



City of Kingston
Information Report to Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Report Number MAAC-21-008

To: Chair and Members of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Transportation & Public Works

Resource Staff: Luke Follwell, Director, Engineering Services

Date of Meeting: November 4, 2021

Subject: Transportation and Public Works Update

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Corporate business

Goal: See above

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on services provided by the Transportation & Public Works Group and measures taken that focus on accessibility.

Barriers to accessibility can come in the form of designs, services, and infrastructure installed or constructed prior to the existence of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*, developing barriers as infrastructure ages, barriers created by external sources, and weather. The Transportation & Public Works Group strive to identify barriers or developing barriers on a routine basis that may impact access to the many services and needs of residents and users in the community.

Transportation & Public Works will continue to strive to imbed and meet the accessibility compliance items identified within the 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Brad Joyce, Commissioner,
Transportation & Public Works**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Community Services	Not required
Craig Desjardins, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Business, Environment & Projects	Not required
Jim Keech, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required

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Options/Discussion:

This report provides an overview of the services that the Transportation & Public Works Group provides in the context of the accessible measures or improvements that have been made. The Transportation & Public Work Group is comprised of Transit Services (Kingston Transit), Transportation Services, Solid Waste, Public Works, Corporate Fleet & Asset Management, and Engineering Services. Each department and the associated accessibility updates are discussed as sections in this report.

COVID-19 required a reassessment and deferral of some Transit, Transportation, and Public Works projects. All active capital construction projects are updated on the City's website through the *My Neighbourhood* application. The *My Neighbourhood* application includes descriptions for each project including the scope of work, expected timeline for completion, and contact information for the staff person who is leading the project.

Additional information is also available through the *Get Involved* platform for active engagement activities that are currently taking place.

Transit Services

As part of the Kingston Transit infrastructure program, bus stops identified as not meeting the needs of passengers with disabilities are upgraded each year. Upgrades at existing bus stops include the construction of new concrete pads suitable for accessible shelter/bench installation, concrete pads to provide infill between the boulevard and sidewalk, and improved connections to existing sidewalks and pathways depending on the site-specific conditions.

Bus stop improvements in 2021 include:

- Gardiners Road (east side) at O'Connor Drive
- Gardiners Road (east side) at Norris Court
- Princess Street (south side) at Portsmouth Avenue
- Hwy 15 (west side) at Barrett Court
- Wilson Street (east side) at McCauley Street
- Weller Avenue (south side) at Wiley Street
- Weller Avenue (north side) at Compton Street
- Henderson Blvd (south side) at McEwen Drive

In 2020, the City received approval under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan to design and construct 16 transit passenger stations. Transit stations are larger than typical stops or shelters and will include different design features and amenities to improve the overall experience for passengers. The stations will be constructed to meet or exceed all AODA standards and regulations.

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Public engagement for this project was completed in 2020 and the report is available on the City's public engagement platform. The project is currently in the construction procurement phase. Construction of the first transit stations is expected to begin in 2022 and continued for a 3-year period. A MAAC project team has already been identified to participate in this project.

The City's first electric buses entered service in 2021. The buses meet or exceed all technical requirements required under O. Reg. 191/11 *Integrated Accessibility Standards* of the AODA. The electric buses are also the first buses in the Kingston Transit fleet to feature the Q'Strait Quantum automatic wheelchair securement system that gives passengers independence to secure themselves with minimal assistance from the bus operator. The feedback received from passengers and bus operators about the system has been positive.

Transportation Services

The Transportation Services Department is responsible for the operation of the City's transportation and public parking systems. As part of the operation of these services, the department regularly reviews ways in which user accessibility can be enhanced, particularly when a site or asset is being built, replaced, or reconstructed. Existing City standards such as the Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS), coupled with the Province's Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR), provide excellent guidance on the appropriate method to address accessibility.

These standards, guidelines, and best practices provide Transportation Services staff with sufficient guidance for the majority of the minor changes made to transportation and parking assets, however there are instances when the scale of the change warrants additional consultation with a variety of stakeholders. In these instances, Transportation Services requests that a project team from MAAC be assigned to provide input.

Areas where new or further involvement will be required from MAAC project teams include:

1. Projects related to the Active Transportation 5-Year implementation Plan
2. Pathway and roadway construction or reconstruction as it relates to the provision of rest areas and accessible parking
3. Modifications to existing on-street and off-street accessible parking locations

Specific transportation projects that are under construction or were completed in 2021 include:

- Henderson Boulevard multi-use pathway connecting Days Road to Bayridge Drive
- Intersection Pedestrian Signals installed at: Taylor-Kidd Boulevard at Pembroke, Bayridge Drive at Bayridge Park, Montreal Street at MacCauley, and Weller Avenue at Wiley Street
- All-way stop and pedestrian crossing on Kirkpatrick Avenue at Kingscourt
- Completion of on-road cycling lanes on University Avenue
- Traffic calming and other enhancements on 7 streets across the city

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Solid Waste Services

The department is dedicated to achieving the goal of 65% waste diversion from landfill. Most recently, we achieved an interim goal of 60% waste diversion by 2018.

The following are examples of services and/or allowances that are provided to residents upon request, or as a general operating standard:

- Bag tag medical exemptions are permitted with a signed note from a medical practitioner certifying that the resident requires an additional bag tag per week.
- Permitting residents to place waste or waste receptacles at an alternate location (example: beside or just outside the garage) or further up the driveway to avoid heavy lifting to and from the street curbside.
- Delivering recycling boxes and green bins to persons that do not have transportation to pick them up.
- Educational training on waste programs to in-home caregivers to ensure that the homeowner is still able to access the waste and waste diversion programs.
- Assistance at KARC when unloading materials at any of the depots or carrying out waste containers.
- Recycling depots in the public waste system are deemed to meet accessibility standards.
- The mobile waste diversion unit referred to as OSKAR is deemed to meet accessibility standards.

Public Works Services

The Public Works department performs the maintenance and repair on city sidewalks, pathways, and trails to keep them accessible and address existing barriers. An inspection of the sidewalks and pathways is conducted annually as per the criteria of the Minimum Maintenance Standards in the *Municipal Act* to identify hazards. This information is used to create workplans based on the severity and location of the hazards identified.

Key maintenance activities that involve accessibility considerations are:

- Winter maintenance on roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, and bus stops
- Sidewalk joint deflection repairs by cutting or ramping the hazard repairs
- Localized sidewalk panel replacement repairs
- Tree trimming and vegetation management to remove obstructions
- Play structure and splash pad inspection and maintenance

Changes to designs standards and installation of new transportation infrastructure like multi-use pathways have created new maintenance challenges for Public Works. To accommodate the changes and growth, the department has added additional sidewalk plow units to the fleet to meet the level of service requirements of the City's winter maintenance policy. Articulating

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machines on wheels were selected for these additional units to meet these needs as they have a tighter turning radius for plowing around objects like pedestrian push buttons at intersections. The fleet is more diversified now with 14 track-driven machines, which are a better option for sidewalks, and the 3 machines on wheels.

Engineering Services

Engineering Services plan, design, and construct right-of-way assets and parks as outlined in the major categories below. Engineering Services regularly reviews ways in which user accessibility can be enhanced, particularly when a site or asset is being built, replaced, or reconstructed.

- New, reconstructed, and rehabilitated road projects
- Storm system improvements
- Street lighting
- Bridges and culverts
- Waterfront and shoreline rehabilitation
- Existing park renovations and new park construction
- Playground improvement / play structure replacement
- Park building renovations

Corporate Asset Management & Fleet

Staff are currently developing a Corporate Asset Management Framework and Core Asset Management Plan that will be presented to Council in 2021. When assets (including fleet) are replaced, the lead department will incorporate ways to improve accessibility where feasible.

Existing Policy/By-law:

None

Notice Provisions:

None

Accessibility Considerations:

None

Financial Considerations:

None

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Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Kyle Bolton, Operations Manager, Public Works Services

Troy Stubinski, Operations Manager, Public Works Services

Jason Hollett, Acting Manager, Solid Waste Operations

Jeremy DaCosta, Director, Transit Services

Brent Fowler, Director, Corporate Asset Management and Fleet

Ian Semple, Director, Transportation Services

Exhibits Attached:

None