

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: June 14, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Carl Isaak, Director, Planning and Development Services

SUBJECT: On-Street Temporary Patios outside of Marine Drive Closure Area

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse that food and beverage establishments outside of the Marine Drive one-way closure area, with adjacent on-street parking areas, be eligible for City-supplied traffic barriers to support additional temporary patio areas for outdoor, physically distanced dining.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Council with an opportunity to consider extending the ability to use road space for temporary patios to businesses that are outside of the one-way Marine Drive closure area. While public health orders prohibiting indoor dining have been lifted, the restrictions on physical distancing remain and food and beverage establishments are not yet able to operate at 100-per-cent indoor seating capacity.

The current program within the road closure area enables restaurants to set up temporary seating areas (patios) behind City-supplied traffic barriers on the closed travel lane. The lane closure also enables greater space for pedestrians and take-out customers to physically distance on the sidewalk. While most restaurants on Marine Drive are within this closure area (from Maple Street in East Beach to Vidal Street in West Beach), there are some located between Vidal Street and Oxford Street that would not be able to participate in this program, and there are also potentially food and beverage establishments in the Uptown areas that may also wish to use street space for physically distanced outdoor service.

One restaurant (Cosmos Greek Restaurant) located outside of the closure area has requested that Council expand the current program to permit them to utilize on-street parallel parking spaces for a temporary patio space. This request does not involve the closure of a travel lane or any vehicular detours. As Council's prior direction did not include providing City-supplied barriers outside of the closure area, this would be at an additional cost (as well as some lost revenue from the on-street pay parking space).

Staff do not recommend further road (travel lane) closures in other parts of the City to enable additional on-street patios due to the complexity and impacts involved with road closures, however, if there are parking spaces adjacent to a food and beverage establishment, this would be an opportunity to enable them to expand their safe outdoor dining options without the impact to the flow of traffic and access to properties.

Staff recommend that if Council allow food and beverage establishments outside the closure area to apply for a Highway Use Permit for a temporary patio, that this be limited to only where the patio would be located on adjacent parking areas that do not involve road closures.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

Motion # & Meeting Date	Motion Details
May 31, 2021 [draft]	That the Council direct that temporary one-way closure of Marine Drive will stay in place until the Provincial Health Officer allows restaurants to operate at 100-per-cent indoor seating capacity. [paraphrase; actual resolution to be approved in minutes]
May 10, 2021 2021-257	THAT Council direct staff to close the north lane of Marine Drive, as presented by the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations this evening, until September 2021; this is to be done in consultation with the Business Improvement Association (BIA) and in order to help mitigate risk the emergency services (Fire and RCMP), in order to help support businesses along Marine Drive.
April 26, 2021 2021-232	THAT Council receive this corporate report for consideration and potential direction to staff. [report from the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations titled “Marine Drive Lane Closures”]

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provides Council with an opportunity to consider extending the ability to use road space for temporary patios to businesses that are outside of the one-way Marine Drive closure area.

The current program within the road closure area enables restaurants to set up temporary seating areas (patios) behind City-supplied traffic barriers on the closed travel lane. The lane closure also enables greater space for pedestrians and take-out customers to physically distance on the sidewalk. While most restaurants on Marine Drive are within this closure area (from Maple Street in East Beach to Vidal Street in West Beach), there are some located between Vidal Street and Oxford Street that would not be able to participate in this program, and there are also potentially food and beverage establishments in the Uptown areas that may also wish to use street space for physically distanced outdoor service.

One restaurant (Cosmos Greek Restaurant) located outside of the closure area has requested that Council expand the current program to permit them to utilize on-street parallel parking spaces for a temporary patio space. This request does not involve the closure of a travel lane or any vehicular detours. As Council’s prior direction did not include providing City-supplied barriers outside of the closure area, this would be at an additional cost (as well as some lost revenue from the on-street pay parking space).

Staff do not recommend further road (travel lane) closures in other parts of the City to enable additional on-street patios due to the complexity and impacts involved with road closures, however if there are parking spaces adjacent to a food and beverage establishment, this would be an opportunity to enable them to expand their safe outdoor dining options without the impact to the flow of traffic and access to properties.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Additional traffic barriers will increase the costs of this program, however if the expanded program is limited only to on-street parking spaces, depending on the circumstances of each location, there may be flexibility in using lower cost barriers and traffic control devices than those associated with a full lane closure. Revenue for any closed pay parking spaces will also be reduced.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Re-allocating road space to enable greater physical distancing for pedestrians and patrons of businesses is a way to support public health objectives during the COVID-19 pandemic. By allowing similar closures of road (on-street parking) space outside of the current Marine Drive one-way area, this would expand the City's response to the public health crisis and also support the community's ability to get together in safer ways at local businesses. This is primarily to support the use of public spaces that fit within the response to the COVID-19 emergency rather than to support a particular business or businesses.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Given that on-street parking spaces are used by visitors and customers of businesses in an area, it may be that not all businesses in an area would want nearby parking spaces closed for a neighbouring business. Staff recommend that if the program is expanded as described in this report, that businesses applying for a temporary patio permit be required to provide a letter from the businesses adjacent to their property (if applicable) stating their support for the temporary conversion of on-street parking to outdoor dining.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

This report was discussed with the Engineering and Municipal Operations department. It was noted that further road (travel lane) closures are not preferred if Council wishes to expand outdoor dining areas in other parts of the City.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Allocating road space to enable greater physical distancing for pedestrians and outdoor dining options for restaurant patrons responds to the objective in the COVID-19 Strategic Priority to "Operate all facilities and provide services consistent with Provincial Health orders."

Improving opportunities for restaurants is consistent with the Strategic Priority theme of Our Economy, specifically the objective to "Advocate on behalf of small business and work with community groups to support the local business community during the pandemic."

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following options are available for Council's consideration:

1. Direct staff to continue with the current temporary patio program for only the one-way Marine Drive area;
2. Defer consideration of this topic pending further information as identified by Council.

CONCLUSION

The current temporary patio program within the one-way Marine Drive road closure area enables restaurants in those areas to set up temporary seating areas (patios) behind City-supplied traffic barriers on the closed travel lane. The lane closure also enables greater space for pedestrians and take-out customers to physically distance on the sidewalk. While most restaurants on Marine Drive are within this closure area (from Maple Street in East Beach to Vidal Street in West Beach), there are some located between Vidal Street and Oxford Street that would not be able to participate in this program. There are also potentially food and beverage establishments in the Uptown areas that may also wish to use street space for physically distanced outdoor service.

A restaurant outside of the closure area has requested that Council expand the current program to also them to utilize on-street parallel parking spaces for a temporary patio space.

This report provides Council with an opportunity to consider extending the ability to use road space for temporary patios to businesses that are outside of the one-way Marine Drive closure area. Staff recommend that if Council expands the program, that it be limited to parking areas only. Additional traffic barriers will increase the costs of this program, however if the expanded program is limited only to on-street parking spaces, depending on the circumstances of each location, there may be flexibility in using lower cost barriers and traffic control devices than those associated with a full lane closure.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl Isaak".

Carl Isaak, RPP, MCIP, Director, Planning & Development Services and
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: Correspondence from Cosmos Greek Restaurant

APPENDIX A
Correspondence from Cosmos Greek Restaurant

To: White Rock Council <whiterockcouncil@whiterockcity.ca>

Subject: COSMOS GREEK RESTAURANT 14871 Marine Drive—EXPANDED MARINE DRIVE PATIO SEATING

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: City Council of White Rock,

We, at Cosmos Greek Restaurant 14871 Marine Drive, are writing to you and expressing our disappointment with the exclusion.

We feel left out and excluded from your plans of assisting restaurants on Marine Drive to have expanded patio space for our restaurant. Being a landmark in White Rock for over 45 years running a family business. We have faced a lot of challenges over the years and have overcome a lot and stayed very strong throughout all of these years.

We have been informed that it stops on Vidal Street, due to emergency access to Marine Drive. We would appreciate if City Council could consider allowing us to use the Curb side 15 minute parking and the parking behind that one that is in front of our restaurant. That would allow us to have more expanded patio space, and not turn away our customers on a busy day.

Please consider our request and we will get a signed letter from the Book Store next door to us “Whitby’s Book Store” that they are OK with a portion of their parking stall to allow us to use for our patio.

Thank you for your consideration and waiting to hear back from council.

Thank you,
Georgia Theodosakis
Co-Owner of Cosmos