

17
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
KENNEDY ROAD – TASTE OF ASIA FESTIVAL
TOWN OF MARKHAM

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, February 16, 2006, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Approval be granted to the Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham to stage their annual Taste of Asia Street Festival on Kennedy Road (Y.R. 3), between Steeles Avenue and Clayton Drive, on the weekend of Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25, 2006, subject to the conditions outlined in this report.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law for the temporary closure of Kennedy Road (Y.R. 3), between Steeles Avenue and Clayton Drive, from 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 24, 2006 to 11:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 25, 2006.
3. Regional Corporate Communications issue a press release to notify the media of the temporary closure of Kennedy Road (Y.R. 3) for this street festival.
4. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Chief of Police, City of Toronto, and the Clerk of the Town of Markham.

2. PURPOSE

This report seeks Regional Council approval to close the portion of Kennedy Road, between Steeles Avenue and Clayton Drive, on the weekend of Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25, 2006 to stage the Taste of Asia Street Festival.

3. BACKGROUND

This will be the fourth consecutive year for the Taste of Asia festival and Regional Council has granted approval for all previous temporary closures of Kennedy Road, from Steeles Avenue to Clayton Drive for this street festival. Similar to previous years, the Federation of Chinese Canadians of Markham has requested a two-day weekend road closure of Kennedy Road, between Steeles Avenue and Clayton Drive, to stage their annual Taste of Asia Street Festival. The festival will commence at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 24 and end at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 25, 2006. As there will be

booths and a stage set up on Kennedy Road for the event, it is not practical to remove these items, reopen Kennedy Road and setup the next day. In consideration of this, staff see this as a special case and not precedent setting.

A map of the section of Kennedy Road to be temporarily closed is shown as *Attachment 1*.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Impacts of Kennedy Road Weekend Closure

A co-ordinated and comprehensive traffic management and diversion plan shall be submitted by the organizers of the Taste of Asia Festival to address the impacts of the weekend-long closure on both Regional arterial roads and local roads under the jurisdiction of the Town of Markham.

The following are the recommended conditions of approval for the event:

- Traffic control associated with the event be carried out by York Regional Police.
- The Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham maintains, in effect, a minimum of \$5 million liability insurance naming The Regional Municipality of York and Town of Markham as additionally insured.
- A Release, Waiver and Indemnity Form be executed by the Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham, to release the Region and the Town of Markham of any legal claims which may arise as a result of the event and the closure of Kennedy Road.
- The Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham notify all local fire, ambulance and public transit agencies of the event and all property owners and commercial developments located within the closed section of Kennedy Road.
- A detailed traffic management plan be prepared by The Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham and submitted to Regional staff for approval at least two weeks prior to the event.
- Advance closure notification signage be placed on Kennedy Road north of Clayton Drive and south of Steeles Avenue, and on Steeles Avenue east and west of Kennedy Road, immediately upon approval of the road closure.
- The closure of Kennedy Road and impacts of the traffic diversion plan on local roads be approved by the Town of Markham.

4.2 Traffic Co-ordination with Other Agencies

The Region will arrange with the City of Toronto for the timing of the Steeles Avenue and Kennedy Road traffic signals to be temporarily modified throughout the day to assist in the route diversion of northbound Kennedy Road traffic.

To provide additional advance public information on the potential traffic impacts from the closure of Kennedy Road, it is proposed that the Region's Corporate Communications office issue a press release immediately prior to the event.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Town of Markham Council is in full support of this event and are aware the closure of Kennedy Road will have major traffic impacts on their local municipal streets adjacent to the street festival.

7. CONCLUSION

With the implementation of a detailed traffic management plan to minimize congestion and the impact on adjacent properties and full support of Markham Town Council, it is recommended that the request from the Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham temporarily close Kennedy Road on the weekend of Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25, 2006 be granted.

The Regional Clerk send a copy of this report to the Chief of Police, City of Toronto, and the Town of Markham to notify them of the temporary closure of Kennedy Road between Steeles Avenue and Clayton Drive. Regional Corporate Communications issue a press release to notify the media of the temporary closure of Kennedy Road for this event.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the March 1, 2006 Committee meeting.)