

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
March 2, 2021 - 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Jeffrey Beaton, Chair
Naji Hassan
Denise Laframboise
James Lawrie
Dave MacKinnon, Vice-Chair
Paul Scott
Ayse Yuksel

Also Present: Regional Councillor Yamada, Mayor's Designate
John Romano, Commissioner, Community Services
Michele Cotton, Staff Liaison, Accessibility Coordinator
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator
(Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Liam Lacy

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - February 2, 2021

Recommendation:

Moved By Dave MacKinnon

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of February 2, 2021
be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 Margaret Parkhill, Associate Director, IBI Group
Re: Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Project

Margaret Parkhill provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit project. Highlights of the presentation included:

- an overview of the accessibility components of the project;
- linking communities and employment across Toronto and the Region of Durham boundary;
- benefits of the network including mobility for residents, improved active transportation, improved streetscape, and accessibility improvements at intersections;
- public concerns regarding traffic infiltration, access restrictions to existing roads, removal of on-street parking in Downtown Whitby, gaps in the cycling network, and impacts to cultural heritage;
- design standards and design principles were based on the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the Ontario Building Code, City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines, and Metrolinx Universal Design Standards; and,
- shelters and platforms would be level-boarding and located at signalized intersections that would be accessible by crosswalks.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether recent changes to decreases in traffic and travel needs have been assessed;
- whether specialized public transit vehicles would have use of the bus lanes and platforms;
- whether awareness campaigns for drivers would be initiated; and,
- whether there was an opportunity to provide greater connectivity at current break points for east-west traffic, such as Burns Street and Manning Road.

4. Delegations

4.1 There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Uber and Lyft Program Update

Michele Cotton advised that the Uber and Lyft report was in its final stages and would be ready for Council soon.

5.2 Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan

Michele Cotton stated that due to cancellation of events in 2020, items from the Work Plan were either pushed back or adapted to the 'new normal'. Ms. Cotton advised that the Site Plan and Built Environment Subcommittee continued to focus on site plan reviews. She stated that the playground audits were not completed in 2020. Ms. Cotton further stated that the accessibility and inclusivity checklist for Planning and Development Department Staff to use when reviewing site plans had not been developed in 2020. Ms. Cotton advised that the Customer Service and Communications Subcommittee focused on developing a Community Survey that would be their focus for 2021, along with the Uber and Lyft program.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- partnering with the Whitby 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee and the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee for 2021;
- confirming that the checklist for Planning and Development Department Staff would not replace the Accessibility Advisory Committee's process for reviewing site plans;
- using the checklist for Planning and Development Department Staff as a first step to ensure common issues regarding accessibility were addressed before site plans are reviewed by this Committee;
- providing training for the checklist;
- assessing the success of the previous checklist developed by the Committee prior to launching the checklist for Planning and Development Department Staff; and,
- including the Planning and Development Department to the list of presenters.

5.3 Regional Update

Michele Cotton advised the Regional meeting was postponed to the end of March, 2021 and that she would follow up with an update via email.

5.4 Subcommittee Updates

Customer Service and Communications Subcommittee

James Lawrie advised that the Subcommittee was focused on the Community Survey and the Uber and Lyft program. Mr. Lawrie further advised that partnerships with the Whitby 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee and the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee to address mental health awareness were a focus for 2021. He suggested that resources, facts, and a 'did-you-know' section be posted

on the Committee's webpage during National AccessAbility Awareness Week from May 31, to June 4, 2021. He requested that the Committee submit facts, questions, and resources to the Customer Service and Communication Subcommittee in preparation for National AccessAbility Awareness Week.

Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee

Denise Laframboise advised that the Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee reviewed several site plans which included:

- concerns regarding inaccessibility of the townhouse complex and accessible parking at 4335 Garden Street;
- issues regarding accessibility of the main entrance at 500 Dundas Street; and,
- accessibility and accessible parking concerns at the 12-storey mixed-use building at Brock Street and Victoria Street.

Jeffrey Beaton advised that there were common themes among the site plan submissions such as lack of sidewalks, visibility concerns, and lack of accessible parking.

6. Correspondence

6.1 There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Yamada provided updates regarding several Staff Reports from the March 1, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting including:

- the updated Whitby Culture Plan which reflects the vision, guiding principles and desired outcomes of Council to strengthen diversity and connectivity of the community;
- an Interim Report on the Customer Service Strategy which would provide more centralized customer service;
- the project update on the North Whitby Sports Complex design options; and,
- proposed changes to the Election Sign By-law.

Councillor Yamada advised that the Hospital Task Force provided an update at the February 22, 2021 Special Council meeting which included a preferred site location for the acute care hospital in Durham Region.

8. Other Business

8.1 Electronic Payment Options

Paul Scott stated that current payment options for services at the Town included cash or cheque. Mr. Scott requested that the Committee consider a motion for the Town to accept electronic payment options for services as electronic payments were more accessible, efficient, COVID-19 safe, and environmentally friendly.

Councillor Yamada stated that electronic payments were included in the Customer Service Strategy.

Recommendation:

Moved By Paul Scott

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that Council implement acceptance of electronic payment for services across all Town departments.

Carried

8.2 Abilities Centre Presentation

Michele Cotton advised that the Abilities Centre requested to provide a presentation to the Committee. It was the consensus of the Committee to have the Abilities Centre present at a future Committee meeting.

8.3 North Whitby Sports Complex

Denise Laframboise requested information regarding the North Whitby Sports Complex and whether the plans for the Complex would be available to the Committee for review.

John Romano advised that the plans were currently at a concept level and would be sent to stakeholders for review at a later date.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 Tuesday, April 6, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Denise Laframboise

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee on April 6, 2021.