

## Committee of the Whole (1) Report

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**DATE:** Monday, July 13, 2020

**WARD(S):** 5

**TITLE: DISERA DRIVE – TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE**

**FROM:**

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works

**ACTION:** DECISION

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**Purpose**

To seek approval for a temporary road closure of Disera Drive from Centre Street to the Smart Centres access starting from August 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020, during set times on the weekend, in accordance with Council direction at the June 29, 2020, Council meeting.

**Report Highlights**

- At the June 29, 2020 meeting, Council directed staff to develop a plan to temporarily close Disera Drive, making it a pedestrian-only area at set times (weekends only) as determined through consultation with the impacted parties and in cooperation with local businesses and Smart Centres.
- Staff are working in collaboration with key stakeholders to develop a plan.
- On completion of a plan, staff seek approval to implement the temporary road closure of Disera Drive from Centre Street to the Smart Centres access, during set times (weekends only).

**Recommendations**

1. That upon agreement of all stakeholders, the necessary by-law be enacted authorizing the temporary road closure of Disera Drive between Centre Street to the Smart Centres access from August 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020 during set times on the weekend, and

2. That the City Clerk forward a copy of this report to the York Regional Police and the Region of York.

## **Background**

**At the June 29, 2020 meeting, Council directed staff to develop a plan to close Disera Drive between Centre Street to the Smart Centres access at set times (weekends only), making it a pedestrian only area.**

Disera Drive between Centre Street and the Smart Centre access is a local road with two travel lanes and a left turn lane. There is a sidewalk on both sides of the street. A location map is outlined in Attachment 1.

The Thornhill City Centre area is a high-density community with several condominium apartments. Staff have noted there are several pedestrian generators and businesses in this community, including the Promenade mall, Thornhill Green Park, and local businesses fronting on Disera Drive.

With the May 18, 2020 regulation changes to the Provincial Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act that allows more businesses to open, pedestrian activity is anticipated to increase. The closure of Disera Drive will create a space enabling physical distancing in which pedestrians can travel freely.

Council has directed staff to develop a plan to temporarily close Disera Drive between Centre Street and the Smart Centres access – an approximate 100-metre long segment – at set times (weekends only), making it a pedestrian only area (Item 7, report 15 – June 29, 2020 Council meeting).

## **Previous Reports/Authority**

Item 15, Report 22 – Closing of Disera Drive June 29, 2020 Council meeting:  
<https://pub-vaughan.escrimemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=e7435a85-d0f2-4d29-a5a8-d34c257fc6da&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=36>

## **Analysis and Options**

**Initial discussions with Smart Centres as well as local businesses are occurring regarding the development of a temporary road closure plan.**

Staff are currently collaborating on a plan to close Disera Drive to vehicular traffic on weekends only from August 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020. The closure will allow pedestrian traffic only on Disera Drive.

A communication and emergency response plan will be developed with Corporate and Strategic Communications, By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services, Fire and Rescue Services, Infrastructure Planning, and Economic Development, with input from York Regional police.

The communication plan will include key messaging to inform citizens and businesses about the temporary road closure and to maintain and practice physical distancing.

Additional plan elements, such as waste and litter collection and traffic management are also being assessed and developed.

Staff will be consulting with York Region to seek input on managing the temporary road closure at the regional intersection of Centre Street and Disera Drive, and Bathurst Street at Centre Drive.

**A temporary road closure be permitted when the plan is determined to be feasible and supported by local businesses and Smart Centres.**

As Council will be on hiatus following the Special Council meeting on July 15, 2020, staff are seeking authority at this time to ensure that an agreed-upon plan can be executed during the summer hiatus.

It is recommended that staff be authorized to implement a temporary road closure on Disera Drive during set times (weekends only) from August 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020 when the developed plan is determined to be feasible and is supported by key stakeholders including the local businesses and Smart Centres.

### **Financial Impact**

The estimated cost to implement the temporary road closure of Disera Drive is currently under development. It will include traffic management control measures, paid duty officers, associated staff time to implement and monitor the road closure, and costs for printing and distribution of communication material. Staff will update Council on related costs once they are developed.

## **Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

Staff will co-ordinate the temporary road closure and traffic management plan with York Region, including a temporary signal timing plan at the intersection of Centre Street and Disera Drive and at Bathurst Street and Centre Street.

York Regional Police will be informed about the temporary road closure.

## **Conclusion**

As per Council direction at the June 29, 2020 Council meeting, staff are working with key stakeholders to develop a plan to temporarily close the southern section of Disera Drive between Centre Street and the Smart Centres access. As Council will be on hiatus following the July 15, 2020 Special Council meeting, staff are seeking approval for the closure in accordance with Council direction.

Staff recommends the approval of a bylaw enabling the temporary closure of Disera Drive to vehicular traffic during set times (weekends only) from August 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020 upon completion of a feasible stakeholder support plan.

**For more information**, please contact Donald Eta, Director of Transportation and Fleet Management Services, 6141

## **Attachments**

1. Location Map – Disera Drive

## **Prepared by**

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