



**City of Kingston
Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Meeting Number 06-2021
Minutes**

**Thursday, November 4, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.
In a virtual, electronic format**

Committee Members Present

Caitlin Bruce; Chair
Councillor Neill
Andrew Ashby
Dorothyanne Brown
Penny LeClair
William McMillan
Susan Mockler
Sheri Scott
Janice Wilby
David Williams

Regrets

Kate Deacon
Glenn Griffiths
Megan Kerrigan
Nick Streicher

Staff Members Present

Muhammad Ahsan, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office Manager
Luke Follwell, Director, Engineering Services

Derek Ochej, Committee Clerk
Jennifer Pinarski, Communications Officer
Iain Sullivan, Information Compliance Analyst

Meeting to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Neill

Seconded by Ms. Brown

That the agenda be amended to withdraw Delegation a), and as amended, be approved.

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Ms. LeClair

Seconded by Ms. Mockler

That the Minutes of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting 05-2021 held Thursday, September 2, 2021 be approved.

Carried

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

Delegations

There were none.

Briefings

- a) Luke Follwell, Director, Engineering Services, was present and spoke to the Committee regarding Transportation and Public Works Update.

Mr. Follwell conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting the City Clerk's Department.

Mr. Williams expressed support for the work completed in Shannon Park and the cross-department coordination on the project. He sought information regarding the current ridership numbers for Kingston Transit.

Mr. Follwell responded that ridership had increased as compared to the peak of the pandemic, adding that it was still down compared to pre-pandemic numbers. He advised that he could follow up with more specific data.

Mr. Williams inquired about the status of the waterfront shoreline project. Mr. Follwell responded that the area near Mowat Avenue and Portsmouth Olympic Harbour was nearing completion.

Ms. LeClair inquired if the new vehicles purchased for public works were replacement or additional and the impact their addition would have on services. Mr. Follwell responded that the sidewalk plow was an additional purchase, and that the front-end loader would be used to assist with snow removal from sidewalks in the downtown area.

Ms. LeClair sought further details as to how Kingston compares with other municipalities regarding the number of accessible washrooms and audible pedestrian signals. Mr. Follwell responded that he would need to discuss further with staff any data available regarding audible pedestrian signals. Regarding accessible washrooms, Mr. Follwell stated that there is room for improvement with existing washroom facilities. He spoke to upgrades being completed as part of other projects, citing the Richardson Beach Bath House as an example.

Ms. Brown complemented staff for the work completed at Lake Ontario Park and the shoreline walking paths. She inquired about the optimal distances between benches and rest areas. Mr. Follwell responded that the public is consulted on a regular basis regarding the creation of rest areas. He stated that there are a number of ways they can be defined, and that rest areas are generally created every 50 metres. Mr. Follwell spoke to the combination of benches and flat rocks used as rest areas on the K&P Trail.

Mr. McMillan inquired about the potential for future path connectivity between the shoreline walking path and Providence Care. He sought further details regarding the

installation of shelters at upgraded bus stops. Mr. Follwell stated that no additional pathways from Providence Care had been identified for connection to the shoreline walking path, adding that more connections can be considered in the future. Regarding upgraded bus stops, Mr. Follwell advised that shelters will be installed at a number of locations in the near future.

Ms. Cotter sought further information regarding the wheelchair restraints on new electric buses. Mr. Follwell confirmed that the restraints were operated by users and not transit drivers. He added that feedback had been received that the restraints were user-friendly.

Ms. Mockler inquired about the process for determining which sidewalks receive upgrades or replacement. Mr. Follwell responded that a prioritization process based on an annual inspection is used to determine where sidewalk maintenance occurs. He further stated that based on scoring between 1 to 100, sidewalks are then prioritized for maintenance. Mr. Follwell added that immediate safety concerns are addressed with interim solutions until full reconstruction can occur.

Ms. Mockler asked how residents can report sidewalks in poor condition. Mr. Follwell responded that residents can file reports through the City's ContactUs portal.

In response to Ms. Mockler's comments, Councillor Neill commented that including pictures and copying the district councillor on sidewalk complaints may assist matters.

Ms. Wilby inquired if the City planned to replace carbon powered buses with electric buses moving forward. Mr. Follwell confirmed that this was the City's plan, adding that there is a need to review the electrical supply at the Transit depot in order to determine if there is sufficient electrical flow to charge buses.

Councillor Neill advised the Committee that Council had set 2025 as a target date for the municipality to replace end-of-life carbon powered vehicles with electric or hybrid-electric vehicles.

Ms. Wilby expressed her support for the City's accomplishments related to accessibility. Mr. Follwell responded that audits have been utilized by staff to improve accessibility outside of regular asset replacement.

Ms. Bruce sought further details regarding the installation of additional audible pedestrian signals. Mr. Follwell advised that a report would be presented to Council this year advising of locations to receive audible pedestrian signal upgrades in 2022.

Business

a) Transportation and Public Works Update

The Report was considered concurrently with Briefing a)

b) Accessibility Office Report – Q3 2021

Mr. Ochej provided an overview of the Report and the Committee Work Plan.

Ms. Brown sought clarity on the increase in requests regarding assistive devices. Mr. Ochej responded that this may be attributed to the re-opening of various City facilities and programs to the public.

Councillor Neill inquired if the City had a listing of private businesses that have assistive devices. He suggested that this may be an area to promote to the public.

Ms. LeClair inquired if the City had a listing of its facilities with assistive devices. Mr. Ochej stated that staff could examine adding this information to accessibility portion of the City's website.

c) 2020 Accessibility Plan Status Report

Mr. Ochej provided an overview of the Report and the Committee Work Plan.

Mr. McMillan inquired which department was responsible for the coordination of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. Mr. Ochej responded that the City Clerk's Department coordinates the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Mr. Williams complemented staff on the report, adding that the objective of making accessibility a part of operational planning and not merely an add-on has been achieved.

Ms. LeClair advised that in her experience serving on municipal accessibility advisory committees, Kingston's was the most impressive in terms of work completed.

Moved by Mr. Ashby

Seconded by Ms. Scott

That the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends to Council:

That the 2020 Accessibility Plan Status Report, attached as Exhibit A to Report Number MAAC-21-009, be received.

Carried

d) Working Group Reports

i. Awareness & Education Working Group

Mr. Ochej provided an overview of the report.

Ms. LeClair suggested that educating businesses on the rules and regulations regarding service animals be considered a future topic for the Working Group.

Councillor Neill expressed support for Ms. LeClair's comments. He suggested that the Downtown Kingston Business Improvement Area and Tourism Kingston be considered for inclusion on the panel discussion for the Celebrating Accessibility Awards.

ii. Built Environment Working Group

Mr. Williams provided an overview of the report.

Moved by Ms. Wilby

Seconded by Mr. Ashby

That the Awareness & Education Working Group and Built Environment Working Group Reports be received.

Carried

Motions

There were none.

Notices of Motion

There were none.

Other Business

There was none.

Correspondence

There was none.

Date and time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee is to be determined.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Neill

Seconded by Ms. Mockler

That the meeting of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee adjourn at 2:16 p.m.

Carried