



## Staff Report

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**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**THROUGH:** Steve Powers, City Manager

**FROM:** Peter Fernandez, PE, Public Works Director

### **SUBJECT:**

Feasibility study of temporarily closing portions of Union and Winter Streets NE on Saturdays between May and October to benefit area neighborhoods and the Salem Saturday Market.

Ward(s): Ward 1

Councilor(s): Councilor Stapleton

Neighborhood(s): CANDO

Service Area(s): Welcome and Livable Neighborhood

### **SUMMARY:**

On April 26, 2021, City Council directed staff to provide a report regarding the feasibility of temporarily closing various streets on Saturdays between May and October to benefit area neighborhoods and the Salem Saturday Market. Staff developed two street closure options: Option #1 is a *Soft Closure*, in which signage and small barricades are used to discourage through-vehicle traffic on Union Street NE and Winter Street NE. Option #2 is a *Hard Closure* that employs large barricades and signs to prevent vehicles from entering closed street segments.

### **ISSUE:**

Options for temporarily closing Union and Winter Streets NE on Saturdays during the months of May through October to benefit area neighborhoods and the Saturday Market.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Information only.

### **FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. On April 26, 2021, City Council directed staff to provide a report regarding the feasibility of

temporarily closing Union Street NE from the pedestrian railroad bridge at Riverfront Park to Winter Street NE, and Winter Street NE from Union Street NE to Market Street NE.

2. Per Councilor Stapleton's motion, the closures would occur on Saturdays from May through October to "enrich the lives of residents, enhance the quality of neighborhoods, and support the local economy." The intent of the street closures would be to reduce vehicular traffic and provide safer passage for pedestrians and bicycle riders from west Salem, downtown Salem, and north Salem to the Salem Saturday Market.

3. Public Works staff developed two street closure options. The options vary primarily on the type of barricades used and signage. Attachment 1 provides a comparison between Type II and Type III barricades. Attachments 2 through 6 show how the barricades and signs would be employed on the various affected street segments for both options.

#### 4. Summary of Options.

##### Option #1 - Soft Closure.

*Overview.* This option consists of signs mounted on Type II barricades informing motorists that the road is closed except for local access.

*Advantages of Option #1.* This option is the least impactful to vehicular traffic traveling to and from adjacent businesses and homes. Cherriots Route #2 currently uses Winter Street NE and a section of Union Street NE between Winter Street NE and Church Street NE and this option allows bus services to continue. From an operational perspective, Option #1 is the easiest of the two options to set up and take down and is, therefore, the least cost option. This option requires a crew of two, requires about 6.5 hours of work time to load materials, set-up, and then tear-down the closure. The estimated cost for Option #1 is \$680 each time it is implemented.

*Disadvantages of Option #1.* This option does not physically preclude vehicles from entering a road segment, relying instead on driver awareness and compliance with the temporarily posted signs.

##### Option #2 - Hard Closure.

*Overview.* This option consists of a combination of Type III barricades, traffic cones, and signs that prohibit right-hand and left-hand turns onto the isolated streets.

*Advantages of Option #2.* This option would be more effective at reducing vehicular traffic on the streets than Option #1 because it physically blocks most traffic at the intersection, thereby making it the most beneficial to the walking and biking public.

*Disadvantages of Option #2.* Because this option is intended to prevent vehicular traffic on the impacted streets, it could create problems and may have an adverse impact to some adjacent businesses and homes. Option #2 would also require Cherriots to reroute Route #2, which

could create difficulties for the transiting public who would otherwise use the impacted bus stops. From an operational perspective, Option #2 is the most expensive of the two options to implement. This option requires a crew of four, would involve about 6.5 hours of work time to load materials, set-up, and then tear-down the closure. The estimated cost for Option #2 is \$1,360 each time it is implemented.

5. Option #1 is generally used in Salem for events that require short-term closures of streets. This is because this option provides a balance between maintaining access for adjacent businesses and homes with the need to reduce vehicular traffic in support of the event. Either option can be supplemented with volunteers, contracted flaggers, or police services to help enforce compliance with signs and to facilitate crossings at intersections. Both options require advance notification to potentially impacted businesses and property owners and, depending on the scale and scope of the closures, to the general travelling public.

#### 6. Street classifications and stop controls.

- Union Street NE is classified as a collector street in the *Salem Transportation System Plan* (Salem TSP). All the intersections on Union Street NE between Front Street NE and Market Street NE are either stop controlled or signalized.
- Winter Street NE is classified as a local street in the Salem TSP. All Winter Street movements are stop controlled except at E Street NE and at Belmont Street NE. At these two intersections the side street is stop controlled.

#### 7. Operating days and hours

- The Salem Saturday Market operates from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is scheduled to operate through October 30, 2021.
- The closures would be set up on Saturdays only.
- The closures would be effective beginning at 8 a.m. and would be removed by 4 p.m.

#### 8. Potentially impacted businesses and residences

- There are 11 businesses that only have access to Union Street NE or Winter Street NE. It is unclear how many are open on Saturdays.
- There are 63 residences that only have access to Union Street NE or Winter Street NE.

### BACKGROUND:

Street closures to reduce or eliminate vehicular traffic in support of an event are a common practice. The nature of street closures varies depending characteristics of the event, the required control of vehicles on the closed road segments (for example, "Road Closed" vs. "Local Access Only"), and the acceptable impact to businesses, homes, and the transiting public. It is the responsibility of the event sponsor to reimburse the City for the cost of implementing a street closure, which is typically based on the number of staff and the time required to assemble, setup, tear down, and restock material.

Robert D. Chandler, PhD, PE  
Assistant Public Works Director

**Attachments:**

1. Type II and Type III Barricades
2. Union Street NE between Cottage and Winter
3. Union Street NE between Front and Liberty
4. Union Street NE between High and Church
5. Winter Street NE between Belmont and Market
6. Winter Street NE between D and E



## Type II and Type III Barricades



Typical Type II Barricade



Typical Type III Barricade





OPTION 1 - Soft Closure

- Type II barricade with Road Closed Local Access Only signs

OPTION 2 - Hard Closure

- Type III barricade with Road Closed
- Traffic Cones
- No Right/Left Turn sign
- Riverfront Park sign (arrow pointing left)





OPTION 1 - Soft Closure

- Type II barricade with Road Closed Local Access Only signs


OPTION 2 - Hard Closure

- Type III barricade with Road Closed
- Traffic Cones
- No Right/Left Turn sign
- Riverfront Park sign (arrow pointing left)









**OPTION 1 - Soft Closure**

-  Type II barricade with Road Closed Local Access Only signs



**OPTION 2 - Hard Closure**

-  Type III barricade with Road Closed
-  Traffic Cones
-  No Right/Left Turn sign
-  Riverfront Park sign (arrow pointing left)









OPTION 1 - Soft Closure

-  Type II barricade with Road Closed
-  Local Access Only signs


OPTION 2 - Hard Closure

-  Type III barricade with Road Closed
-  Traffic Cones
-  No Right/Left Turn sign
-  Riverfront Park sign (arrow pointing left)









OPTION 1 - Soft Closure

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OPTION 2 - Hard Closure

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