

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: July 9, 2009

SUBJECT: BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA (BIA)
STREET FESTIVALS AND RELATED TTC CHARGES

ACTION ITEM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that no changes be made to the current practice of invoicing BIA events at the rate of 100% for costs incurred as a result of scheduling additional resources, rerouting service due to road closures and schedule disruptions when events occur on a public roadway where transit routes operate.

FUNDING

All additional operating costs incurred as a result of BIA events are charged back to event organizers.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on May 28, 2009, the Commission introduced a motion "that, commencing immediately, fees levied by the TTC to BIA street festivals for the re-routing of service and associated staffing and administrative adjustments, be calculated and charged at one-half the projected cost".

DISCUSSION

The primary concerns associated with special events, in particular, events sponsored by Toronto BIA's is the potentially substantial impact on transit operations, maintaining scheduled service and the increase in operating costs incurred by the TTC as a direct result of an event. Currently, there are three means by which an event occurring on a public roadway affects transit operations. They are:

1. Curb lane closures; impact is minimal to moderate with traffic congestion affecting service reliability. No TTC resources are required to administer the impact on transit operations. There is no charge for this. Currently, a majority of the events within the City function through this practice.
2. Half-road to full road closures; impact is moderate to major with the potential of rerouting transit vehicles necessary; however, the diverting of transit vehicles is such that it does not require the scheduling of additional transit resources (vehicles, supervisory staff).

There is a fee associated with the posting of signage advising TTC customers of transit changes for the area. For 2009, the fee is \$450.00 + GST. Approximately 25 events operate in this manner.

3. Road closures where the impact is significant on transit operations; impact is major requiring the scheduling of additional resources (vehicles, supervisory staff, primarily affects streetcar routes given diversion limitations associated with the track network). There are seven to eight events annually that require additional transit resources be scheduled during the event dates, with costs ranging from \$4,000.00 to \$30,000.00 plus.

Staff has reviewed the motion put forward, requesting the TTC consider a cost sharing formula between the event organizer and the TTC, in an attempt to minimize the financial impact on an event. The concern is that such an agreement not only reduces the costs recovered, but also exposes the TTC and its customers to more event requests for road closures than are currently scheduled annually.

Subsidizing these costs places the TTC in a position of promoting an event at the expense of its customers, when in fact, the event should rather be promoting the use of public transit to attend the event when issues surrounding a lack of parking, accessibility and overcrowding are very real issues that occur at these events.

Previously, TTC's policies concerning charter service and route diversions were reinforced in July 2008 through a letter from the Chair to Members of Council (attached), summarizing that "although the TTC is very supportive of these kind of events in many ways, it is not in a position to subsidize them, being itself a subsidized body".

JUSTIFICATION

The analysis and justification is based on the allocation of full costs to the event organizers as a subsidy should not be provided to maintain regular service.

June 18, 2009
5-32
Attachments

2008 BIA FESTIVALS

<i>BIA</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Ancillary Fees</i>	<i>Diversion Fees</i>	<i>Service Impact</i>
none	St Patrick's Day run	400	0	Plug track switches
none	Toronto Freedom Festival	400	0	Divert 94 & 5 service
none	Sporting Life 10 Km Run	400	0	Divert 320 service
none	YMCA Fun Run	400	0	Turn back 29 service
none	Woofstock	400	0	Divert 72 service
none	Bay St Rat Race	*650	0	Divert 6 service/additional supervisory personnel
none	Luminato	400	0	Divert 172 service
none	Prostate Run	400	0	No service
none	Big Event on Bloor St	400	0	Divert 161 service
none	MuchMusic Awards	400	6,000	Divert 501 service/add replacement buses
none	Pride	400	0	Divert 94 service
none	Taste of Lawrence	400	0	Divert 54 service
none	Toronto 10 Miler Run	400	0	Divert 172 service
none	Beaches Jazz Festival	400	0	Turn back 501 & 64 service
Greektown	Taste of the Danforth	400	4,058	Divert 72 service/add replacement buses
none	Africa Village Festival	400	0	Divert 300 service
none	Buskerfest	400	0	Divert 72 service
Gerrard-India	Festival of south Asia	400	30,881.04	Divert 506 service/add replacement buses
none	Epilepsy Roller Blade Event	400	0	Divert 72A service
Little Italy	Italian Fiera Festival	400	0	Divert 506 service
none	Toronto Film Festival	400	5,000	Divert 501 service
Old Cabbagetown	Cabbagetown Festival	400	7,041	Divert 506 service/add replacement buses
Kingsway	Taste of the Kingsway	400	0	Divert 300 service
Junction	Junction Arts Festival	400	0	Divert 40 service
Bloor West	Ukrainian Festival	400	0	Divert 300 service
Roncesvalles Village	Roncesvalles Polish Festival	400	0	Turnback 504 service
none	Word on the Street	400	0	Divert 5 & 94 service
none	Waterfront Marathon	400	9,000	Divert 501 service/add replacement buses
none	Toronto Marathon	400	6,000	Add additional supervisory personnel

*Charge for Supervisor and Mobile Cab