



**City of Kingston**  
**Information Report to Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee**  
**Report Number MAAC-23-004**

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**To:** Chair and Members of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

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

**Resource Staff:** Luke Follwell, Director of Engineering Services

**Date of Meeting:** March 2, 2023

**Subject:** Transportation and Public Works Update

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**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 strives to identify barriers or develop 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 2023–2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan approved by Council on November 10, 2022.

**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
Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Business, Environment & Projects	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, Public Works & Solid Waste, Engineering Services, and Corporate Asset Management & Fleet. 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 2022 included:

- Montreal Street (west side) at Railway Street
- Regent Street (west side) at Carruthers Avenue
- Taylor-Kidd Boulevard and Liston Drive (2 bus stops)
- Robert Wallace Drive at Polson Park School (2 bus stops)
- 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 distinctive 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.

Construction of the first transit stations was expected to begin in 2022 however construction was delayed due to manufacturing supply chain issues. The first 2 stations located on Henderson Boulevard are expected to be installed in spring 2023. MAAC project team members have already been identified to participate in this ongoing project.

The City's first electric buses entered service in 2021 and were the first buses in the Kingston Transit fleet to feature the Q'Straint Quantum automatic wheelchair securement system that

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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. Based on this feedback, 6 additional buses were retrofitted with the same touchless system in 2022 and all new buses will have the same system installed on a go-forward basis.

## Transportation Services

The Transportation Services Department is responsible for the City's transportation policies, infrastructure, and programs. 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 most of the minor changes made to transportation infrastructure, 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. Transportation infrastructure projects including those related to active transportation.
2. Pathway and roadway construction or reconstruction as it relates to the provision of rest areas.

Examples of transportation projects that are in design, construction or were completed in 2022 include:

- Continued work on the city-wide active transportation routes.
- Upgrading existing intersections and corridors to include active transportation changes and address barriers.
- Adding or upgrading sidewalk segments to address gaps and barriers.
- Identification and commitment to construct new or upgraded pedestrian crossing locations across the city.
- Traffic calming and other enhancements added in 12 street areas annually.
- Community safety zones being installed at all school areas and piloting reduced neighbourhood area speed limits of 40km/h in two areas.

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## Public Works & Solid Waste 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 required by 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.
- Localized sidewalk panel replacement repairs.
- Tree trimming and vegetation management to remove obstructions.
- Play structure and splash pad inspection and maintenance.

Changes to design 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 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, 3 machines on wheels, and 7 mountable snowblowers available for use when snow accumulations dictate.

Public Works changed hiring practices for seasonal winter control workers this year and fifteen employees were hired for the sole purpose of maintaining sidewalks and bus stops. This has allowed this activity to occur simultaneously with road plowing leading to a more responsive service.

## Solid Waste Services

The Solid Waste Department is dedicated to achieving the goal of 65% waste diversion from landfill. Most recently, we achieved an interim goal of 60.2% waste diversion by 2021.

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 (i.e., beside or just outside the garage or farther up the driveway) to avoid heavy lifting to and from the street curbside.

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- 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.
- Mobile waste diversion unit referred to as the Off Site Kingston Area Recycler (OSKAR) is deemed to meet accessibility standards.

### **Engineering Services**

Engineering Services regularly reviews ways in which user accessibility can be enhanced, particularly when a site or asset is being built, replaced, or reconstructed. Accessibility is integral as Engineering Services plans, designs, and constructs right-of-way assets and parks as outlined in these major categories:

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

MAAC members continue to be regular contributors as part of project-specific teams on Engineering Services capital projects.

### **Corporate Asset Management & Fleet**

The City's Core Asset Management Plan was presented and approved by Council on June 21, 2022. The Corporate Asset Management & Fleet Department is now collaborating with City departments to develop similar asset management plans for the City's non-core assets which will be presented to Council for approval in Q2 2024. When assets (including fleet) are replaced, the lead department will continue to incorporate ways to improve accessibility where feasible.

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**Existing Policy/By-Law:**

None

**Notice Provisions:**

None

**Accessibility Considerations:**

None

**Financial Considerations:**

None

**Contacts:**

Luke Follwell, Director, Engineering Services, 613-546-4291 extension 3139

**Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:**

Jeremy DaCosta, Director, Transit Services

Karen Santucci, Director, Public Works & Solid Waste Services

Brent Fowler, Director, Corporate Asset Management & Fleet

Ian Semple, Director, Transportation Services

**Exhibits Attached:**

None