



Report
Staff Report
The Corporation of the City of Brampton
9/11/2024

Date: 2024-09-06

Subject: **Special Event Road Closures – Community Garba Street Festival Celebration – Ward 6)**

Contact: Kevin Minaker, Acting Director, Roads Maintenance, Operations and Fleet

Report number: Public Works & Engineering-2024-718

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report from Kevin Minaker, Acting Director, Roads Maintenance, Operations and Fleet to the Council Meeting of September 11, 2024 re: **Special Event Road Closures – Community Garba Street Festival Celebration – Ward 6** be received; and
2. That the special event road closure for Workgreen Parkway is not approved.

OVERVIEW:

- The City's Special Event Road Closure Policy requires Council approval for events that occur when the proposed road closure exceeds 24 hours in duration or over multiple days.
- An applicant has applied for road closures on Workgreen Parkway (October 11-13, 2024) and Rivermont Road (September 29, 2024) for Garba related events.
- Police, Fire, Transit, and the Road Maintenance, Operations and Fleet have been notified of the proposed event and associated road closures.
- Peel Regional Police have cited community safety concerns related to access for emergency vehicles and overall safety concerns due to the number of attendees estimated to attend these events, which is greater than prior years.
- In 2023 the applicant held a Garba event involving a special event road closure on Merrimac Drive in which the City received several significant concerns.

- Staff met with the applicant in August 2024 to discuss this year’s application to review past event details to ensure they understand the detailed requirements of hosting a large event in a residential area.
- The applicant is confident they will be able to improve on the 2023 event concerns that arose now that they have been fully informed of the City’s requirements related to road occupancy and in accordance with the requirements of SEAT (Special Event Advisory Team) for hosting a special event.
- With an increasing number of larger community events being requested, guidelines are being developed in conjunction with the Special Event Advisory Team (SEAT) for a consistent approach for Garbas in 2025.

BACKGROUND:

At the September 4, 2024 Committee of Council meeting the delegation (item 6.4) from Atul Jani, Manish T., Ankit, Committee Members, Gita Park Cultural Group, re: Community Garba Street Festival Celebration requested the multi-day closure of Workgreen Parkway be approved.

In response to this delegation, staff were directed to report back to the September 11, 2024 Council meeting.

This applicant has applied for a special event road closure on Workgreen Parkway and Rivermont Road for their annual events as follows:

Street Name	Ward	Limits	Date	Time
Rivermont Road	6	Merrimac Drive to Fordham Road	September 28, 2024	7:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.
Workgreen Parkway	6	Vineyard Drive to Fordham Road	October 11, 12 and 13, 2024	5:00 p.m. to 1:00 am

The City’s Special Event Road Closure Policy requires Council approval for events that occur when the proposed road closure exceeds 24 hours in duration or over multiple days.

In 2023 the applicant held a Garba event on Merrimac Drive, for which the City received concerns regarding the following:

- The size of the event exceeded expectations with an estimated 1000+ people.
- The roadway and surrounding area were not thoroughly cleaned of garbage.
- Items such a lights and decorations were suspended from streetlights.
- Excessive parking leading to potential access concerns for emergency vehicles.

- Security personnel hired by the event organizers were restricting access to the area for those who did not have wristbands, including City staff.
- Extensive promotion of event on several social media platforms causing increased attendance beyond expectations.
- Loud music and excessive tower lights intruded on neighbouring homes.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Workgreen Parkway

Workgreen Parkway is a local neighbourhood street adjacent to Shri Bhagvat Gita Park. Local residential streets serve local movement, are not intended for through vehicle traffic, and do not play a major role in the broader transportation network. To close a local roadway within residential neighbourhoods, the applicant must obtain and include with the application the signatures and agreement from all those directly affected by the road closure. The applicant for this event has obtained the required signatures for this road closure and the associated traffic management plan required to close a local neighbourhood street is relatively simple. The applicant for this event is estimating that between 600-800 people will attend. Currently the applicant has not requested the use of Shri Bhagvat Gita Park for their event.

As a member of the Special Event Advisory Team, Peel Regional Police have cited community safety concerns related to access for emergency vehicles and overall safety concerns due to the number of attendees estimated to attend this event on a residential street. As such, staff are not recommending the approval of this road closure at this time. Staff will work with the applicant to determine availability of an alternate location more suitable for an event of this size prior to the event.

Rivermont Road

Rivermont Road is a neighbourhood residential street. These streets are collectors that are planned and designed to provide access to and from residential neighbourhoods but are not intended for the use of non-local traffic. As Rivermont Road has no residential frontage, the applicant is not required to obtain signatures from local resident to close the roadway. Public Works and Engineering staff circulate a notification to all stakeholders including Fire and Emergency Services to solicit feedback and have received some concerns. Peel Regional Police have cited community safety concerns related to access for emergency vehicles and overall safety concerns due to the number of attendees estimated to attend this event. The traffic management plan to close a neighbourhood residential street is more complex. The applicant has hired a contractor and provided acceptable traffic management plans, including detours. The applicant for this event is estimating that between 900-1200 people will attend. This requested road closure does not require Council approval as it is not occurring over multiple days.

To address the above noted concerns related to Rivermont Road, Staff met with the applicant in August 2024 to discuss this year's application to review past event details to

ensure they understand the detailed requirements of hosting a large event in a residential area. The applicant is confident they will be able to improve on the 2023 event concerns that arose now that they have been fully informed of the City's requirements related to road occupancy and in accordance with the requirements of SEAT (Special Event Advisory Team) for hosting a special event.

The requirements include a contractor to close the roadway, certificate of insurance, site plan, garbage collection, parking plan and washroom availability.

Staff will make observations at the Rivermont Road event to ensure compliance with permit requirements and all related by-laws.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

The is no financial impact to the City with the road closure for these events.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:

Health & Well-being: Focusing on citizens' belonging, health, wellness, and safety.

CONCLUSION:

The temporary closure of Rivermont Road is recommended for approval provided the applicant fulfills all standard permit requirements. The temporary closure of Workgreen Parkway is not recommended for approval at this time. Staff will work with the applicant to determine availability of an alternate location more suitable for an event of this size.

With an increasing number of larger community events being requested, guidelines are being developed in conjunction with SEAT for a more consistent approach in 2025.

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