



TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE


SUBJECT: TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FRED GRANT STREET

WARD: WARD 2

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: C. LADD
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That Fred Grant Street be temporarily closed to vehicular access from June 1, 2013 until September 2, 2013.
2. That the five (5) metered parking stalls located on the south side of Dunlop Street East between both legs of Fred Grant Square be bagged and temporary no parking implemented during the temporary closure of Fred Grant Street.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

3. Staff Report ENG020-13 reviews the impact on the closure of Fred Grant Street from June 1 to September 2, 2013 for the events proposed within and around Memorial Square by both the Department of Culture and the Downtown Barrie Business Association (BIA). The proposed recommendations will provide a clear message to motorists that Fred Grant Street will be closed during the specified period.
4. On March 25, 2013, City Council adopted Motion 13-G-069 regarding investigation of a temporary closure of Fred Grant Street which states:

"That staff in the Engineering and Roads, Parks and Fleet Departments investigate the feasibility of temporarily closing vehicular access to a portion of Fred Grant Square from the east side of Chase McEachern Way to Dunlop Street East for the purpose of enhanced summer programming from June 1, 2013 until September 2, 2013 and report back to General Committee by the end of April 2013."
5. Fred Grant Street is a one-way eastbound collector roadway within Ward 2 with an approximate daily traffic volume of 1,500 vehicles per day. Fred Grant Street surrounds Memorial Square linking eastbound traffic on Chase McEachern Way to Dunlop Street East. Fred Grant Street has seventeen (17) on-street paid parking stalls. Please refer to Appendix "A" for a map of the area.
6. Chase McEachern Way is a two-lane collector roadway located within Ward 2 with a daily traffic volume of approximately 1,500 vehicles per day and four (4) on-street paid parking stalls. Chase McEachern Way also provides access to the Chase McEachern Way Parking Lot which has a capacity for ninety (90) vehicles.

7. Barrie Transit currently uses both Chase McEachern Way and Fred Grant Street in the eastbound direction to access Dunlop Street from Bayfield Street.
8. The Downtown Parking Study was conducted in 2011 as part of the Multi-Modal Active Transportation Master Plan. This study indicated the weekday daytime peak utilization was forty four (44) percent with an average daytime utilization of thirty six (36) percent.
9. The redevelopment of Memorial Square is currently in the design phase. City staff are working with the BIA to develop a draft agreement that would define the level of funding required in order for the construction phase of Memorial Square to be considered in the 2014 Capital Plan.

ANALYSIS

10. Currently the Culture Department has six (6) events which are scheduled within Memorial Square for 2013. The BIA hosts two (2) large annual events which require the full closure of Fred Grant Street (Promenade Days & Canada Day Celebrations and the Craft Beer & BBQ Festival).
11. The BIA will be adding additional programming of the Square through Lawnchair Luminata – a season long, weekly event that is held on Wednesday and Friday evenings starting in June and finishing the end August. The BIA will also be encouraging other locally, privately run events to relocate in the Square for the season.
12. Providing a half closure of Fred Grant Street from June 1, 2013 to September 2, 2013 as outlined on the Council Direction Memorandum would require a full closure for specific events. This approach may create confusion for motorists as Fred Grant Street would rotate between being partially or fully closed.
13. Fred Grant Street is not an essential roadway for the movement of traffic through the Downtown and motorists could use adjacent roadways.
14. The Engineering and Roads, Parks and Fleet Departments recommend the temporary full closure of Fred Grant Street. The full closure of this roadway will ensure a clear and concise message is conveyed to motorists.
15. The temporary full closure of Fred Grant Street provides additional area for event vendors, people, etc. while providing an opportunity for additional gateway entry to Memorial Square and increased street presence to Dunlop Street.
16. Staff recommend the temporary closure of the five (5) on-street parking stalls on the south side of Dunlop Street East between both legs of Fred Grant Street. The removal of these parking stalls will provide a clear view of Memorial Square and the programmed events for both passing pedestrians and motorists along Dunlop Street while also providing an enhanced view of Dunlop Street from Memorial Square.
17. A total of twenty two on-street metered parking stalls will be temporarily inaccessible from Fred Grant Street and Dunlop Street. Staff does not anticipate a loss in parking revenue as motorists will find an alternative location to park.
18. The temporary removal of these twenty two parking stalls will not create a parking deficiency as the average weekday occupancy for parking within the Downtown is currently at 36%. Alternative parking locations can be in close proximity along Dunlop Street and in the surface parking lots of Chase McEachern Way and Lakeshore Mews as shown on Appendix "B".

19. The closure of Fred Grant Street will require Chase McEachern Way to be closed, allowing Local Traffic Only. The road closure notice signs will be posted at the intersection of Chase McEachern Way and Bayfield Street as per Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) Book Seven (7) - Temporary Conditions. Additional temporary condition signing will also be installed at the east limit of Chase McEachern Way.
20. The intersections of Fred Grant Street at both Chase McEachern Way and Dunlop Street will be signed in accordance with the OTM. The BIA intend to beautify these pedestrian gateway areas with overhead arched gateway pedestrian entrances (up to 3), banners, temporary staging and other event elements.
21. The temporary closure of Fred Grant Street will require Barrie Transit to reroute the #12 Blake transit route for all outbound trips departing from the downtown transit terminal between June 1, 2013 and August 17, 2013. This detour will occur on Collier Street which is similar to detours that have been used for previous closures of Fred Grant Street.
22. Effective August 17, 2013, Barrie Transit will be implementing new transit routes within the City, which will change the existing route through Fred Grant Street. Dunlop Street East from Fred Grant Street to Blake Street will be serviced from the transit stops along Collier Street. Please refer to Appendix "C".
23. The Environmental Services and Engineering Departments have discussed the temporary closure of Fred Grant Street and have identified the following concerns that will be monitored:
 - The businesses and residents who currently place their garbage and recycling along Fred Grant Street for collection would have to place it along Chase McEachern Way or Dunlop Street.
 - Difficulty enforcing garbage bag/cardboard limits when merchants combine their waste in one pile.
 - Difficulty in identifying the generator of items that are unacceptable for collection and not collected by contractor.
 - Chase McEachern Way merchants/residents will need to place their waste along Bayfield Street as BFI, the City's Collection Contractor, will not be able to use the Chase McEachern Parking Lot to turn their large vehicles around when it is closed for events.
 - The public space recycle/garbage bin located on Fred Grant Street south of Dunlop Street would need to be removed as it would not be accessible. Staff will investigate installing a public space bin along this section of Dunlop Street as the current location is the only one in the vicinity.
24. Upon approval of the recommended motion, staff from various departments will meet with the Downtown Barrie Business Association to discuss and develop procedures to minimize the impacts as a result of the closure. The impacts would include notification to businesses/residents, refuse locations, waste restriction limits and how area concerns will be resolved.
25. Barrie Fire and Emergency Services, and Barrie Police have no concerns with the proposed temporary closure of Fred Grant Street.
26. The Downtown Barrie Business Association has been in communication with the adjacent business owners who are all in agreement with the proposed temporary full closure of Fred Grant Street.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

27. There are no environmental matters related to the recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES

28. The following alternatives are available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1

General Committee could decide to temporarily close Fred Grant Street between Chase McEachern Way to Dunlop Street East and leave the west leg of Fred Grant Street open to Chase McEachern Way.

This alternative is not recommended as it has the potential to create driver frustration and confusion as Fred Grant Street will be fully closed for certain events, including the west leg, and not for others. The full closure of the roadway will create additional event space and the opportunity for an additional potential gateway entry location and increased exposure to Dunlop Street.

Alternative #2

General Committee could temporarily close all of Fred Grant Street and not eliminate the five (5) on-street parking stalls from the south side of Dunlop Street between both legs of Fred Grant Street.

This alternative is not recommended as the removal of these parking spaces would increase the visibility of Memorial Square and the programmed events from Dunlop Street and also the view of Dunlop Street from Memorial Square.

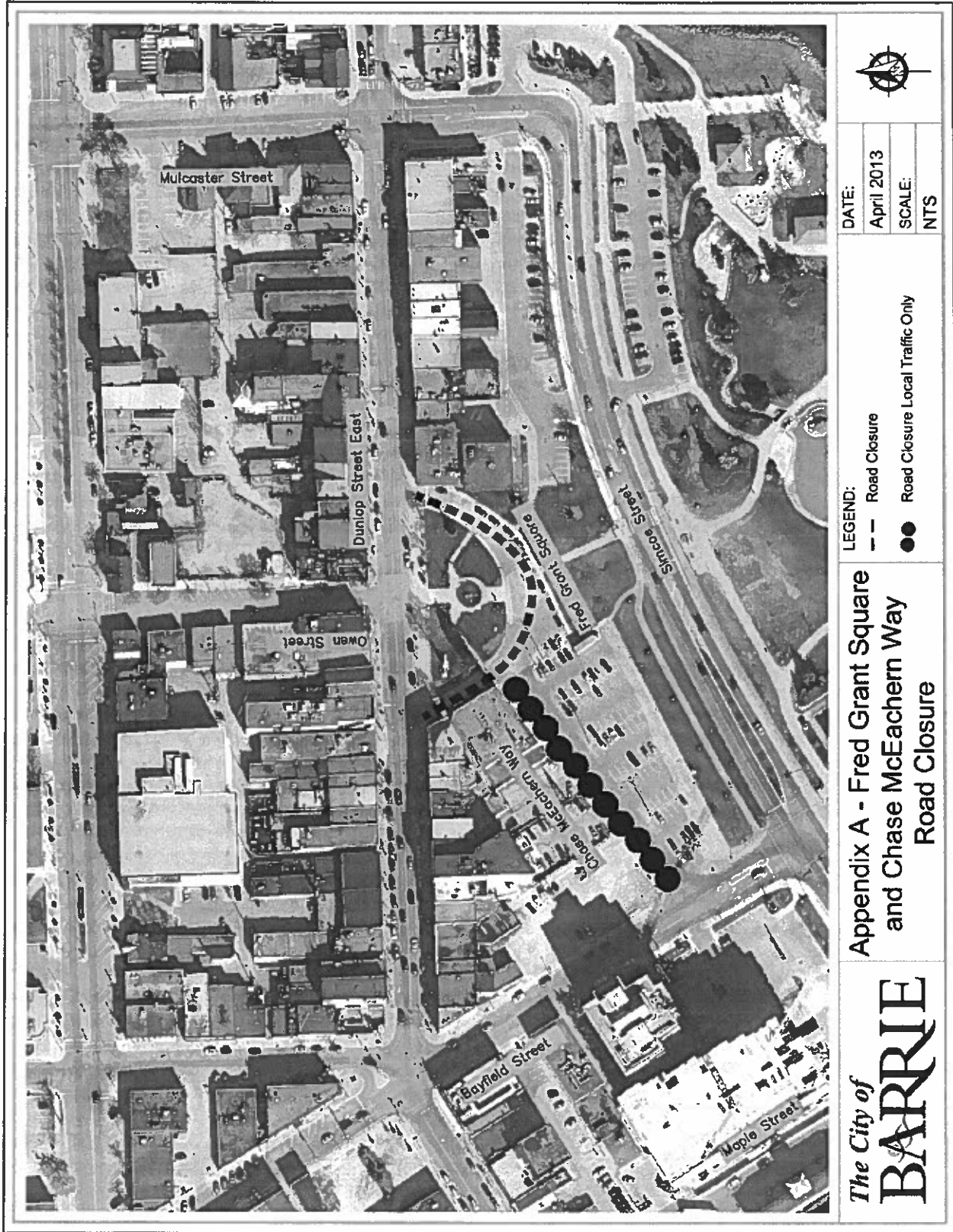
FINANCIAL

29. The installation of traffic signage for the road closure would cost approximately \$2,000 which can be accommodated in the 2013 Business Plan.
30. The relocation of public space bins and roadside collection of waste due to restriction limits would cost approximately \$2,500 which can be accommodated in the 2013 Business Plan.
31. The Downtown Barrie Business Association has agreed to provide the overhead arched gateway pedestrian entrances (up to 3), banners, temporary staging and other event elements the area of Fred Grant Street, at no cost to the City

LINKAGE TO COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

32. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2010-2014 City Council Strategic Plan:
- Create a Vibrant and Healthy City Centre
 - Improve and Expand Community Involvement and City Interactions
33. The temporary closure of Fred Grand Street and Chase McEachern Way will provide an opportunity for enhanced summer programming potentially attracting more visitors to the downtown. The temporary closure of the roadways will provide additional event space while creating a safe and enjoyable environment free of vehicles.

APPENDIX "A"
Proposed Road Closure

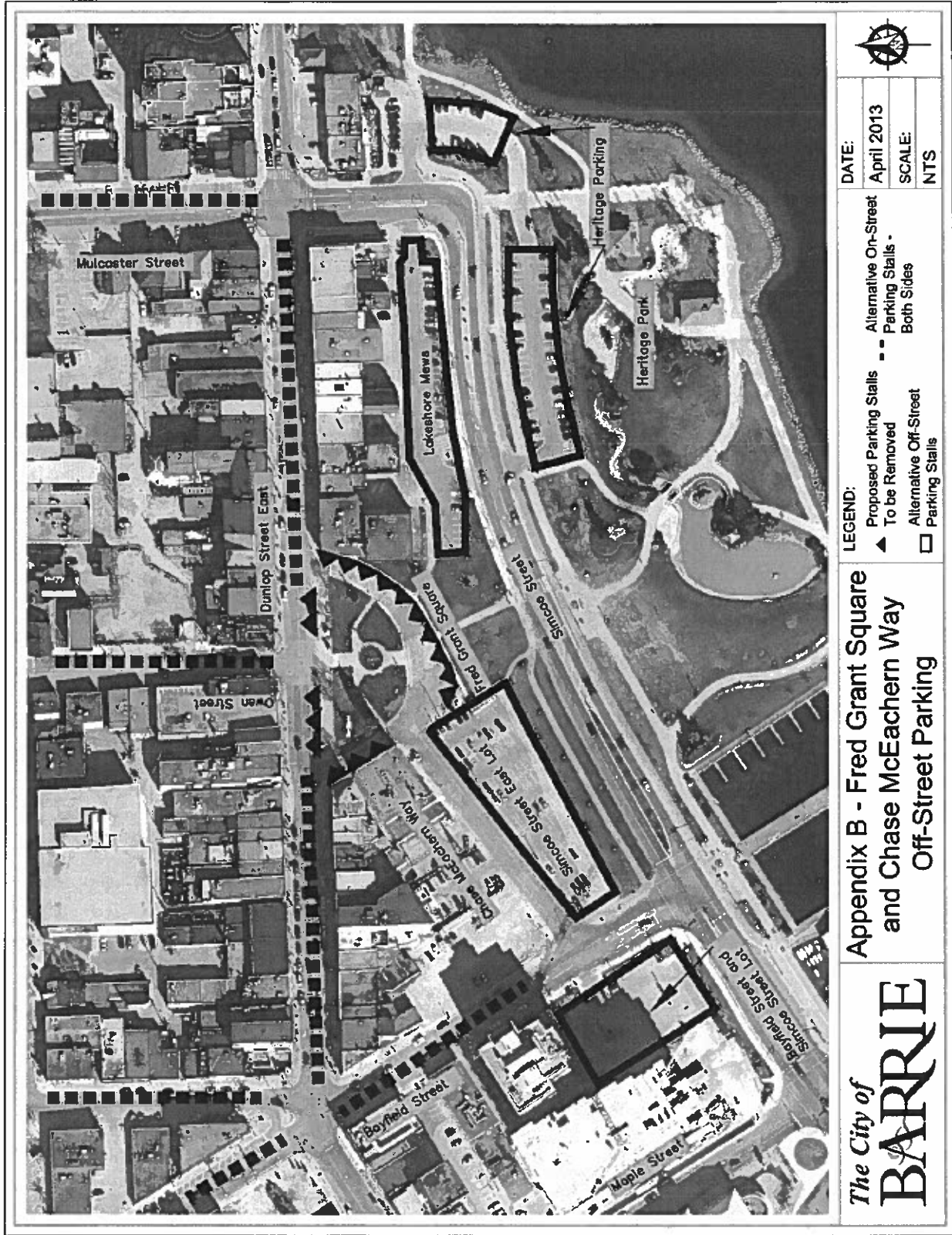


DATE: April 2013
SCALE: NTS

LEGEND:
-- Road Closure
● Road Closure Local Traffic Only

Appendix A - Fred Grant Square
and Chase McEachern Way
Road Closure

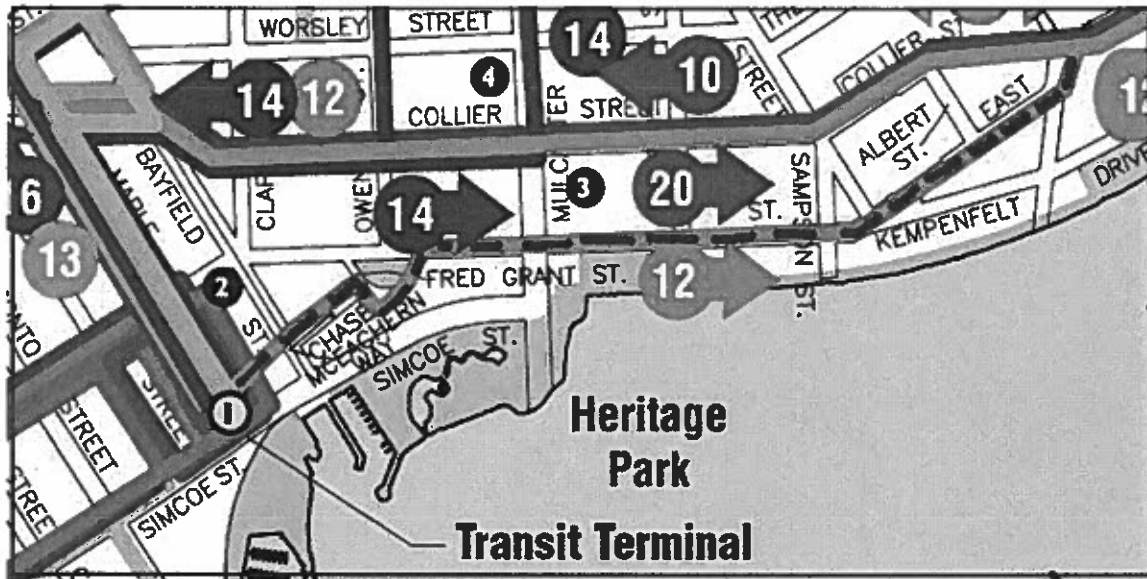
APPENDIX "B"
Alternative Parking



APPENDIX "C"

Transit Routes

Existing Transit Route



August 17, 2013 Changes to Route #12

