

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes  
November 3, 2020 - 7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

**Present:** Jeffrey Beaton, Vice-Chair  
Liam Lacy  
James Lawrie, Chair  
Dave MacKinnon  
Paul Scott  
Ayse Yuksel

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

**Regrets:** Naji Hassan  
Denise Laframboise

---

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - October 6, 2020

Recommendation:

Moved By Liam Lacy

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of October 6, 2020 be approved.

**Carried**

3. Presentations

**3.1** Jamie Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, Durham Region Transit  
Re: Durham Region Transit Services

Jamie Austin and Michael Binetti provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Durham Region Transit Services, and service changes and equity standards that have been introduced. Highlights of the presentation included:

- responses to COVID-19 such as safety measures (limited number of passengers, rear door boarding, suspended fares), service changes (20% reduction), operational changes (suspended routes), PRESTO E-Ticket app launched and Stage A service recovery;
- using a PRESTO E-Ticket;
- the multi-phase service recovery plan and weekly monitoring of bus route demand;
- the drafting of social equity guidelines such as equity priorities including ability to pay, single parent families, language/literacy barriers, indigenous, seniors, youth, women, newcomers, and abilities groups; and,
- guidelines and goals including service coverage and availability, supportive infrastructure, service span and frequency, and transit serving employment uses.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether there was a positive uptake on using PRESTO cards;
- how receptive transit users were to the on demand service; and,
- whether disability was considered an equity priority.

**4.** Delegations

**4.1** There were no delegations.

**5.** General Business and Reports

**5.1** Presenters for December Webinar Presentation - Partnership Project with the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

James Lawrie advised that the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee's December webinar would be held on International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3, 2020).

Michele Cotton requested that the Committee discuss potential topics and speakers for the December Webinar.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- mental health;
- moving beyond physical disabilities and looking at invisible disabilities; and,
- mental health impacts of the pandemic.

Michele Cotton advised that the Webinar would focus on mental health and that a list of presenters would be provided to the Customer Service and Communications Subcommittee.

## **5.2 Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study**

Michele Cotton advised that the preliminary review stage was complete and that the focus was on the method for public consultation and engagement through a public module on Connect Whitby. Ms. Cotton advised that as a Stakeholder, this Committee would provide input during the consultation stage.

## **5.3 December Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Cancellation**

James Lawrie requested that the Committee discuss cancelling the December 1, 2020 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Lawrie advised that the subcommittees would meet later in November.

Recommendation:

Moved By Jeffrey Beaton

That the December 1, 2020 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be cancelled.

**Carried**

## **5.4 Subcommittee Updates**

Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee

Jeffrey Beaton advised that the subcommittee met on November 3, 2020 and discussed several sites that had been brought forward as resubmissions including:

- a townhouse development;
- accessible parking concerns at Winchester Public School at 70 Watford Street;
- the Heydenshore park splashpad was being revamped;

- Cedar City multi-use path west of Cullen Central Park; and,
- minimum standards for green space and community space within residential proposals.

#### Customer Service and Communications Subcommittee

Liam Lacy advised that the subcommittee discussed the Public Accessibility Survey planned for 2021 to ensure there was consistency throughout the survey. Mr. Lacy further advised that the draft survey had been compared to similar surveys from other municipalities. He stated that the the subcommittee was waiting for results from the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee's public survey.

James Lawrie advised that the draft survey would be presented to the rest of the Committee at a later date for review and approval.

Paul Scott advised that the draft was expected to be ready after the next subcommittee meeting in November.

#### 6. Correspondence

- 6.1** There was no correspondence.

#### 7. Council Update

**7.1** Councillor Yamada provided updates regarding:

- the energy efficiency measures included in the designs for the two five-storey mixed use building proposed for the corner of Garden Street and Rossland Road; and,
- highlights of the Whitby Economic Recovery Plan.

A question and answer period ensued between the Committee and Councillor Yamada regarding:

- how Whitby was faring with COVID-19 cases; and,
- whether accessibility was being addressed in the designs for the two five-storey mixed use buildings proposed for the corner of Garden Street and Rossland Road.

#### 8. Other Business

- 8.1** There was no other business.

#### 9. Next Meeting

- 9.1** Tuesday, December 1, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting Cancelled

10. Adjournment

**10.1** Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Jeffery Beaton

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Note: These minutes were approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee on January 5, 2021.**