



# **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

## **Accessibility Advisory Committee Agenda**

**Tuesday, January 26, 2021**

**1:00 P.M.**

**Regional Headquarters Building  
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby**

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Please note: In an effort to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to generally comply with the directions from the Government of Ontario, it is requested in the strongest terms that Members participate in the meeting electronically. Regional Headquarters is closed to the public, all members of the public may [view the Committee meeting](#) via live streaming, instead of attending the meeting in person. If you wish to register as a delegate regarding an agenda item, you may register in advance of the meeting by noon on the day prior to the meeting by emailing [delegations@durham.ca](mailto:delegations@durham.ca) and will be provided with the details to delegate electronically.

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
- 4. Adoption of Minutes**

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting held on November 24, 2020 (Attachment #1)

**5. Presentations**

- A) Aly Beach, Durham Deaf Centre (DDC) Board re: Community Services
- B) Mark Murray, Sales Manager, Greater Toronto Area and Melanie Baine, Communication Devices, Canadian Hearing Services (CHS) re: Community Services

**6. Discussion Items**

- A) 2021 Accessibility Advisory Committee Workplan – for Review and Approval (Attachment #2)

**7. Correspondence**

There are no items of correspondence

**8. Information Items**

- A) Education Sub-Committee Update
- B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)
- C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

**9. Reports for Information**

There are no Reports

**10. Other Business**

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

**11. Adjournment**

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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at Regional Headquarters, Council Chambers, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:00 PM. In accordance with Provincial legislation, electronic participation was permitted at this meeting.

#### **1. Roll Call**

Present: C. Boose, Ajax, Chair  
D. Campbell, Whitby, Vice-Chair, left the meeting at 2:58 PM  
A. Beach, Oshawa  
H. Hall, Participation House  
D. Hume-McKenna, DMHS attended the meeting at 2:05 PM  
Councillor R. Mulcahy attended the meeting at 1:15 PM  
M. Peters, Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work Durham, left the meeting at 2:58 PM  
R. Purnwasie, Ajax  
M. Roche, Oshawa  
S. Sones, Whitby  
**\*all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: L. Schisler, Whitby

#### **Staff**

Present: J. Austin, Deputy General Manager, Durham Region Transit  
S. Austin, Director of Corporate Policy and Strategic Initiatives  
M. Binetti, Supervisor, Service Design, Durham Region Transit  
J. Christianson, Program Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

#### **2. Introduction of Members**

J. Traer welcomed A. Beach, H. Hall and M. Peter to the Committee. All members in attendance provided an overview of their background.

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by D. Campbell, Seconded by R. Purnwasie,  
That the minutes of the special Accessibility Advisory Committee  
meeting held on October 1, 2020, be adopted.  
CARRIED

**5. Presentations**

A) Ross Ste-Croix, Executive Director, WindReach Farm re: Programs and Services

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R. Ste-Croix, Executive Director, WindReach Farm provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to the programs and services offered at WindReach Farm.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- About WindReach Farm
- Our History
- Who We Serve
- Our Programs
- Events

R. Ste-Croix stated that WindReach Farm (the farm) has been in Durham Region since 1989. He stated that the farm uses the farm environment to provide therapeutic programs for people of all abilities as well as those with severe physical limitations who require one on one care; individuals on the autism spectrum who are looking to build friendships and learn new skills; and those coping with mental health issues.

R. Ste-Croix provided an overview of the following programs offered: Learning for Life; Community Participation; Therapeutic Riding Program; The Harvest of Health Horticultural Therapy Program; Day Visitor Program; Overnight Visitor Program; The Beyond the Farm Gate Program and Acres of Fun Summer Camp.

R. Ste-Croix advised that the farm is always working on getting more recognition in the community so that people are able to make use of the programs offered. In doing so, he stated that in a typical year, the farm hosts events such as sheep shearing, Halloween, Christmas, as well as open houses, Founder's Day, and a fundraising gala. He advised that due to the COVID 19 pandemic this year, they were able to have a socially distanced golf tournament, a Halloween event, drive-thru experiences and are currently working on a winter walk-thru event.

R. Ste-Croix responded to questions with regards to whether the programs offered are open to adults with disabilities.

Moved by M. Peters, Seconded by D. Campbell,  
That the Committee recess for 5 minutes.  
CARRIED

The Committee recessed at 1:50 PM and reconvened at 1:55 PM.

Following the recess, the Committee Clerk conducted a roll call and all members of the Committee were present except for L. Schisler.

B) Jamie Austin, Deputy General Manager and Michael Binetti, Supervisor,  
Service Design, Durham Region Transit re: Update on DRT Services

J. Austin, Deputy General Manager and M. Binetti, Supervisor, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to an update on Durham Region Transit Services.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- COVID-19 response to date
- Impacts
- Resumption of fare collection
- Introducing PRESTO E-tickets
- Using a PRESTO E-ticket
- Multi phase service plan
- Phase A Urban Area – Map
- Transit mobility in rural areas
- What is On Demand?
- Draft Social Equity Guidelines
  - Draft – Equity Priorities in Durham Region
  - Draft – Communities of Focus
  - Guidelines & Goals

J. Austin provided an overview of the measures taken over the past ten months with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that transit ridership declined by more than 70% in the spring but has slowly started to rise. He advised that DRT has worked with Metrolinx to issue a new electronic ticketing application, which is a contactless fare payment option available on smartphones across all DRT scheduled, specialized and On Demand services.

M. Binetti stated that DRT introduced a multi-phased new ridership growth network on September 28<sup>th</sup> and is currently in Phase A of that service. He provided an overview of the Phase A Urban Area Map as well as an overview of the On Demand Services in the rural areas of Durham Region.

With regards to On Demand, M. Binetti stated that some common features are as follows:

- zones/areas where ridership is low;
- trips booked the day of travel and as close as 15 mins before;
- regular DRT fares;
- riders picked up by a DRT Promaster van or a contracted service provider sedan or van; and
- riders can travel stop to stop within a zone or connect to DRT bus routes and local GO Train Station when travelling out or into a zone.

M. Binetti stated that DRT is one of the first transit agencies in Canada that is looking at implementing social equity guidelines. He provided a list of the following equity priorities in Durham Region: ability to pay; single parent families; newcomers, new Canadians or refugees; indigenous; language/literacy barriers; seniors; youth; women; and physical or mental abilities. He also stated that the communities of focus are Durham Region's priority neighbourhoods and rural areas.

M. Binetti stated that the draft guidelines and goals are as follows: supportive infrastructure; service coverage and availability; service span and frequency; and transit serving employment uses. He advised that any feedback on the draft social equity guidelines from the committee are welcome.

Discussion ensued with regards to the importance of expanding the definition of 'gender' to be inclusive of trans-identified individuals. It was also suggested that the committee be consulted to ensure accessibility when considering the equity priorities.

## **6. Correspondence**

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

## **7. Information Items**

### **A) Education Sub-Committee Update**

J. Traer provided the following update with regards to future presentations:

- L. Schisler will be providing a presentation with regards to Community Care Durham and what they provide to the community; and
- Several Regional Departments and Divisions have created a new initiative and may be looking for feedback from the committee with regards to accessibility.

### **B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)**

M. Roche thanked J. Traer for scheduling the presentation from J. Austin and M. Binetti, or Durham Region Transit, provided earlier in the meeting.

C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

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J. Traer provided the following update:

- Regional Headquarters will be closed to the public until spring 2021. Meetings will continue to be held virtually until then.
- For people who read lips, J. Traer has found someone (Joyce Hancock of Oshawa) who makes clear masks. She stated that a mask has been ordered for each committee member and will be sent by mail.
- The south accessible parking lot at the Region of Durham is being redesigned to accommodate some of the recommendations provided by the site survey subcommittee.
- With regards to the AAC Awards, plans are in the works for J. Traer and the videographer to meet the recipients and present them with their awards.
- The Region has received notice that the Compliance Division of the Province is doing an audit on the accessibility portfolio. J. Traer has had to complete and provide the requested information to them.
- J. Traer requested that D. Hume-McKenna provide some information regarding service updates sent to community partners with regards to COVID-19 supports across Durham Region.
  - D. Hume-McKenna stated that service updates are sent out to over 200 recipients to advise of services that are open and how they have changed or may change; and is geared to information regarding immediate supports such as Ontario Works; mental health supports; housing; food security; Durham Region Transit; and senior supports. She stated that any requests to be added to the mailing list be sent to J. Traer, who will then advise her.
- J. Traer requested that J. Christianson provide an update on the CityStudio Project survey:
  - J. Christianson advised that since the survey went live, the responses have been great. She advised that there has been 133 visitors to the site with 31 completed surveys and 28 new registrations. She stated that the survey can be accessed until November 30, 2020
- J. Traer advised that she plans to start work on the new multi-year Accessibility Plan in 2021. She advised that she will be looking for a

subcommittee to help with the creation of the new plan. She requested that interested members advise her.

**8. Reports for Information**

There were no reports to consider.

**9. Other Business**

There were no items of other business.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 1 PM.

**11. Adjournment**

Moved by M. Roche, Seconded by H. Hall,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM

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C. Boose, Chair  
Accessibility Advisory Committee

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N. Prasad, Committee Clerk





If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact  
1-800-372-1102 extension 2009

### Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) Annual Work Plan 2021

Activity	Start Date	Projected Completion Date
Provide advice and review 2020 Accessibility Report	March 2021	June 2021
Provide advice and review 2022-2025 Multi Year Accessibility Plan	June 2021	December 2021
Facilities and site plan review	Underway	As needed
Subcommittees in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Plan Review</li> <li>• Traffic/roads</li> <li>• Awards</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Transit</li> <li>• Ad hoc as needed</li> </ul>	Current	Ongoing
Education development (AODA Standards) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillors and staff</li> <li>• Committee Members (presentations by different ability groups)</li> <li>• Awards</li> <li>• Integrated Accessibility Regulation Standard changes (presentations by staff)</li> </ul>	Current	Ongoing
Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Council (via minutes of meetings)</li> <li>• Staff (e.g. newsletter)</li> <li>• Community (e.g., newspaper articles)</li> <li>• Other AACs</li> <li>• Communication Support</li> </ul>	Monthly  Periodic As needed Annual As needed	Ongoing  Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing
Community Outreach - Awards Program	Current	Fall 2021