

Accessibility Advisory Committee –

Draft Future Goals

Discussed February 05, 2020

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

1. Review accessibility standards that have been set by other municipalities (e.g. Oakville, Mississauga), giving municipalities the ability to require more than legislated standards in accessibility.

Responsibility/next steps: Accessibility Compliance Coordinator suggested that the AAC review a few different standards that have already been adopted by other municipalities. The AAC could recommend that Council adopt another municipality's accessibility standard, if the committee found a suitable one. Staff will research options and present at future meeting. **Priority level:** 1 (for research/presentation component)

2. Request that the AAC is properly consulted on projects such as DePave.

Responsibility/next steps: The AAC will send a memo to the City's Urban Design Planner requesting consultation on these projects. Memo will be drafted by Accessibility staff and approved, signed by the AAC chair. **Priority level:** 1 (for memo).

3. Investigate initiatives to increase access to commercial businesses > e.g. require new businesses to have zero step access.

Responsibility/next steps: Accessibility Compliance Coordinator noted that the City has limited authority. Suggestion that AAC sends letter to DBIA recommending a stronger emphasis on accessible services for downtown businesses. Concern that this may be considered advocacy, and should be done in partnership with the CPD. Possible resources: The Ontario Business Improvement Association's recent project, [Accessibility on Main Street](https://obiaa.com/projects/accessibility/) and their [All Access tool kit](http://allaccesspublicspace.ca/toolkit/); the Ontario Historical Society's [Accessible Heritage Tool Kit](https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/accessible-heritage/).

[<https://obiaa.com/projects/accessibility/>]

[<http://allaccesspublicspace.ca/toolkit/>]

[<https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/accessible-heritage/>]

4. Investigate the possibility of providing a curb cut in middle of George Street between McDonnell Street and Murray Street leading from City Hall to Confederation Park to increase accessibility to special events.

Responsibility/next steps: the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator will draft a design of this for the AAC to review. The committee will then decide if they should invite City staff from the Traffic department to discuss the possibilities around this. **Timeline:** spring 2020 for review of draft concept and discussion with City staff, recognizing that it will need to be incorporated into a future budget.

Transportation (Roads, Sidewalks, and Transit)

1. Identify possible areas to use dynamic symbol for access where the International Symbol of Access is not legally required (e.g. painted on pavement, digital, signage).

Responsibility/next steps: the AAC recognized that this would be incorporated in any potential accessibility standards they may recommend the City adopt (see item 1, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings). This could also be included in any zoning by-law amendment. **Priority level:** 3

2. Request that staff develop accessible parking standards for on-street parking spaces to resolve issues with curb height, curb cuts, parking payment machine locations.

Responsibility/next steps: though not a direct function of the AAC, there is an opportunity to discuss with staff in the Transportation/Traffic department, recommending they draft a standard practice for the AAC to review. **Priority level:** 1.

3. Investigate the process for installing 12-inch wide contrast paint marking on Hunter Street Bridge sidewalk edges.

Responsibility/next steps: Opportunity to present this to Traffic staff (see item 4 under Outdoor Spaces and Buildings), spring 2020. **Priority level:** 1 (for discussion with City staff).

4. Consult with City staff on the possibility of making Hunter Street Bridge more accessible and pedestrian-friendly by making one side only for pedestrians and bikes, widening the sidewalks accordingly.

Responsibility/next steps: the concept of raising the bike lanes may be the most feasible. Suggestion to invite the City's Transportation Manager to a future meeting for discussion. City staff will also communicate internally with Public Works, emphasizing the importance of clearing snow along this sidewalk as early

as possible, and ensuring that there is sufficient turn-around space for people using mobility devices. **Priority level:** 1 (for meeting with City staff)

5. Review accessibility standards set out for rideshare programs (e.g. uber, lyft). Consult with and advise staff on how to incorporate accessibility into future rideshare agreements (e.g. support animals, text/email booking options, number of accessible vehicles).

Responsibility/next steps: the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator confirmed that Police and Legal are reviewing the current taxi by-law, and planning to make an amendment that would also address rideshare programs. The AAC will send a memo to City staff in this working group requesting consultation on any by-law amendments (drafted by staff, signed off by the AAC chair.) The AAC Vice-Chair will review the current accessibility requirements for taxis. A staff member who is conducting the review of the current standards will be invited to an AAC meeting, spring 2020, to present and discuss. **Priority level:** 1 (for meeting with City staff).

For discussion: March 4, 2020

Housing

Goal	Responsibility, next steps	Priority level
The Committee underscored the importance of accessible affordable housing. Request a meeting with City staff to discuss the importance of including accessible housing options when possible with municipal housing projects.		
Consider how the Committee can raise awareness with developers of the market for accessible housing.		

Employment

Goal	Responsibility, next steps	Priority level
Consult with City staff to learn about appropriate workspace modifications available to City staff.		

Information and Communication

Goal	Responsibility, next steps	Priority level
Consult with City staff to find out more about existing year-round amenities on trails and at bus shelters. Find out process associated with providing more amenities such as heating in sheltered stops; garbage, recycling, green bins at all locations.		
Consult with City staff to find out if benches, shade shelters could be identified on a mapping application using GPS coordinates that would allow users to be notified of the location of amenities.		

Customer Service

Goal	Responsibility, next steps	Priority level
Liaise with City staff to discuss the importance of customer service access for people who are deaf and hard of hearing: ensure there is an option to contact a person using email or SMS - phone numbers should not be the only default contact method provided.		
Investigate ways to improve amenities for service animals: relief areas, watering stations, play areas, signage.		
Investigate ways to raise awareness of supports that businesses and organizations can offer for service animals.		

Other

Goal	Responsibility, next steps	Priority level
Consult with City staff to find out next steps to having accessibility requirements added to zoning by-law.		
Partner with organizations to educate businesses on the business case for accessibility.		