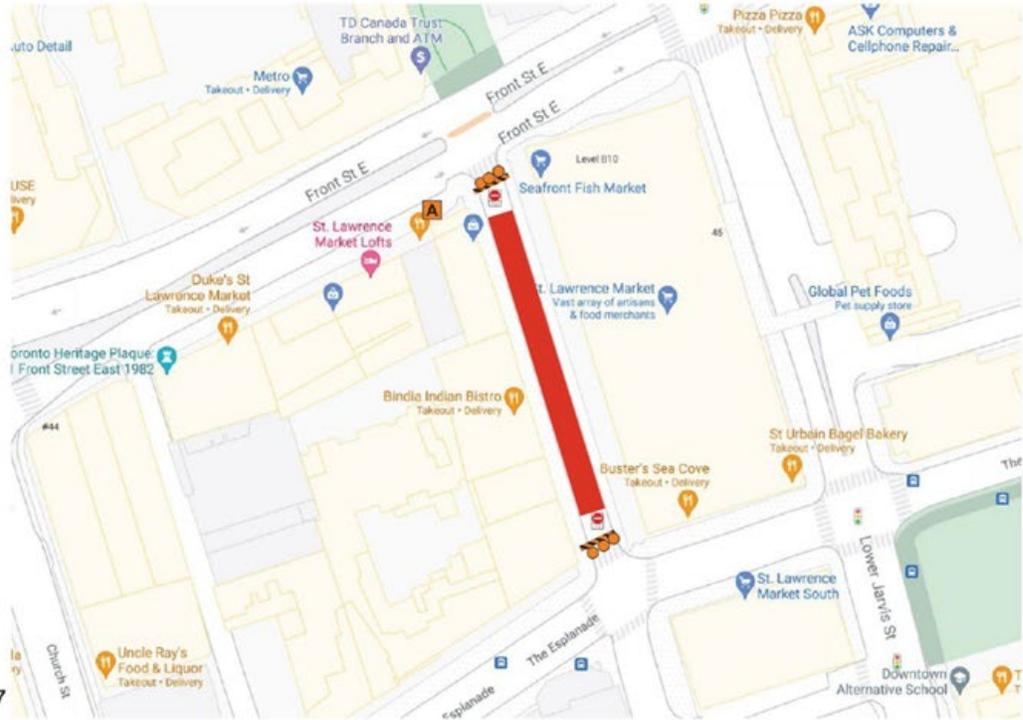
Attachment 1: Site Plan and TMP

Traffic Management Plan Market Street Closure May 2026 to January 2027



LEGEND

	- Sign Placement
	- Barricade
	- TC-54 Barrel
	- Police Officer
	- Currently Closed
A	Market St Closed Front to The Esplanade Late May - January
B	



Drawing Not to Scale
Setup as per OTM Book 7
Sidan Traffic Control LTD