

**Advisory Committee on Accessibility  
Minutes  
Monday, November 15, 2021  
Zoom  
5:00 PM**

<p><b>Attendance:</b>  Ayush Patel  Councillor Isa Lee  Dasola Dina  Edward Lau  Elham Mahootchi  Jewell Lofsky  Kaushi Regunathan  Kim Adeney  Michelle Del Carmen  Michelle Tremblay  Mona Nazif, Senior Manager HR Client Services (Staff Liaise)  Nahid Verma, Co-Chair  Robert Hunn, Co-Chair</p> <p><b>Regrets:</b>  none</p> <p><b>Guests:</b>  Mark Siu and Lily Li, Engineers, Engineering  Dana Honsberger, Manager, Sustainability and Asset Management</p> <p><b>Scribe:</b> Mary-Jane Courchesne, Acting Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened at 5:04 PM with Nahid Verma in the Chair.	
<b>2. Sidewalk Completion Program</b>	<p>Mona Nazif, Senior Manager, Human Resources, introduced Mark Siu, Senior Capital Works Engineer and Lily Li, Capital Works Engineer, Engineering.</p> <p>Mark and Lily provided a presentation, “Sidewalk Completion Program Considerations for 2021 Design”, then requested feedback from the Committee.</p> <p>Mark and Lily kicked off the discussion by asking the Committee what their thoughts and preferences are with respect to sidewalks around mature trees: (i) straight alignment with a reduced width or (ii) curved alignment</p>	

	<p>(making it as linear as possible) while maintaining standard width.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the following:</p> <p><u>Sidewalks around mature trees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining standard width is preferred, with increased curvature.</li> <li>• Navigating certain mobility devices on curved sidewalks can be difficult.</li> <li>• Tight curves are not ideal.</li> <li>• 1.5 metre width of sidewalks at minimum is also very important for cane detectability.</li> <li>• Overhead clearance was confirmed to be part of Engineering’s design standard.</li> <li>• A graphic or image of an example of sidewalks and mature trees was requested. Mark provided a design drawing of an example of sidewalk construction by the City as it tries to avoid and protect trees on Laidlaw Boulevard.</li> <li>• Arborists check the health and status of all the trees around sidewalks. Unhealthy trees are removed and compensated for through the City’s tree compensation plan.</li> </ul> <p><u>Sidewalk gaps:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Road is high on Engineering’s Sidewalk Program priority plan.</li> <li>• Newly developed areas have not yet been assumed by the City therefore are not part of the current Program, however, Committee’s comments will be noted and given to the developers, including the sidewalk gaps in the Cornell neighborhood.</li> </ul> <p><u>Transit stops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transit shelters are maintained by York Region Transit. The City follows York Region Transit standards regarding the placement of potential sidewalk obstacles such as garbage cans and bicycle racks at transit stops.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. Subcommittees Plan Update</b></p>	<p>Nahid Verma reviewed the Subcommittee Plan. It was noted that the four subcommittees will overlap each</p>	

	<p>other and asked Committee to stay apprised on all four. Each Subcommittee should identify its first few focus areas and bring those to discuss at the next meeting. It was also suggested that each subcommittee have a lead/spokesperson to provide an update at each meeting.</p> <p><u>Community Outreach Subcommittee</u> Mona advised that Markham Public Library (MPL) is initiating Community Dialogue events which are growth and learning events with speakers to engage residents. MPL will communicate the events through social media. MPL has also offered to work with the Committee and Mona can help initiate the first introductions.</p> <p>Ayush Patel provided a great tool to schedule meetings: <a href="https://www.when2meet.com">https://www.when2meet.com</a>.</p> <p>Committee members' telephone numbers and emails to be circulated as soon as possible.</p>	<p><b>Mary-Jane to provide Members with everyone's contact info.</b></p>
<p><b>4. Diversity Action Plan Update</b></p>	<p><u>Next Phase</u> Mona Nazif asked Committee for their assistance with the next phase of the Diversity Action Plan, which is public consultations (November 16 through to December 2). It was asked that Committee complete an online comprehensive survey which is available until December 10. The recent eBlast was explained. Mona to send Committee more information. Committee asked if the survey is anonymous and Mona will confirm whether the survey is or not.</p> <p><u>American Sign Language Contacts</u> Mona Nazif asked if anyone has an American Sign Language contact. Michelle Tremblay has one and will send Mona her contact.</p>	
<p><b>5. Committee Learning &amp; Development</b></p>	<p>Nahid Verma expressed that the Committee is fortunate to include members who are rich in knowledge and experience around accessibility matters. It was proposed that a standing item on Learning &amp; Development be placed on each Agenda. The Committee agreed that the Learning &amp; Development recurring fifteen minute item will begin at the</p>	

	December meeting. To begin, the Committee will review the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Future discussions will include discussing all types of disabilities and also, leading practices and resources.	
<b>6. Approval of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility Minutes and Review of Action Plan</b>	<p><b>a. Approval of Minutes</b></p> <p>Moved by Edward Lau Seconded by Michelle Tremblay</p> <p>That the Minutes of the October 18, 2021, Advisory Committee on Accessibility, be approved as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Carried</b></p> <p><b>b. Review of Action Items</b></p> <p>There were no action items to review.</p>	
<b>7. New Business/Questions</b>	<p><u>Land Acknowledgment</u></p> <p>Michelle Del Carmen proposed that Committee have a discussion and learning around Land Acknowledgement to better understand the purpose of it. A Land Acknowledgment assignment will be shared with Committee.</p>	<p><b>Michelle D. to share an assignment on Land Acknowledgment.</b></p> <p><b>Mary-Jane to provide the City's Land Acknowledgment language.</b></p>
<b>8. Next Meeting Date</b>	The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility will be held on December 13, 2021.	
<b>9. Adjournment</b>	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned at 7:00 PM.	