



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Sarah Mackillican, Communication Coordinator

Meeting Date: March 3, 2021

Subject: Report AAC21-009
Temporary Downtown Public Space

Purpose

A report to introduce a presentation from the City of Peterborough's Infrastructure Planning Services staff regarding the Temporary Downtown Public Space changes.

Recommendations

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) approve the recommendations outlined in Report AAC20-009 dated March 3, 2021, of the Communication Coordinator as follows:

- a) That a presentation from Infrastructure Planning Services staff be received for information; and
- b) That the Committee provide feedback on the Temporary Downtown Public Space changes.

Budget and Financial Implications

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

Background

The City of Peterborough is seeking feedback about the temporary downtown public space changes that were put in place between June and October 2020, as part of the public health measures during the pandemic.

The City modified the street and sidewalk zones to help address the tight spacing that's typical in a downtown area, the normal use of sidewalk space for patios, and new limitations on the number of patrons allowed inside stores and restaurants. The goal of the temporary changes to the street and sidewalk zones was to facilitate physical distancing in a manner that supported business activity. The changes were made in consultation with Peterborough Public Health and the Peterborough Downtown Business Improvement Area.

City staff are reviewing how the temporary changes impacted people, to help inform planning in case similar measures are needed this year to help protect the safety of the community.

The downtown public space changes last year included reducing the number of vehicle lanes, creating two temporary one-way streets, and removing some on-street parking in certain sections of the downtown. By making these changes, the City was able to create space to expand business areas and pedestrian spaces.

As part of the planning for last year's public space changes to support public health measures, the City considered a number of priorities – sometimes competing priorities – such as:

- Vehicular traffic
- Pedestrian traffic
- Cycling
- Business activity (i.e. patios)
- Parking (e.g. on-street parking, curbside pickup parking availability, commercial deliveries)

Accessibility was an overarching priority that was considered as part of the overall planning.

The public survey opened on February 1, 2021 and closed on February 15, 2021. A report to City Council is planned for April 2021. Contributions from the consultation, including comments provided through the survey and consultation with stakeholder groups, will be considered as part of the development of recommendations that will be included in a report to City Council.

The presentation will provide an overview of the temporary changes implemented to downtown public space in 2020, with opportunity for the AAC to provide feedback as part of public consultation, per AODA requirements.

Resources

[Connect Peterborough Temporary Downtown Public Space Changes](https://www.connectptbo.ca/downtown)

[<https://www.connectptbo.ca/downtown>]

Submitted by,

Sarah Mackillican
Communication Coordinator

Contact Name:

Sarah Mackillican
Communication Coordinator
Phone: 705-742-7777 extension 1785
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755
E-mail: smackillican@peterborough.ca