

WALK ROLL MAP – GUIDED WALK

Starting point: Sandy Hill Community Centre

End point: City Hall

Date: 4 November, 3-4pm

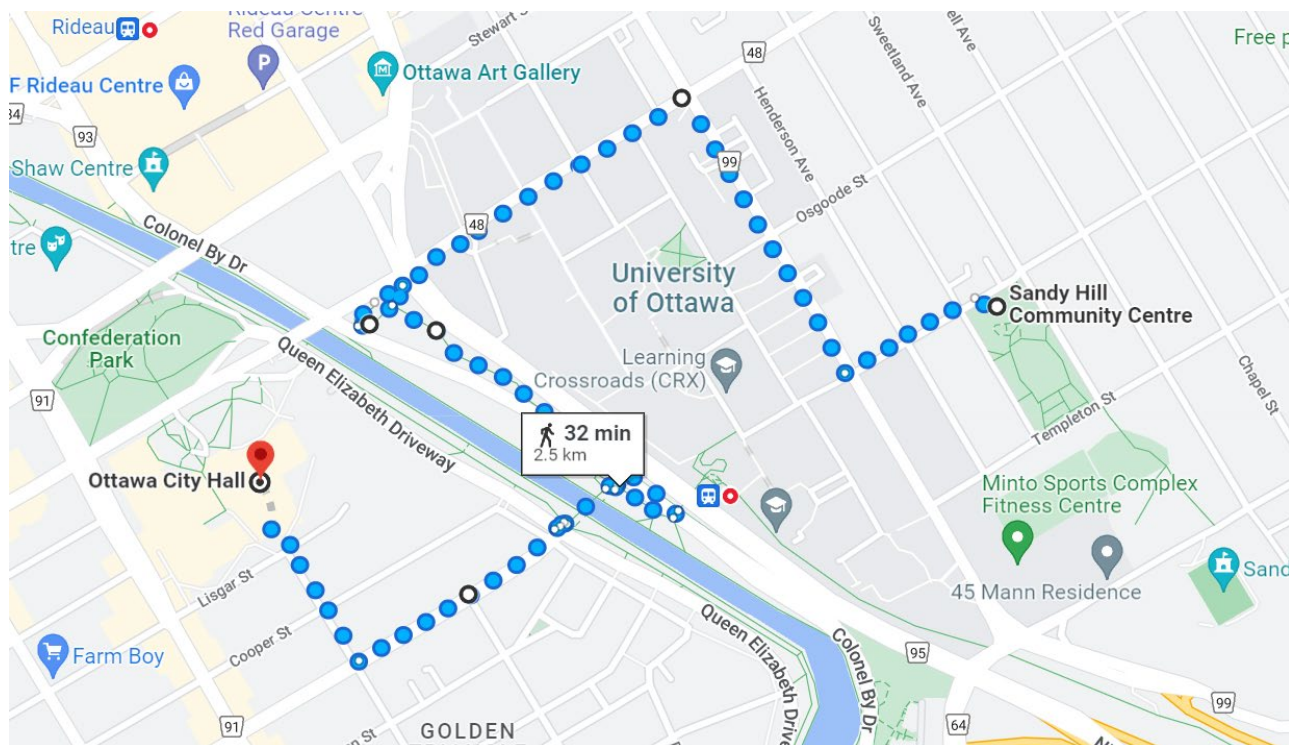
Total distance: Approximately 1.5kms; About 1 hour

This is a working document and may be edited until the date of the walk.

Note: There is currently construction along Laurier between King Edward and Nicholas.

Participants will be asked to consider the walk through the eyes of someone with mobility challenges, for example someone in a wheelchair or mobility scooter, someone pushing a stroller, someone with COPD or stamina challenges.

Participants will also be invited to pin one of the accessibility challenges we see along the way on WalkRollMap.org. The goal is that everyone who is capable of pinning a challenge will have had the chance to do so by the end of the walk.



Rough script:

Thank you for joining us on this short walk around our neighbourhood. We're going to stop at various places on the way to note some accessibility challenges.

From Sandy Hill Community Centre, turn West along Somerset.

- At the top of the hill (Henderson), pause to note the following:
 - Steep hill with narrow sidewalks. In the winter, these sidewalks can become very slippery.
 - The intersection of Somerset and Henderson, note that the intersection is slanted, allowing run off to cover multiple pedestrian crossings which can then freeze into black ice.
 - At the Southeast corner, note the tripping hazards and broken sidewalk. Would it be easy to navigate this by someone in a wheelchair?
 - Note the narrowness of the sidewalks and how busy the area is with students going to and from University.
 - Note that the steepness of the hill can also endanger pedestrians by drivers or cyclists going too fast down the hill and not being able to stop in time at the pedestrian crossing part way down. The flexipost has been hit multiple times.



Continue to King Edward and Somerset, then turn right (North)

- Pause at the intersection of King Edward and Somerset
 - Just recently (October 18th), young woman was fatally hit by a driver at this intersection, and another young woman has suffered life changing injuries.
 - It's important to fight for the safety of all vulnerable road users but it's not a zero-sum game. The majority of road deaths in Ottawa are drivers. Safer pedestrian spaces help get people out of cars and create a safer environment for all of us to get around our city.
- Outside the Fulcrum Publishing Society, pause and note:
 - The width of the sidewalks seems insufficient for the volume of pedestrian traffic, considering we are between a residential area and a University. Where would store be stored? Will this affect the width available?
 - Note the pedestrian space is quite bumpy because of multiple adjacent sidewalks. Would this be easy to navigate with a stroller or a walker? In winter, on a slippery day?



Continue along King Edward to Laurier.

- Pause at the South East corner of King Edward and Laurier
 - Note the location of the pedestrian activation button, and how far it is from the sidewalk. Will this be accessible in the winter? Note that the area around the pedestrian activation button is muddy. Is this accessible even when not in winter?
 - Note that we haven't seen a bench since we left the community center.



Head west along Laurier

- Pause at Cumberland and Laurier at the pedestrian activation button on the Southwest corner.
 - Note the broken bricks and patch jobs around it. Note the proximity between the fire hydrant and activation buttons. Is this accessible to pedestrians? In the winter, is this pedestrian activation button going to be reachable?

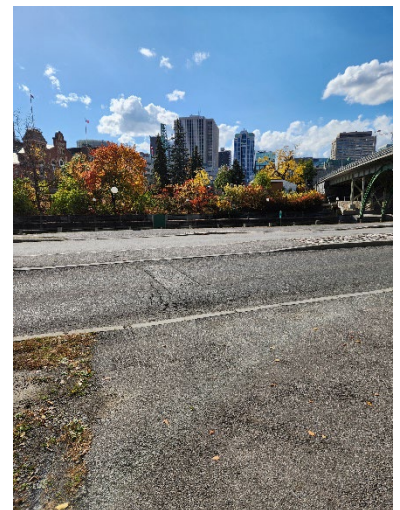


Continue West until Nicholas

- Describe how a protected intersection works!
 - Note how pedestrians, cyclists and motorists are all served well by this type of infrastructure. Note how dangerous this intersection was, 28 collisions at this intersection in 2019 alone. Pause for a light cycle to observe how traffic behaves moving through the intersection.

Continue across Nicholas and turn left, down towards the Canal.

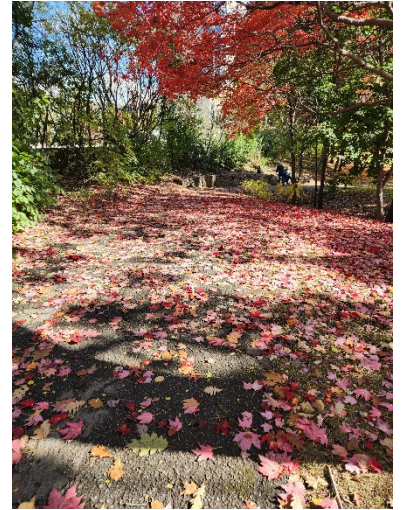
- Head straight towards the canal first, the “natural” direction.
- Pause before crossing.
 - Note that there is no signalized crossing here.
 - Note the narrowness of the pedestrian refuge island.
 - Note the speed of the traffic. Is this a safe location to cross? With small children, or as somebody with mobility challenges?
 - Note the double curb cut on the far side. In the dark, could that cause challenges?
- Change of direction – let’s find a safe crossing.



Return up the hill and turn right, towards the signalized crossing to Corktown bridge

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- Pause halfway down the path.
 - Note the bumpiness of the pathway. The lack of lighting. Is this safe? Is this comfortable?
 - Note how far away the crossing is. There are no benches along the way. We haven't seen a bench since we left campus. Is this accessible?
- Pause at the intersection itself.
 - Note how this is a raised intersection, meaning pedestrians and cyclists continue on their same level, rather than having to drop down to the level of cars. How does this affect accessibility?
 - Note the large areas for waiting at the light, allowing for a comfortable wait. Note that the light changes quickly and frequently. Note the yellow dots?
 - Note the pedestrian bridge's role in enabling connections between different communities.

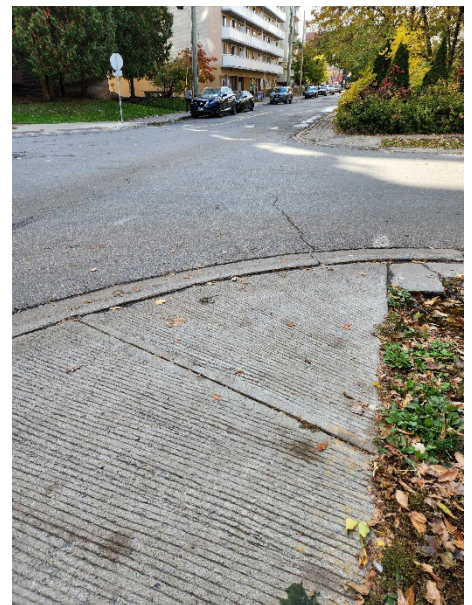


Up over the bridge! Pause for a group photo.

- Pause on the west side of the bridge.
 - Note the slope to the North. Note that it has gotten progressively worse. At what point does it become impossible to navigate with a wheelchair?
 - Note the next curb cut down leads straight to stairs instead of a smooth slope to the pathway.

Cross QED and head west on Somerset.

- Now that we've seen several accessibility challenges, we want you to look for some yourself. Imagine you are pushing a stroller, or had a mobility device. What would cause challenges?
- Pause at Somerset and Cartier
 - What did you spot?
 - Note how along this road it's common to have large puddles even several days after a rain, meaning pedestrians are at risk of being splashed even on dry days.
 - Note the lipped curb cuts at this intersection. Can someone in a wheelchair navigate through this intersection easily?



Walk North towards City Hall

- Pause briefly at Indigo parking lot
 - What do you see? What could make this situation safer and more accessible?
- Pause at Cartier and Lisgar
 - Note the multiple tripping hazards at this intersection. Is it comfortable to get to city hall from this direction for someone with mobility challenges?
- End at city hall
 - Note the first bench we've seen in a LONG time!



What have we learned? What will you take away with you from this experience? Please help raise the profile of these challenges by pinning them on walk roll map and sharing the resource.

Thank you!