



REGION OF PEEL
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

AAC-4/2019

The Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee met on September 19, 2019 at 1:30 p.m., in the Regional Council Chamber, 5th Floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton, Ontario.

Members Present: C. Belleth; R. Chopra; M. Daniel; P. Fortini*; A. Groves♦; N. Husain; A. Karim; M. Mahoney♦; A. Misar; I. Sinclair

Members Absent: C. Chafe; P. Crawford-Dickinson; N. Iannicca

Also Present: N. Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer; S. Baird, Commissioner of Digital and Information Services; S. VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer; A. Farr, Acting Commissioner of Public Works; J. Jackson, Director, Culture and Inclusion; A. Baird, Director, Housing Services; A. Macintyre, Deputy Clerk and Manager, Legislative Services; V. Montesdeoca, Accessibility Planning Specialist; S. Jurrius, Committee Clerk; S. MacGregor, Legislative Assistant; S. Herod, Legislative Assistant

Chaired by R. Chopra.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – Nil**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION AAC-10-2019:

That the agenda for the September 19, 2019, Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

4. **DELEGATIONS – Nil**
5. **REPORTS**

* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

5.1. **Guideline for Rest Areas Along Exterior Paths of Travel**

Presentation by Richa Dave, Principal Planner and Tracy Tang, Junior Planner, Strategic Policy and Projects, Transportation Division

Received

RECOMMENDATION AAC-11-2019:

That the Guideline for Rest Areas along Exterior Paths of Travel attached as Appendix I to the report of the Acting Commissioner of Public Works titled "Guideline for Rest Areas Along Exterior Paths of Travel", be endorsed;

And further, that staff be directed to use the subject Guideline during the construction or reconstruction of exterior paths of travel projects;

And further, that a copy of the subject report be forwarded to the local municipalities for their information.

Councillor Fortini arrived at 1:34 p.m.

Richa Dave, Principal Planner and Tracy Tang, Junior Planner, Strategic Policy and Projects, Transportation Division, provided an overview of the extensive consultations and research conducted to help develop the Guideline for Rest Areas along Exterior Paths of Travel (the Guideline). The Guideline outlined three key components of a rest area:

1. A contrasting concrete pad adjacent to the exterior path of travel;
2. A contrasting bench with arm rests and a back rest; and,
3. A clear space adjacent to the bench to accommodate mobility aids, with a raised wheel stop behind the clear space where appropriate in terms of safety.

Further, the Guideline provides an additional flow space beside the clear space for maneuverability of mobility aids and an optional area for a waste receptacle where space allows. The Guideline will only be applied moving forward when the Region is redeveloping an existing sidewalk or multi-use path or constructing a new sidewalk or multi-use path within the road right-of-way. The specifications of the bench used at the rest area is consistent with the local municipality's design standards.

In response to suggestions from Committee Members, Richa Dave stated that the Guideline has the flexibility to accommodate the installation of electric outlets to charge wheelchairs and other devices, where feasible, during the design phase.

In response to questions of clarification from Mary Daniel, Committee Member, Richa Dave advised that all the benches at rest areas have levelled seats and that the dimensions of the seating benches used in the Region of Peel and its local municipalities are in conformity with recommended best practices. She indicated that Regional staff will look into the suggestion to install benches with one arm rest only for maneuverability within the rest area space.

Councillor Mahoney requested that Regional staff contact City of Mississauga staff regarding the prompt installation of electrical outlets at the City of Mississauga's Celebration Square.

Raj Chopra, Committee Chair, suggested that Regional staff consider including definitions and examples under the design and spacing considerations and constraints section of the Guideline to provide more clarity.

5.2. Housing and Homelessness Service Transformation: Update

Presentation by Grace Caron, Program Director, Housing and Homelessness Transformation

Received

Grace Caron, Program Director, Housing and Homelessness Transformation, provided an update on the Housing and Homelessness Service Transformation Project. She summarized the guiding principles and the approaches to developing and implementing the client pathway such as, engaging staff and stakeholders; improving processes that are client centric by removing barriers for clients to access services; identifying policy barriers and advocating changes with other levels of government. Grace Caron clarified that Regional staff are requesting feedback from the Committee regarding service delivery and client experience; not to receive input on building a housing facility.

In response to comments and suggestions from the Committee members, Grace Caron undertook to:

- establish a working group with the members of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee for a more fulsome discussion, input and feedback on the current housing system, as well as, the future housing delivery model;
- extend an invitation to the members of the local municipal Accessibility Advisory Committees to join the proposed working group;
- consider educating the public that people with disabilities, those who want to live independently, may apply for housing services; and,
- consider the mandates of the Human Rights Code and Human Rights Commission as to how they impact service delivery in the housing sector.

Grace Caron undertook to coordinate with Veronica Montesdeoca, Accessibility Planning Specialist, with respect to the proposed working group on housing and homelessness transformation.

5.3. TransHelp Update (Oral)

Presentation by Mark Castro, Acting Director, TransHelp

Received

Mark Castro, Acting Director, TransHelp, provided an update on recent TransHelp initiatives and projects, namely: the door-to-door service; the integration of TransHelp with Brampton Transit and MiWay; an opportunity to pilot a phone app solution with Presto where TransHelp passengers can use their mobile devices to use TransHelp; the Travel Training Program; the Magnus Mode; installation of on-board cameras on TransHelp fleets for the safety and security of passengers; quality initiative campaigns; and, 2020 priorities such as on-line booking; enhancement of same day booking process and the Cross Boundary Policy update.

In response to questions of clarification from Councillor Groves, Mark Castro stated that Regional staff are reviewing the results of the recently conducted Passenger Satisfaction Survey which focused on the changes introduced by TransHelp. He undertook to present the results of the survey to a future meeting of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Councillor Groves departed at 2:36 p.m.

In response to a suggestion from Raj Chopra, Committee Chair, Mark Castro advised that Regional staff are currently developing a three-year Passenger Education and Outreach Strategy which includes the ability to provide materials and promote the service in different languages.

Mark Castro invited the members of the Committee to attend the TransHelp Advisory Committee meeting when the Cross Boundary Policies will be discussed.

Councillor Mahoney departed at 2:47 p.m., due to other municipal business.

5.4. Accessibility Design Features in Affordable Housing (Oral)

Presentation by Brett Barnes, Portfolio Manager, Housing Development Office

Received

Brett Barnes, Portfolio Manager, Housing Development Office, provided a high level overview of the accessibility and design standards used by the Region of Peel for affordable housing projects: accessibility features in accordance with provincial and federal standards and legislated requirements and recent affordable housing projects; project targets for the development of each new housing project; and, municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee involvement in the site plan approvals process.

In response to questions of clarification from Councillor Sinclair, Brett Barnes stated that it would be at the municipality's discretion how to regulate the design requirements to accommodate accessibility features in a home. He indicated that some municipalities work with the local development industry and builders to include accessibility features as options when designing new homes. Brett Barnes stated that Regional staff could continue to showcase the accessibility features in its housing projects.

Veronica Montesdeoca, Accessibility Planning Specialist, undertook to coordinate a working group to provide input into the Region of Peel accessibility standards for affordable residential properties.

5.5. 2019 Accessibility Compliance Report - Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

Received

Veronica Montesdeoca, Accessibility Planning Specialist, stated that the Region of Peel is in compliance with the requirements under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. The deadline for submitting the Accessibility Compliance Report with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility is December 31, 2019.

5.6. Accessibility Planning Program Update - September 19, 2019

Received

Veronica Montesdeoca, Accessibility Planning Specialist, provided an update on the following matters:

- The deadline for providing feedback on the initial recommendations to improve the Information and Communication Standard to the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility was extended from September 27, 2019 to October 18, 2019.
- The *Accessible Canada Act*, the first national accessibility law, came into force on July 11, 2019. The goal of the Act is to make Canada barrier-free by 2040, similar to the goals of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. The *Accessible Canada Act* aims to proactively identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility in wherever Canadians interact with areas under federal jurisdiction, such as banking, Crown corporations, federal Government agencies, parliament, as well as, interprovincial transportation and telecommunications.
- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities Event on December 3, 2019, with Jeff Adams, Paralympian and World Champion, as the keynote speaker. Other speakers include Alfred Spencer from the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility and Ricardo Wagner, Accessibility Lead for Microsoft Canada. This year's theme is "Inclusion by Design".

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- 6.1. Mazin Aribi, 2019 Chair, Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit, Email dated August 29, 2019, Regarding GTHA Accessibility Advisory Committee (GTHA AAC) Joint Meeting Minutes**

Received

Veronica Montesdeoca, Accessibility Planning Specialist, advised that the next meeting of the GTHA Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on October 3, 2019 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mary Daniel and Chamila Belleth, Committee Members, suggested that staff revisit the use of the paddles that were used to indicate request to speak and voting.

Naz Husain, Committee Member, suggested that Committee members be introduced at each Committee meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 1:30 p.m., Regional Administrative Headquarters, Council Chamber, 5th floor, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton, ON.

Please forward regrets to Harjit Gill, Committee Clerk, (905) 791-7800, extension 4854 or at harjit.gill@peelregion.ca.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.