



**MINUTES**  
**Corporation of the City of Cambridge**  
**Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee**  
**July 22, 2024**

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**Committee Members in Attendance:** Devin Sisak, Gary Racine (Arrived at 1:40 p.m.), Sarah Dodds, Shannon Adshade, Alison Fitzpatrick (Left at 2:30 p.m.), and Sue Ricketts

**Regrets:** Michele Gilman, Barb Schutz

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Michael Oliveri, Council Committee Services Coordinator; Yesenia Torres, Accessibility Coordinator; Stephen Aboagye, Supervisor of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility; Jamie Croft, Manager of Infrastructure Engineering; Steven Huang, Project Manager; Nathan Zrini, Landscape Architect

**Meeting Called to Order**

The meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge was held virtually via zoom. The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. and the meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

**Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest**

Alison Fitzpatrick declared an indirect pecuniary interest on item 7.2 as she was formerly employed by one of the parties involved in the project

**Approval of June 24, 2024, Advisory Committee Minutes**

Moved by: Sarah Dodds

Seconded by: Shannon Adshade

THAT the minutes of the June 24, 2024, Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

**Carried**

**Agenda items:**

**7.1 Ainslie Street Renovation: Steven Huang, Project Engineer, City of Cambridge,**

**David Di Pietro, Project Manager, Region of Waterloo**

- The Project Manager summarized the project's consultation schedule and provided an overview of the details, including the feedback and comments received from Cambridge residents. Indicated that the input collected, and recommendations will be shared with the Regional Council by the end of the year. Project priorities and infrastructure needs were summarized, which consist of climate-aligned growth, Equitable Services and Opportunities, and the downtown building.
- Proposed project features such as new on-street parking spaces, a temporary loading zone, the application of continuous sidewalks, street lighting, street scaping, and a transition strip between the sidewalk and the cycle track.
- The project's next step consist of a presentation to the Regional Council and the Works committee; developing a detailed design in early fall, the project will be ready for tender and utility works in 2025, and construction will commence in spring 2026.
- Feedback is still being collected and the committee was encouraged to submit any additional input. Survey links and the Engage webpage was provided to the committee after the meeting.

**Recommendations:**

- Extend pedestrian signals times at intersections and crossings to provide sufficient time to safely cross.
- Maintain on-street parking spaces as there isn't sufficient parking as it is.
- Ensure that there are cues and transition strips to differentiate the pedestrian and cycling lanes.

**7.2 Accessible Baseball Diamond: Jamie Croft, Manager of Infrastructure**

**Engineering, City of Cambridge, Nathan Zrini, Landscape Architect, City of**

**Cambridge; Jon Joyce, Principal, The MBTW Group**

- The Project Manager indicated that preliminary consultation has been done primarily with and Buddy League and consultation will continue over the summer with other leagues.
- The landscape architect provided a general project overview of the preliminary site analysis and areas that have been identified for improvement.
- Proposed general improvements will focus on adding accessible parking spaces and hard-

surface pathways connecting the parking lot to the fields, through the existing building breezeway, and within the concession seating area. The ball diamond improvements include artificial turf infield, natural turf outfield, backstop, line, and outfield fencing. Covered dugouts, complete with concrete bench pads and accessible player's benches. Covered spectator bleachers – complete with concrete bleacher pads, accessible seating, and increased capacity. Installation of LED Field Lighting, a universal viewing platform, and a digital scoreboard.

- Additionally, will be adding a vendor to supply accessible self-contained washroom unit to the existing building. Currently reviewing washroom through design options and will present to Council. However, only the baseball diamond was presented to Council, but washroom improvement options will also be presented, recognizing that washrooms don't meet AODA standards. It will be a funding question and whether additional grants are available. There are plans to present to Council in early fall. There are plans to implement the newest FADS version as soon as it is approved, and there is vendor that could meet needs. The project may request the support of the subcommittee to review vendors.
- The overall goal of the project is to increase the use and flexibility of play to create an accessible ball diamond.
- There are plans to apply for Jay's Care funding, and the project is under tight deadlines as the first grant application is due October 31, 2024, and moving quicker than is typical in projects, as proposed conceptual element design need to be presented for approval.

**Recommendations:**

- Consider adding a clear viewing area for mobility devices that is not directly in front of the bleachers.
- Landscape architect indicated that the bleachers will be an accessible model so that mobility devices can be integrated into the sitting area without sitting at the front. They will be like the ones installed at the Fountain Soccer Complex.

**7.3 GRT Business Plan Consultation: Kevan Marshall, Project Manager for GRT Conventional (Bus and Train) Plan), Region of Waterloo; Haley Gienow-McConnell, Accessibility Specialist, Left Turn Right Turn Ltd.**

- Project Manager provided an introductory overview of Grand River Transit's (GRT) 2025 to 2030 business plan initiative and focuses on two components of the plan: GRT Mobility Plus and Kiwanis Transit business plan. The projects' purpose is to guide the Improvement and expansion of specialized transit services through the next 5 years. Goals are to improve the service levels and identify opportunities for rural and urban integration; identify opportunities to redirect Mobility Plus ridership to other modes of the GRT's family of services such as buses and the LRT train; improve service quality and customer satisfaction; conform or exceed accessibility standards and maintain a high level of employee and customer satisfaction and workplace excellence.
- The purpose of the conventional business plan (buses and train) is to operationalize GRT's role in achieving the Region's commitment to community climate action and align GRT Services, policies and programs to the Region's Strategic Plan. Tasks of the conventional business is to set ridership targets; engage and synthesize or local Transit priorities; access routes and service opportunities; develop a 2030 preferred transit network and annual service improvement plans and develop an overnight service plan. Project is in preliminary stages and still in consultation process and accepting feedback from the community.
- The Left Turn Right Turn consultant provide an overview of the organization services and their involvement in the project including support accessibility and transit in business plans specialized and conventional services. Helping the specialized business plan to develop the five-year business plan to ensure that the plan reflects the needs and priorities of community members. The other focus has been public engagement to collect feedback from everyone living in the Region but who are particularly interested in hearing from people with disabilities, caregiver networks and people who support them. Once feedback is consolidated, it will be analyzed, and recommendations will be provided to GRT.
- GRT hopes to provide an update on the project in the fall and the project has been added to the October 2024 agenda.

Recommendations:

- To increase engagement, connect with retirement homes to obtain in-person input as many older adults may not be tech savvy and therefore would not provide online feedback. Missing the voices of a large group of individuals who need to use public transportation and have valuable feedback.
- Increase specialized services such as Mobility Plus to increase service outside of traditional hours as more medical services are being scheduled outside business hours.
- Connect with newcomer service providers and newcomers to obtain feedback from a large group that relies on public transportation. Due to language barriers, online surveys may not be the most feasible way, however, in-person would be more feasible as interpreters can be arranged. It was also recommended to connect with the YMCA to collect feedback.
- The changes made to dialysis services are not working, causing many more challenges to community members. Consistent Mobility Plus service is required to meet the ongoing needs of customers.
- There have been many shifts of the vehicles used by GRT over the last 10 years, and some of the new vehicles and Mobility Plus buses are not conducive to providing good transportation. Adjustments need to be made to increase usage.
- Reach out to more services providers in Cambridge such as the Cambridge Memorial Hospital.
- Include wording around tolerance in the surveys.
- Engage riders to obtain feedback right away after each ride to continuously obtain feedback.
- Ensure that there are multiple communication methods for surveys and not just an online platform.
- Increase operator training to enhance knowledge on accessibility and the impact of good customer service. And increase bus tours to enhance the community's knowledge and comfort in using public transport.

**Subcommittee Update: Devin Sisak, Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair, City of Cambridge**

- The subcommittee provide recommendations to the Galt Arena door project and advised that for exterior doors to be left at 36” wide; the automatic door opener button will to be placed on the left-hand side of the doors and will open the exterior and interior door. Inside the vestibule, the door opener button will be located on the right-hand side wall. The automatic door opener button will open the third door from the left, to coincide with the interior doors, and create a clear path of entry. And doors to be timed to remain open for at least 15 seconds.

**Staff Liaison Update: Yesenia Torres, Accessibility Coordinator, City of Cambridge**

- Provided an update on the letter of support that the City of Cambridge provided to The Life Made Accessible committee for a two-year funding grant application to Accessible Canada for the expansion of National AccessAbility Week events.
- A reminder was provided regarding the request for AAC members to provide input to the 127 Design of Space recommendations proposed by the Design of Public Spaces Standards Development Committee. Feedback received from the CAAC, and staff will be collected and consolidated. The City plans on submitting a collective response to the Ministry, and the feedback collected will also be shared in an information package to Council.
- A reminder was provided that The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility will accept feedback until July 31, 2024, regarding the challenges experienced when accessing websites and digital content. The information gathered from the survey will assist the Ministry in developing processes to assess web accessibility.
- Subcommittee members are still needed and being actively recruited. The subcommittee meets based on needs and time commitment is on average is of 1 – 2 hours a month.
- An update was provided indicating that in the fall, the Clerks division will bring forth a report to council with annual reports from all the advisory committees. The purpose of the report will be to provide an update on future work plan and future priorities and to make recommendations to Council. The AAC’s drafted report will be shared with the subcommittee for review first, with hopes to share with the rest of the committee in September 2024.

**Chair’s Report: Devin Sisak, City of Cambridge**

- The AAC chair provided an overview of the accessibility concerns presented at the Idea Exchange board meeting in July 2024. The AAC chair indicates that the concerns presented were dismissed by the board chair, indicating the library is in compliance with AODA standards. At their August meeting, the Idea Exchange board will discuss engagement and collaboration with the AAC on accessibility.

**Other Business**

- The committee was informed AAC member Sue Ricketts’ is moving out of town and therefore, this was her last committee meeting. The AAC Chair and staff thanked Sue for all her contributions to the committee.

**Adjournment**

Moved by: Gary Racine

Seconded by: Sue Ricketts

THAT the Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of July 22, 2024, be adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**Next Meeting:**

Monday September 23, 2024, 1:30pm-3:30pm Zoom

If you require any accommodations to participate in this meeting, please email

[torresy@cambridge.ca](mailto:torresy@cambridge.ca)