

Date: 2022-05-04

Subject: **2022 Special Events Downtown Road Closures – Farmers’ Market (Wards 1 and 3)**

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Report Number: Public Works & Engineering-2022-486

Recommendations:

1. That the report titled: **2022 Special Events Downtown Road Closures – Farmers’ Market (Wards 1 and 3) (R486/2022)**, to the Committee of Council Meeting of May 25, 2022 be received; and,
2. That the closure of Wellington Street West between Main Street South and a point 18 metres west of George Street South, on consecutive Saturdays from June 11, 2022 to October 8, 2022, 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for the Farmers’ Market, be approved; and,
3. That the closure of George Street South between Wellington Street West and a point 25 metres north of Wellington Street West, on consecutive Saturdays from June 11, 2022 to October 8, 2022, 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for the Farmers’ Market, be approved; and,
4. 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 North/South between Theatre Lane and Wellington Street East/West, Queen Street East/West between George Street North/South and Chapel Street, full-closure of the George Street South and Wellington Street West intersection, and Wellington Street West between Main Street South and a point up to 18 metres west of 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”, for such period, or periods, as may be designated by the Commissioner between the date hereof and January 2, 2025.

Overview:

- **The Brampton Farmers' Market requires the following closures on consecutive Saturdays from June 11, 2022 to October 8, 2022, 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:**
 - **Wellington Street West between Main Street South and a point 18 metres west of George Street South.**
 - **George Street South between Wellington Street West and a point 25 metres north of Wellington Street West.**

- **Police, Transit, Fire and the Road Maintenance, Operations and Fleet Division have been notified of the proposed closure and have expressed no concern in this regard provided emergency access be maintained at all times.**

- **As the circumstance surrounding COVID-19 are constantly evolving, and with the beginning of the downtown watermain and sanitary sewer project, re-establishing 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 assist downtown restaurants and businesses with COVID-19 recovery efforts and downtown construction.**
 - **Initiate additional unforeseen temporary road/lanes closures as an added safety measure.**

Background:Farmers' Market

The 2022 Farmers' Market events are scheduled to be held on Saturdays from June 11, 2022 to October 8, 2022. Normally, the section of Wellington Street West between George Street South and Main Street South is closed to traffic from 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM during these events. However, citing the past experience pertaining to the pedestrians' safety during the event, it is proposed to extend the westerly road closure limit on Wellington Street South up to 18 metres west of George Street South including the closure of George Street South at Wellington Street West to traffic (refer to figure attached). This will restrict all vehicular traffic from entering the intersection of George Street South and Wellington Street West.

Delegated Authority

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. This was subsequently extended to January 2, 2022 through a report titled "2021 Downtown Road Closures - Farmers' Market and COVID-19 Recovery Efforts (RM 42/2020)" to the May 12, 2021 Committee of Council meeting.

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.

Additional signage will be installed to alert motorists of the additional closure of the intersection of Wellington Street West and George Street South.

Standard permit requirements will apply.

Delegated Authority

As per the aforementioned information related to COVID-19 and downtown watermain and sanitary sewer construction, Public Works and Engineering staff have been working diligently with the Brampton Downtown BIA to minimize the impact of both to downtown businesses by:

- 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.
- New loading zones.
- Free parking on-street and within parking garage facilities.

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 and downtown watermain and sanitary sewer construction.
- 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, 2025, at which time an assessment will be conducted to determine the need to extend it further.

With the approval of this delegated authority-all temporary road/lane closures will include the appropriate road closure measures in accordance with the Highway Traffic Act, regulations, procedures and policies both in advance and during the change in road/lane conditions.

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. Provisions will be made during each closure to minimize the impact.

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 11, 2022 to October 8, 2022, 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., subject to standard permit requirements.

As the circumstance surrounding COVID-19 are constantly evolving, and with the beginning of the downtown watermain and sanitary sewer project, re-establishing delegated authority to the Commissioner, Public Works & Engineering to temporarily close lanes and roadways in Downtown Brampton is recommended, subject to the appropriate road/lane closure measures as required.

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Attachments:

Figure 1 – Proposed Revised Road Closure Map