

Date: 2021-03-24

Subject: **2021 Downtown Road Closures - Farmers' Market and COVID-19 Recovery Efforts (RM 42/2020)**

Contact: Aman Memon, Traffic Operations Technologist, Road Maintenance, Operations and Fleet, Public Works and Engineering Department, 905-874-2594.

Report Number: Public Works & Engineering-2021-441

Recommendations:

1. That the report titled: **2021 Downtown Road Closures - Farmers' Market and COVID-19 Recovery Efforts (RM 42/2020)**, to the Committee of Council Meeting of May 12, 2021 be received; and,
2. That the closure of Wellington Street West between Main Street South and George Street South, on consecutive Saturdays from June 19, 2021 to October 23, 2021, 6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for the Farmers' Market, be approved; and,
3. That a by-law be enacted to delegate authority to the Commissioner, Public Works & Engineering to temporarily close and/or remove or restrict the common law right of public passage and the right of adjoining owners to access such portion(s) of Main Street between Theatre Lane and Wellington Street, Queen Street between George Street and Chapel Street, George Street North/South and on Wellington Street West between Main Street South and George Street South (the "Streets") as the Commissioner from time to time considers necessary to accommodate the operations of the Farmers' Market and patios and other uses for businesses fronting on the Streets and to promote physical distancing, for such period or periods as may be designated by the Commissioner between the date hereof and January 2, 2022.

Overview:

- **The Brampton Farmers' Market requires the closure of Wellington Street West between Main Street South and George Street South, on consecutive Saturdays from June 19, 2021 to October 23, 2021, 6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

- **The temporary closure of Wellington Street West to accommodate the Farmers' Market is recommended for approval, subject to standard permit requirements.**
- **As the circumstance surrounding COVID-19 are constantly evolving, reestablishing delegated authority to the Commissioner, Public Works & Engineering to temporarily close lanes and roadways in Downtown Brampton is recommended to:**
 - **Initiate additional unforeseen temporary road/lane closures to help downtown restaurants and businesses during the COVID-19 recovery efforts.**
 - **Initiate additional unforeseen temporary road/lanes closures as an added safety measure.**

Background:

Farmers' Market

The Brampton Farmers' Market requires the closure of Wellington Street West between Main Street South and George Street South on consecutive Saturdays from June 19, 2021 to October 23, 2021, 6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Referred Matter RM 42/2020

At the June 16, 2020 Committee of Council meeting, staff was asked to report back with the scope of potential road closures in the downtown, which can work in combination with other tools to help downtown restaurants and businesses during the COVID-19 recovery efforts.

At the June 24, 2020 Council meeting, Public Works and Engineering staff resolved referred matter RM 38/2020 that directed staff to work with the Downtown Brampton BIA and report back to City Council with recommendations regarding the closure of downtown area streets. This included a by-law being enacted to delegate authority to the Commissioner, Public Works & Engineering to temporarily close lanes and roadways to accommodate the operations of the Farmers' Market, patios and other uses for businesses fronting on the Streets and to promote physical distancing. This was completed through the staff reported titled "Summer Closure of Downtown Brampton Streets (RM 38/2020)". The delegated authority has since expired on January 2, 2021.

Current Situation:

Farmers' Market

Road Maintenance, Operations and Fleet staff will arrange the set up and removal of the necessary traffic control for the closure of Wellington Street West through a third party contractor.

Police, Fire, Transit, and Road Maintenance, Operations and Fleet have been consulted with respect to these closures. No objections to this event have been received.

Standard permit requirements will apply.

Referred Matter RM 42/2020

As per the aforementioned report related to RM 38/2020, Public Works and Engineering staff have been working diligently with the Brampton Downtown BIA, since the emergence of COVID-19, to help downtown restaurants and businesses in their recovery efforts as follows:

- Flexibility with the limits of special event road closures.
- Expediting patio applications and providing required traffic control.
- Implementation of 15 minute curbside pick-up areas.
- Installation of social distancing stickers.
- New loading zones.
- Free parking on-street and within parking garage facilities.
- Ensuring the Region of Peel watermain construction is conducted in a way to accommodate businesses as best as possible.

With the above in mind, and as the situation is constantly evolving, staff continues to have regular meetings with the Brampton Downtown BIA to discuss strategies to assist downtown businesses. In order to be in a position to react quickly to changing conditions, staff is recommending to reestablish the by-law that gives delegated authority to the the Commissioner, Public Works & Engineering to temporarily close lanes and roadways in Downtown Brampton as required in order to:

- Initiate additional unforeseen temporary road/lane closures to help downtown restaurants and businesses during the COVID-19 recovery efforts.
- Initiate additional unforeseen temporary road/lane closures as an added safety measure.

The proposed by-law is recommended to be in effect until January 2, 2022, at which time an assessment will be conducted to determine the need to extend it further.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

The costs associated with the road closure requirements for the Farmers' Market are estimated to be \$25,000. There is sufficient funding available within the Public Works and Engineering operating budget.

Other Implications:

The recommended road closures will impact the delivery of services by providers such as Fire and Emergency Services, Brampton Transit and Road Maintenance, Operations and Fleet.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report achieves the Growth Management Priority of the Strategic Plan by creating connected spaces in the heart of the city for people to live, work and play.

Council Priority – Streets for People

This report directly aligns with the vision that Brampton will be a mosaic of sustainable urban places, complete neighbourhoods and safe, integrated transportation.

Conclusion:

The temporary closure of Wellington Street West is required to provide a safe area for the Brampton Farmers' Market to operate on consecutive Saturdays from June 19, 2021 to October 23, 2021, 6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., subject to standard permit requirements.

Staff continue to work closely with the Downtown Brampton BIA to determine what improvements can be made, within the right-of-way, to help downtown restaurants and businesses during the COVID-19 recovery effort. In order to expedite any improvements, reestablishing delegated authority to the Commissioner, Public Works & Engineering to temporarily close lanes and roadways in Downtown Brampton is recommended.

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