



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2016

**PALERMO ROOM
OAKVILLE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
1225 TRAFALGAR ROAD, OAKVILLE**

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 10, 2016, in the Palermo Room of the Oakville Municipal Building, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Rosa Bustamante, Chair
Deborah Muldoon, Vice-Chair
Councillor Dave Gittings
Darrin Ballard
Peggy Anne Gordon
Lou Pereux

Staff: Rebecca Brookes, Supervisor, Strategic Initiatives
Daniel Sadler, Accessibility Coordinator
Joanne Phoenix, Manager, Planning and Accessible Services,
Oakville Transit
Jill Stephen, Senior Manager, Transportation Strategy
Janis Olbina, Manager, Park Planning and Development
Chris Clapham, Sustainable Transportation Program Coordinator
Dragana Crkvenjas, Traffic Technologist
Corey Ellis, Application Development Coordinator
Sarah Stewart, Web Coordinator
ASL Interpreters (2)
Lyn Morgan, Council and Committee Coordinator

Regrets: Pamela Madan-Sharma

The items in these minutes are not necessarily in the order discussed.

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Rosa Bustamante called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. **Regrets**

As noted above.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

Meeting of September 8, 2016

Moved by Lou Pereux

That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of September 8, 2016, be approved.

CARRIED

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. **Discussion Item(s)**

a. **Pedestrian Safety Program**

Dragana Crkvenjas Transportation Strategy Group, Engineering and Construction department, advised the members that the town was developing a pedestrian safety program and reviewing locations that may not meet traffic calming warrants, but due to high pedestrian activity, would merit some type of pedestrian crossing. She indicated that Paradigm Transportation Solutions Limited and Moore Transportation Consulting had been retained to undertake the study in association with Accessibility Experts Ltd. and Lura Consulting.

Gene Chartier, Vice President of Paradigm Transportation Solutions Limited, provided a presentation outlining the goals and objectives of the study which incorporate the development of a long term action plan for pedestrian crossing improvements, a continuous network of sidewalks, trails and crossings, and facilities to accommodate all users. Mr. Chartier indicated that he was seeking feedback from key stakeholders including the members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Mr. Chartier reviewed statistics regarding the 146 collisions involving pedestrians that had taken place in Oakville from 2011 to 2015, as well as the types of pedestrian collisions, which included:

- vehicles turning/merging;
- mid-block collisions;
- collisions in parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, yards, etc.;
- collisions walking along the road without a sidewalk;
- collisions at intersections - pedestrians struck while crossing at an intersection;
- collisions while vehicle backing up.

Mr. Chartier advised the members that town staff were currently updating the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) and seeking to proactively address the issue of pedestrian safety. He indicated that the town has a long history of installing traffic calming measures in different communities, largely to address speeding vehicles, and by default, pedestrian crossings. Town staff would like to ensure that other mechanisms could be implemented in order to deal with pedestrian crossings that may not fall within the traffic calming program.

Mr. Chartier reviewed current town practices that relate to pedestrian safety including the conversion of existing pedestrian crossovers (PXO) to pedestrian signals. He indicated that pedestrian crossing treatments in the town included traffic signals, pedestrian signals, stop controlled and supervised school crossings. Mr. Chartier advised that any new signals that have been installed in the town since 2008 have included the pedestrian countdown timer and that existing signals were being retrofitted on an annual basis with the countdown timer, based on pedestrian volume.

Mr. Chartier reported that the *Highway Traffic Act* was modified in 2016 to include a greater emphasis on pedestrian safety and that the Ontario Traffic Manual Book 15 had been updated in 2016 to introduce a broader range of pedestrian crossing control devices. He reviewed a number of the PXO treatments which have been categorized into Level 1 (Type A), and Level 2 (Types B, C and D) depending on the level of protection provided at the crossings.

Mr. Chartier stated that key elements to accommodating pedestrians in a safer manner included reducing the collision risk and severity, improving connectivity, improving accessibility and improving maintenance. The guiding principles for improved pedestrian safety involved components related to engineering, education and encouragement.

It was noted that bright flashing lights at the crossings were beneficial to the deaf and that with respect to the countdown timer, ample time was required to accommodate the elderly.

It was also suggested that some type of push button was required at the PXOs to permit the visually impaired to alert vehicles that they were about to enter the crosswalk. Some discussion ensued regarding accessible pedestrian signals and Mr. Chartier indicated that staff would be consulting with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) regarding location selection for the accessible pedestrian signals.

Responding to questions regarding collision statistics, Mr. Chartier indicated that the consultants were in the process of evaluating the information to determine the time of day and time of year the collisions occurred, and whether the collisions involved children or adults. He also advised that in order to provide comparisons, collision data would be gathered from the other municipalities in Halton Region.

It was suggested that pedestrian counter boxes could be attached to poles at the intersections to determine the number of pedestrians crossing at a specific location. Other recommendations from the members included the use of advance pedestrian signals which allow pedestrians to cross before vehicles turn left, scramble intersections where all lanes of traffic stop to permit pedestrians to cross, and with respect to street design--in addition to the use of bump-outs and curb extensions, continuing the concrete sidewalks across asphalt driveways to serve as a visual cue to drivers.

Rebecca Brookes, Supervisor, Strategic Initiatives, advised the members that they could provide feedback under the Public Engagement Hub on the town website where they could access information on the ATMP, as well as the pedestrian safety program online survey. It was noted that the members could also contact Dragana Crkvenjas directly regarding concerns with respect to specific locations.

Moved by Peggy Anne Gordon

That the presentation regarding the Pedestrian Safety Program, be received.

CARRIED

The meeting recessed at 8:15 p.m. and reconvened at 8:26 p.m.

b. Oakville Transit Website

Joanne Phoenix, Manager of Planning and Accessible Services, advised the members that in the summer of 2015, Council approved the Oakville Transit service review and five-year plan which identified service changes for the next five years with the first year of implementation beginning in September of 2016. As part of introducing the changes, it was identified that the Oakville Transit website was not responsive on all mobile devices. At that time, the town staff were in the process of approving the town's approach to applying responsive redesign to all of its websites to ensure information and services were accessible from different mobile devices and screen sizes. Fortunately for Oakville Transit, its website was the first to be completed.

Ms. Phoenix reviewed the new features of the transit website which was launched on September 4th, advising that it now aligned with all mobile devices using the same format. She encouraged the members to visit the site with its new responsive design and provide feedback to staff.

Sarah Stewart, Web Coordinator, advised that staff were currently working on new interactive maps for the site which would also be responsive and fit into a usable format for mobile devices.

Moved by Deborah Muldoon

That the presentation regarding the Oakville Transit Website, be received.

CARRIED

c. Memorial Park Washroom

Janis Olbina, Manager, Park Planning and Development, provided a presentation regarding the proposed washroom building to be constructed at Memorial Park, a larger community park located in Ward 5, near Dundas Street and Sixth Line. The park included two large storm water ponds and a hospice centre in the northwest corner. Ms. Olbina advised that a landscape architect company had been hired in 2014 to prepare a master plan for the park. Some of the planned key features included:

- a 'volunteer walk' around the storm water ponds, recognizing volunteers in the community by tree plantings, bench recognitions, pavers in the walkway, etc.;
- circulating fountains in the storm water ponds to deter the geese from settling in the area;

- paved pathways;
- allotment gardens; and
- an accessible playground.

Ms. Olbina reviewed a number of photographs of the allotment gardens with their raised planters, as well as the playground area currently under construction.

Ms. Olbina also provided an overview of an artist rendering of the circular footprint of the washroom building and its location within the park. She reported that the floor plan of the building would include men's, women's and universal washrooms, with four to five stalls each, built to Oakville Universal Design Standards (OUDS) for town facilities and Ontario Building Code (OBC) minimum standards. Ms. Olbina stated that the washrooms would be equipped with power door operators, infrared sensors on the faucets, toilets and hand dryers, as well as non-slip epoxy flooring and natural skylights above. She also advised that some discussions had taken place with staff with respect to final detailing, i.e., the use of high contrast colours, textured materials, etc.

Responding to a question, Ms. Olbina indicated that there were plans to install some type of water fountain or water bottle filling station in the park.

Moved by Lou Pereux

That the presentation regarding the Memorial Public Washroom, be received.

CARRIED

6. Information Item(s)

- a. Annual International Day of Persons with Disabilities – December 3, this year coinciding with the Tenth Anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- b. 2017 Schedule of Meeting Dates

Moved by Deborah Muldoon

That the Information Items be received.

CARRIED

7. Items to be Discussed at Next/Future Meetings

- Recreational Trails Audit
- Accessibility Webpage Update

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, December 8, 2016
Oakville Municipal Building
Palermo Room - 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Deborah Muldoon

That this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.