

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: Quidi Vidi Traffic changes

Meeting: Committee of The Whole

Report To:

Councillor and Role: Councilor Skinner

Ward: 1

Decision/Direction Required: Direction is required on the implementation of Inner gut pedestrian zone and One Way pilot of Quidi Vidi Village Road

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

City Council is considering implementing a “pedestrian-only” zone in the ‘inner gut’ as a pilot project over the summer in Quidi Vidi Village. Options being considered also include one-way traffic flow from Regiment Road through Cadet Road east bound.

Quidi Vidi Village is one of the City’s most picturesque and iconic locations and is a draw for visitors and tourists. The City’s goal is to provide access to this area in a way that is safe and inviting, while still being practical for those living and working in the neighborhood.

The city continues to receive complains about traffic along the Quidi Vidi Village Road from the residents of Quidi Vidi Village. Most of these issues are related to speeding, high traffic volume, and constrained right-of-way. As an effort to partly address these traffic issues along the Quidi Vidi Village Road, temporary speed cushions were installed in Fall 2020.

Staff were directed to undertake public engagement to gauge support for the 2021 concept and to explore key considerations for a pilot.

Public engagement kicked off on June 7 and included direct mail to all residents and businesses in Quidi Vidi and included several virtual public sessions and a meeting with the Inclusion Advisory Committee. A project page on [engagestjohns.ca](https://www.engagestjohns.ca) invited feedback on the concept as well.

Several hundred people provided feedback, the details of which are included in the What We Heard Document

<https://www.engagestjohns.ca/23006/widgets/96064/documents/60337>

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Key findings from the engagement note:

- Generally, both residents and business owners were supportive of the inner gut closure and like the concept of piloting this change this summer and making a permanent change only if the pilot is deemed a success.
- Businesses generally are more supportive of a weekend-only closure for the pilot, while residents prefer to see it every day.
- Access remains a priority for both residents and business owners, so the use of staffed barricades is a necessity; residents want to be able to drive to their properties within the closure and have visitors be able to drive to their properties to park, while businesses need vehicular access for deliveries and trucks.
- Some businesses expressed desire for drop off and pick up options for their customers.
- Generally, businesses supported the concept of one-way traffic through the Village, but opinions on this matter were mixed from residents. Concerns included inconvenience for residents who would need to circle around the lake and fears that one-way traffic may in fact increase speeds through the area. Some residents were in favour of one-way, and suggested speed cushions would be essential if this were in place.

A decision will need to be made regarding patron access to Quidi Vidi Brewery as the owners have indicated they would prefer to have continued access for their patrons for drop off and pick up. If the pedestrian friendly closure ends at 10:00 pm this would allow taxis in the area to pick up customers. The approximate distance from Barrows Road to the Brewery is 225 meters. Accessible parking will also need to be considered. Currently there are 3 dedicated spaces in the area. GoBus could use Cadet Road to drop off passengers and near the intersection of Barrows Road and Quidi Vidi Village Road. These would need to be clearly communicated and marked.

The implementation of the one-way proposal could lead to several issues for the area. The pinch point just east of Regiment Road and the pinch point near the old Church may see an increase in speeds due to no oncoming traffic. With the expectation of more pedestrians in the area this could pose some pedestrian vehicle conflicts.

Residents may find it inconvenient to have to drive around the lake to return to their properties. This increase in traffic will have to be absorbed by other local streets and may result in some negative feedback from those residents.

Given this, and that speeding in the area is a primary concern of residents and capacity on alternate routes (King's Bridge at Empire and Kenna's Hill at the Blvd) could be significantly impacted by the one-way concept.

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Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications
Cost of signs post and signs and Enforcement to be stationed at barricades.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders
Area residents and businesses
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans

No direct alignment with existing strategic directions. However, this is related to “A City that Moves: A city that builds a balanced transportation network that gets people and goods where they want to go safely.”

4. Legal or Policy Implications
5. Privacy Implications
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations

Public engagement plan was developed and carried out, the details of which and the summary of What was Heard can you found [here](#).

7. Human Resource Implications
8. Procurement Implications
9. Information Technology Implications
10. Other Implications

Recommendation:

The Transportation Division recommends to close Barrow’s Road and Stone’s Road to through traffic only from noon to 10 p.m. Only local traffic permitted. Friday to Sunday from July 5 to Sept. 7. Local traffic is defined as residents of the Mapleview Place, Barrows Road and Stones Road. Access to be granted for Plantation vendors and deliveries for business as well as users of the slip way for recreational fishing.

The one-way concept is not recommended at this time. Instead, reinstallation of the speed cushions would be recommended with the existing two-way travel.



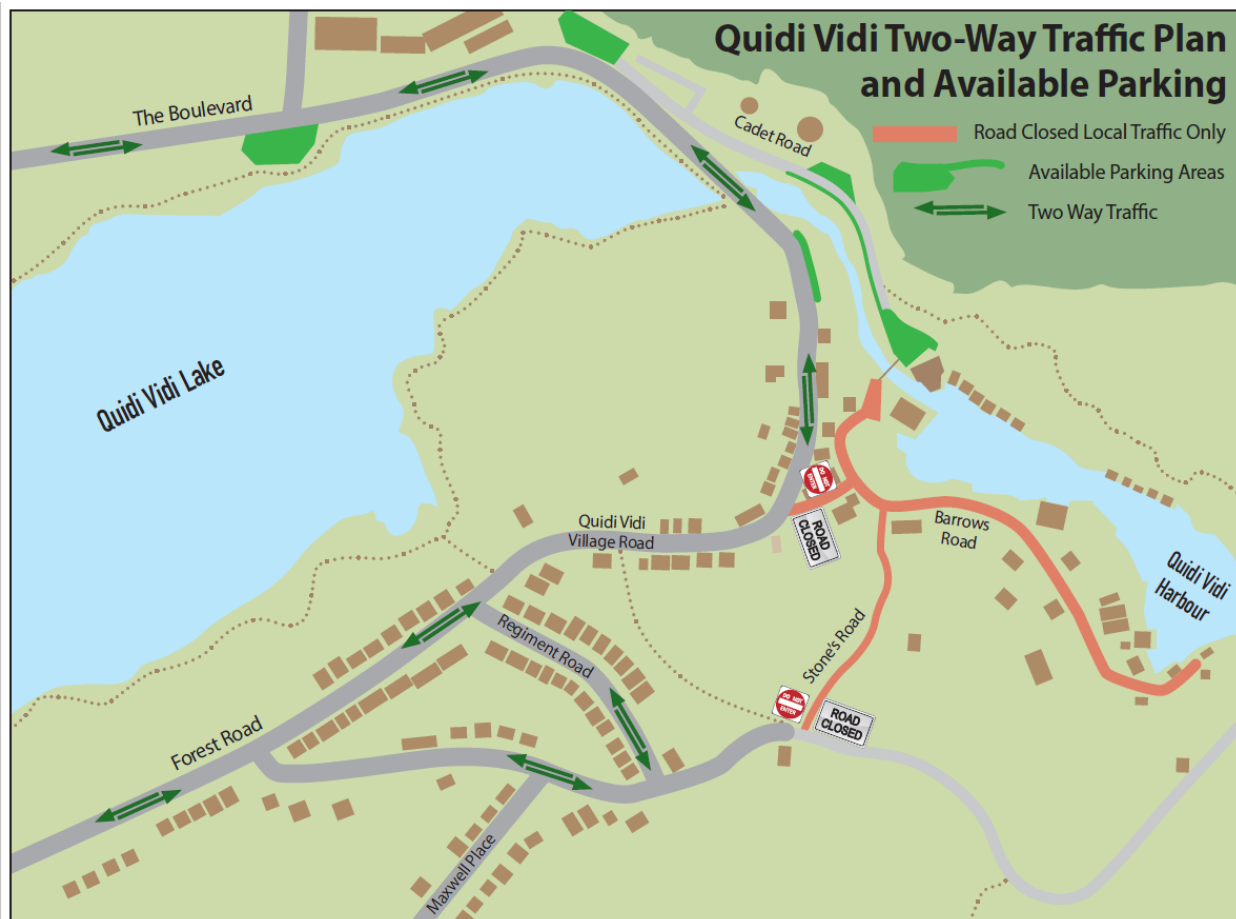
Prepared by/Date: June 24, 2021

Approved by/Date:

Attachments:



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