



City of  
**Peterborough**

---

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

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

**Meeting Date:** October 2, 2024

**Report:** AAC Request for a Taxicab Fare Subsidy Program,  
Report AAC24-017

---

## **Subject**

A report to provide information to the Accessibility Advisory Committee on the request for a taxicab fare subsidy program for committee members.

## **Recommendation**

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) approves the recommendation outlined in Report AAC24-017, dated October 2, 2024 of the Accessibility Compliance Specialist as follows:

That report AAC24-017, regarding a request for a taxicab fare subsidy program for AAC members, be received for information.

## **Executive Summary**

- At the May 1, 2024 AAC meeting, the AAC requested staff provide information on options to provide a taxicab fare subsidy program to cover travel costs to committee meetings for AAC members.
- The City will provide accommodations for committee members with disabilities, upon request, to support their participation in committee meetings. AAC members have the option to attend meetings in electronic or in-person formats. AAC members have the option to travel to meetings with the Peterborough Transit system.

- The City will not cover taxicab fares for AAC members to travel to committee meetings.

## **Background**

### **Request from AAC**

At the May 1, 2024 AAC meeting, the committee requested staff report back on options to financially subsidize taxicab fares for AAC members who want to attend a hybrid style meeting through the in-person option. The request was rooted in a desire to make it easier for members with disabilities to attend the in-person option, without the need to rely on the City's transit system. The committee also suggested subsidized taxicab fares for AAC meetings could help boost member recruitment efforts.

### **Advisory Committee Remuneration**

The City does not typically cover transportation costs for members of advisory committees to attend meetings. Section 13 of the Advisory Committee By-law titled Remuneration states, "Members of the Advisory Committees shall serve without remuneration. Members may be reimbursed for direct and appropriate expenses incurred in the fulfillment of their Advisory Committee responsibilities if they have been provided with preapproval by City staff."

### **Efforts to accommodate AAC members with disabilities**

AAC meetings transitioned from electronic only meetings to hybrid style meetings on September 4, 2024. The goal of a hybrid style meeting is to embrace modern flexible work environments and minimize barriers to attendance by providing both electronic and in-person options. Hybrid style meetings allow members to attend a meeting in the format that best suits their accessibility needs, financial needs and sustainability goals.

The City recognizes there may be instances where a committee member may not be able to attend a meeting electronically, due to a disability that makes it difficult to use the electronic option. In such instances, a hybrid meeting format offers the committee member an option to attend the meeting through the in-person option.

The City also recognizes there may be instances where a committee member who needs to use the in-person option may not use a personal vehicle. In such instances, the City recommends committee members use public transit to travel to and from a meeting, as a cost-effective form of transportation. The City of Peterborough is continuously working to improve Peterborough Transit. City Hall is served by public transit with a mix of a fully accessible conventional transit fleet, community bus routes and an accessible van service that operates during typical AAC meeting times.

## **Taxicab fare subsidy program**

The City will not implement a taxicab fare subsidy program due to various factors and complications to implement such program, including but not limited to:

- Financial costs.
- Compliance with the Advisory Committee By-law.
- Taxicab fares for AAC members are currently not an eligible Access Fund expense.
- Staff time and resources to develop an eligibility process, track and process fares, verify distances traveled (start and end points), select a transportation provider, and handle matters related to the service such as bookings.
- A subsidy program may trigger the need for equity across all advisory committees, boards and commissions and the need to cover costs for other modes of transportation, such as personal vehicle.
- A taxicab subsidy program may be in conflict with efforts to promote public transit.

## **Strategic Plan**

Strategic Pillar: Community & Well-being

Strategic Initiative: "Support opportunities for multi-modal transportation including walking, cycling and Transit services."

AAC members have options to attend a meeting in the format that best suits their accessibility needs, financial needs and sustainability goals.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

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

Submitted by,

Mark Buffone  
Accessibility Compliance Specialist

### **Contact Name:**

Mark Buffone  
Accessibility Compliance Specialist  
Phone: 705-742-7777 Ext. 1630  
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755  
Email: [mbuffone@peterborough.ca](mailto:mbuffone@peterborough.ca)