



---

**TO:** GENERAL COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT:** PEDESTRIANIZING DUNLOP STREET BETWEEN MULCASTER STREET AND CLAPPERTON STREET

**WARD:** 2

**PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT:** A. MILLER, RPP  
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

**SUBMITTED BY:** A. MILLER, RPP  
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

**GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL:** A. MILLER, RPP  
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL:** M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

---

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

That, subject to confirmation of support from the BIA, Dunlop Street be closed to motorized vehicles from Mulcaster Street to Clapperton Street for a period of time from June 15, 2020 to October 15, 2020 to allow for pedestrian and cyclists-only experience in this section of downtown.

**PURPOSE & BACKGROUND**

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend the pedestrianization of Dunlop Street Mulcaster Street to Clapperton Street, subject to support from the BIA and the majority of affected businesses in the closure area.
2. This would see the use of Dunlop Street by pedestrians and cyclists only.
3. Cities around the globe are experimenting with providing additional space for pedestrians and cyclists alike. In many cases, this happens by altering the road space that is normally available for cars to be exchanged for the use by pedestrians and cyclists.

**ANALYSIS**

4. The area of Dunlop Street proposed for full pedestrian usage is shown in the map below.



ECD008-20

5. The section between Mulcaster Street and Owen Street is tentatively scheduled to reopen in mid-June. The section between Owen Street and Clapperton Street is tentatively scheduled to reopen in mid-July. The timing of the pedestrianization initiative will be aligned to the completion of construction in each section.
6. The area has recently undergone a Streetscape initiative and now incorporates a flexible sidewalk and enhanced pedestrian amenities including landscaped planters, benches, shade trees and wider sidewalks.
7. Businesses in the downtown previously suggested that a pedestrian-only approach might complement business recovery initiatives post construction. There is also merit in providing additional physical distancing in this area of downtown now that the economy is gradually re-opening post COVID-19. By closing Dunlop Street for pedestrian-only traffic, the previously approved Loading Only Zone would be removed.
8. The BIA is currently completing a survey of businesses to confirm support for the initiative in 2020.
9. Through traffic along Dunlop Street will continue to be restricted until November as the balance of Streetscape project is completed through to Toronto Street. As such, detour routes will already be in place. Only the Owen Street intersection will be closed to traffic; Mulcaster Street and Clapperton Street will function in accordance with the detour routes.

#### Summary

10. Staff are confident pedestrianizing Dunlop Street will provide an opportunity for people to visit the downtown, explore the new streetscape, reacquaint themselves with the businesses and maintain physical distancing in the summer of 2020.
11. Staff are confident that the existing and planned detour routes will provide the travelling public and emergency service vehicles with safe and effective means of travel around this part of the downtown throughout the closure period.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT MATTERS**

12. There are no environmental and climate change impact matters related to the recommendation. However, providing additional spaces for pedestrians and cyclists has been known to encourage walking and cycling. This has been known to have positive impacts on the environment and the overall health of citizens.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

13. There are alternatives available for consideration by Council:

**Alternative #1** Council could choose not to pedestrianize Dunlop Street.

This alternative is not recommended because a small scale closure of this portion of the downtown can provide great benefits without significant costs or permanent alterations to the street.

#### **FINANCIAL**

14. The cost to close Dunlop Street can be kept to a practical minimum by using existing resources within the municipality.

- 
15. There may be unrealized revenues due to lost parking revenues, but throughout the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, parking revenues overall are reduced and the benefits of pedestrianizing Dunlop Street can be balanced against the minimal costs.

**LINKAGE TO 2018–2022 STRATEGIC PLAN**

16. The recommendations included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan:
- Growing Our Economy
    - i) Make it easier to do business.
  - Building Strong Neighbourhoods
    - ii) Create great public spaces.
17. In accordance with Council's goals, approval to pedestrianize Dunlop Street will provide increased access to businesses in the area making it easier to do business. The additional space provided to pedestrians and cyclists in the downtown will create public spaces to safely gather and adapt during COVID-19 times.