



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – March 8, 2023 Agenda Item 3

Voting Session

2023 Temporary Street Closures for Events

Recommended Council Action

Approve the 2023 Temporary Street Closure Resolution.

Context with Key Issues

On an annual basis, Housing & Community Development (HCD) staff work with our local economic development service contract partners to identify planned events that require temporary closures of City streets. While these events are operated by independent organizations, City departments provide barricades for closed streets, signage alerting residents as to potential closures, and traffic control for temporary vehicular patterns. Traditionally, the City Council has reviewed and approved the annual temporary closures via Council Resolution so that residents are aware of upcoming closures.

For the 2023 calendar year, City partners have identified ten (10) planned events that will require the temporary closure of City roadways. These events will utilize the temporary road closures to enable the setup of vendor stalls and food trucks and encourage walkability during events. Many of these events, such as the Takoma-Langley Spring Fest, Takoma Flea, Takoma Park Street Festival, and more are established annual events that bring thousands of residents and visitors out to Takoma Park's commercial district. This year's proposed closure events also include several emerging events, including the Market at the Bank, Children's Business Fair, and Crossroads Food Fair, which have begun in recent years and shown the ability to support new Takoma Park-based businesses. A full summary of the requested closures is provided in Table 1.

In addition to the temporary street closures for event support, City staff are also requesting two temporary closures of the southbound lane of Laurel Avenue between Carroll Avenue and Eastern Avenue on 3/29/2023 and 4/29/2023 to conduct traffic counts with both lanes of the 6900 block of Laurel Avenue (the "Streeterly") closed.

The Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA) has been conducting engagement around potential design and layout improvements for the Streeterly, where the northbound lane was closed to traffic by City Council in 2020 to encourage additional outdoor dining and shopping opportunities. City staff believe that any potential layout alterations for the Streeterly require better data collection on traffic impacts. Implementing these two temporary road closure dates will allow the City and other partners to conduct traffic counts for a full Streeterly closure on both weekday and non-event weekend dates and compare those traffic patterns to patterns on days with normal roadway operations. After conducting traffic counts and receiving a report from OTBA, City staff will report back to Council on recommendations for current and future operations of the Streeterly.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All, Fiscally Sustainable Government, Environmentally Sustainable Community, Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life

Environmental Considerations

Authorizing temporary road closures enables the City to support events that encourage greater walkability throughout the City's commercial corridors. Additionally, temporary closures to enable traffic counts, while not full traffic studies, will provide useful data on automotive usage in the Main Street Takoma corridor. Gathering additional data will allow the City to ensure existing and future road patterns lessen dependence on vehicles thereby lowering emissions from automobiles while also encouraging greater pedestrian safety. *(Revised environmental considerations added 3/6/2023.)*

Fiscal Considerations

The temporary road closures will not have any anticipated impact on City fiscal considerations. City staff will provide support for closures, but partner organizations will be expected to set up signage and barricades for weekend events so as to not require any City staff overtime commitments.

Racial Equity Considerations

Local events in the City's commercial districts encourage increased interactions between the City's diverse resident base. Additionally, many events provide vendor opportunities for emerging, minority-owned businesses.

Attachments and Links

Table 1 – 2023 Proposed Temporary Street Closures
Draft Resolution

**Table 1
Proposed Temporary Street Closures
Calendar Year 2023**

Date	Event	Road Closure(s)	Service Contract Organization
3/29/2023	Temporary Traffic Count Closure	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	City of Takoma Park
4/29/2023	Temporary Traffic Count Closure	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	City of Takoma Park
4/16/2023	Market at the Bank	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
4/30/2023	Takoma Park Motorcycle Show	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
5/6/2023 (Rain Date: 5/13/2023)	Takoma Park Children's Business Fair	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
5/6/2023	TLCDA Spring Fest	Anne Street – University to Hammond	TLCDA
5/13/2023	Takoma Flea	Grant Avenue – Hancock to Ethan Allen	OTBA
5/20/2023	Market at the Bank	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
5/21/2023	Crossroads Food Fair	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
6/11/2023	Takoma Pride Event	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
9/17/2023	Takoma Park Farmers Market Pie Eating Contest	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
10/1/2023	Takoma Park Street Festival	Carroll Avenue – Eastern to Grant Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2023 -

**AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY CLOSURES OF CITY STREETS
IN SUPPORT OF THE 2023 ANNUAL EVENT CALENDAR**

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park partners with multiple economic development service contract partners to promote the growth of the City’s commercial corridors to enliven the area and highlight local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the service partners are the Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA) and the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority (CDA); and

WHEREAS, economic development service contract partners have proposed the closure of multiple City streets to allow these events to occur in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Old Takoma Business Association desire to conduct one-day test closures of Laurel Avenue between Carroll and Eastern Avenues to conduct traffic counts; and

WHEREAS, economic development service contract partners will receive all additional State, County, and City permits and permissions to operate the Events and notify all appropriate local agencies, including WMATA, Montgomery County Department of Transportation, and Ride On Service; and

WHEREAS, economic development service contract partners will properly notify all impacted residents and stakeholders of the street closures at least one (1) week in advance of the closures in writing, and

WHEREAS, economic development service contract partners will ensure that all events are concluded in time to reopen the roadways to pedestrians, traffic, and transportation at the designated times: and

WHEREAS, the list of proposed temporary closures follows:

Date	Event	Road Closure(s)	Service Contract Organization
3/29/2023	Temporary Traffic Count Closure	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
4/29/2023	Temporary Traffic Count Closure	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
4/16/2023	Market at the Bank	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
4/30/2023	Takoma Park Motorcycle Show	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA

5/6/2023 (Rain Date: 5/13/2023)	Takoma Park Children's Business Fair	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
5/6/2023	TLCDA Spring Fest	Anne Street – University to Hammond	TLCDA
5/13/2023	Takoma Flea	Grant Avenue – Hancock to Ethan Allen	OTBA
5/20/2023	Market at the Bank	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
5/21/2023	Crossroads Food Fair	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
6/11/2023	Takoma Pride Event	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
9/17/2023	Takoma Park Farmers Market Pie Eating Contest	Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA
10/1/2023	Takoma Park Street Festival	Carroll Avenue – Eastern to Grant Laurel Avenue – Carroll to Eastern	OTBA

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND authorizes the City Manager to close certain City streets as outlined by the Events in the Recitals above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the identified economic development service contract partner shall assume full responsibility for notifying adjoining property owners of the approved closures, notifying City residents in writing of any changes to public transportation schedules and/or pickup and drop-off locations that may arise from such street closures at least one week prior to date of the Events, arranging for the placement of “No Parking” signs and “Local Traffic Only” signs as necessary, restoring the area following the planned events, and ensuring that the roadways are reopened to traffic at the designated times, and reimbursing the City for any additional City resources that are required above and beyond standard City operating procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager may, at their discretion, approve any date changes to the Events in the Recitals above provided that the City receives a date change request no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled date.

Adopted this _____ day of March, 2023.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk