



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee**

**From: Mark Buffone, Accessibility Compliance Coordinator**

**Meeting Date: February 3, 2021**

**Subject: Report AAC21-005  
Downtown Vibrancy Alleyway Project, Funding Support**

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## **Purpose**

A report to seek feedback from the Accessibility Advisory Committee on a concept design for the Downtown Vibrancy Alleyway Project and approve letters from the Accessibility Advisory Committee to support two Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA) funding applications for the project.

## **Recommendations**

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) approve the recommendations outlined in Report AAC21-005 dated February 3, 2021 of the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator as follows:

- a) That the presentation from the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator on the current alleyway concept design prepared by the DBIA be received for information;
- b) That the Committee members make recommendations on the alleyway concept design;
- c) That the Committee send a letter of support, attached as Appendix A, to help the DBIA apply for funding to the Rural Economic Development (RED) program; and
- d) That the Committee approve the coordination of a letter of support to help the DBIA apply for funding to the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund.

## Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

## Background

The DBIA is seeking funds for a planned initiative to upgrade the existing alleyway between Simcoe Street and Hunter Street, on the east side of the Simcoe Street parking lot.

The existing alleyway is in major need of accessibility upgrades. Transforming the alleyway to an accessible pedestrian route will complete the most critical link of a north-south mid-block walkway network serving Peterborough's main downtown blocks. The list of barriers in the existing alleyway includes non-compliant stairs, inadequate walkway width, lack of rest areas, minimal shade cover, deficient pedestrian lighting, poor edge detection and lack of a walkway connection through the Simcoe Street parking lot to the Simcoe Street sidewalk and the City's main transit terminal.

The DBIA has already engaged with the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee and accessibility staff to provide preliminary input on the project. The committee's wide range of technical expertise and lived experience will be applied in their full accessibility review of the fine details of the project, including a review of walkway slopes and use of contrasting walkway materials to help people with low vision navigate.

The DBIA requested a letter of support from the AAC for two funding applications. The letter attached as Appendix A will support an application to the Government of Ontario's Rural Economic Development (RED) program. A second letter, to be coordinated in the next few weeks, will support an application to the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund.

Submitted by,

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Accessibility Compliance Coordinator

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Accessibility Advisory Committee Letter of Support (RED program)