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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1 PM.

Present: M. Sutherland, Oshawa, Chair
S. Sones, Whitby, Vice-Chair
R. Atkinson, Whitby
C. Boose, Ajax
D. Campbell, Whitby
D. Hume-McKenna, DMHS, left the meeting at 3 PM
R. Purnwasie, Ajax, attended the meeting at 2 PM
M. Roche, Oshawa
L. Schisler, Whitby

Absent: Councillor R. Mulcahy

Staff

Present: J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by R. Atkinson, Seconded by M. Roche,
That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting
held on June 25, 2019, be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Presentations

A) Jack Phalen, Transit Planning and Scheduling, and Jamie Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, Durham Region Transit, regarding
New Initiatives and Service Planning

J. Phalen, Transit Planning and Scheduling, and J. Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint Presentation titled, "Stop Planning & Accessibility; September Service Changes". A copy of the presentation was provided after the meeting to committee members via email.

Highlights of the Presentation are as follows:

- Stop Planning & Accessibility
 - Stop Planning: Spacing
 - Stop Planning: Intersections
 - Distances from intersections
 - Open Bus Bays
 - Roundabouts
 - Stop Design: Clearance Area
 - Stop Design: Front-Door
 - Stop Design: Waiting Area
 - Stop Design: Alternatives
 - Stop Design: Rural Cross-Section
 - Shelters
 - Hard Surface Retrofitting
- September 2019 Service Changes
 - Earlier and later service
 - How often the bus arrives
 - Rural Durham Improvements
 - Rural Transit Review
 - Service Reliability and Connections
 - Upcoming Service Changes – December 2019

J. Phalen and J. Austin provided an overview of the Transit Assistance Program (TAP). They advised that the program will be effective November 1, 2019 and will be open to all beneficiaries of the Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works.

J. Phalen and J. Austin responded to questions with regards to the Transit Assistance Program; whether the PRESTO card will work with taxis; obtaining a PRESTO card; whether cash payments will be accepted; roundabouts and accessibility; whether bus stops coincide with GO Transit stops; and whether passengers can request their bus driver to be let off somewhere more accessible.

R. Atkinson inquired about an incident from 2016 when specialized transit placed a curfew on return trips on Christmas Day. J. Austin advised that he will look into the rationale behind the implementation of that curfew and advise R. Atkinson.

4. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

The committee recessed at 1:45 PM and reconvened at 2:00 PM.

5. Information Items

A) Education Sub-Committee Update

J. Traer advised that staff from the Traffic Division will be at the November 26, 2019 meeting to discuss accessible pedestrian signals. She advised that she plans to reach out to the Works Department with regards to more information on roundabouts and accessibility.

B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

M. Roche advised that the TAC update from the May 21, 2019 and September 17, 2019 TAC meetings was emailed to members on September 19, 2019. He advised that the Low-Income Transit Assistance Program (LTAP) is a 17-month project and not a 5-month project as stated in his email.

Discussion ensued with regards to the PRESTO machine and the benefits of having the committee test the machines prior to launches.

C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

J. Traer provided the following update:

- The Annual Joint AAC Forum is scheduled for October 30, 2019 from 5 to 8:30 PM and will be held in the Lower Level Boardroom at Regional Headquarters. She requested that members register on Event Brite or advise her if they will be attending.
- Every month the Region presents staff with an Accessibility Document Champion Certificate. The Certificate is an opportunity where employees are recognized for their dedication, passion and hard work in the identification, removal and prevention of accessible barriers at the Region.
- The Annual Metrolinx Public Meeting will be held at The Abilities Centre in Whitby. The date has not yet been confirmed.
- K. Galloway has resigned from her position at Kerry's Place and as a member of the AAC. J. Traer is currently looking for a replacement from the same organization.

6. Discussion Items

A) Review of the Proposed Changes to the Accessible Information and Communications Standard

J. Traer provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to the Proposed Changes to the Information and Communications Standard of the Ontario's Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).

J. Traer reviewed the following proposed recommendations:

1. Feedback requirements
2. Usage of Portable Document Format (PDF)
3. Final review of regulatory language
4. Products and product labels
5. Determination of suitability
6. Timely manner
7. Agreement between people with disabilities and organizations
8. Harmonization of Section 12
9. On-demand conversion ready formats
10. On-demand ASL and LSQ translations
11. Emergency requirements
12. Unacceptable emergency outcomes and preparedness
13. Mobile applications and new technologies
14. Procurement
15. Differentiating organizations/high impact organizations
16. Significant refresh
17. Practicability
18. Harmonization and application across requirements
19. Extranet exemption
20. Intranet exemption
21. Pre-2012 exemption
22. Live captioning and audio description
23. Web hosting location
24. Purchase of accessible teaching/training materials
25. Definition of educational and training institutions
26. Increasing captionist capacity
27. Accessibility in education
28. Accessibility in information and communications tools and systems
29. Accessibility in provincially regulated professions
30. Education standards
31. Government's broader use of the Accessibility Ecosystem model

A comment was provided with regards to the lack of consistency between private and public organizations.

J. Traer advised that feedback through the online survey has been extended until October 18, 2019. She also advised that the link to the survey was previously provided to members via email.

7. Reports

There were no reports to consider.

8. Other Business

There were no items of other business.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 1 PM.

10. Adjournment

Moved by C. Boose, Seconded by D. Campbell,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM

M. Sutherland, Chair
Accessibility Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk