



MINUTES - ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 11, 2025, 4:04 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation.

Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom

PRESENT: S. Jennings (Chair), L. Bartram, N. Moss, P. Singh C. Paisley, C. Marks, S. Hough

STAFF: A. Galiev - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. Mackenzie – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, T. Knowles – Senior Planner of Social Policy, R. Kenny – Assistant Director of Transportation, T. Lewis – Manager of Transportation Operations, M. Moore – Lived Experience Consultant, Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Carolyn Brandly – Research Associate, Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, S. Maichen – Legislative Coordinator

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

Committee member N. Moss acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees First Nation and Xwsepsum First Nation communities, and thanked them for allowing us to live, work and play on their lands.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By C. Paisley

Seconded By L. Bartram

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 **Transportation Discussion (Ross Kenny, Assistant Director of Transportation)**

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Truncated dome integration into curb ramp decisions of all future City of Victoria transportation projects in the downtown core*
2. *Location of ramps and curvature and city-wide transportation planning*
3. *Introduction of passenger drop off areas, accessible parking around CNIB and City Hall*
4. *Transportation announced the next phase of the protected bike lane network which will continue east along Pandora starting at Cook. As this is a two-way bike lane, the bus will not pull across the bike lane to the curb. Alternate designs to mid-block island platform bus stops are being explored including integrating the island platform bus stop with the crosswalk at intersections with audible signals.*

At the same time, the existing island platform bus stops along Pandora between Cook and Douglas will be reviewed for upgrades to address the safety issues associated with the need for pedestrians (particularly persons who are blind, deafblind or partially sighted) to cross the bike lane when taking the bus. Several options were suggested by AAC including re-routing the bus along Cook and Yates, moving the island platform bus stops to be integrated with the intersections along Pandora, and moving the bus stop on lower Pandora to Government Street just before Pandora.

The AAC expressed their appreciation of Transportation's willingness to take this issue seriously and for continuing to seek the lived experience of AAC members.

5. *Limitation of new build regulations around accessible parking*
 - *Potential parking permit program for denser areas*
 - *Schedule C, Zoning Regulation Bylaw*
6. *E-bike share program accessibility and safety implications, including adaptable cycling*
7. *Safety and accessibility concerns about e-scooters being part of the e-bike share program*

Moved By L. Bartram

Seconded By S. Jennings

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee do not support considering e-scooters as part of the proposed e-share program due to safety and accessibility considerations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Accessibility Impact Statements for Council reports*
2. *Tanyss Knowles (Planning and Development) to discuss the development of the Community Infrastructure Strategy and planning considerations for accessibility*

3. Audible crosswalks and the possibility of reprogramming to make them louder (Hillside/Quadra and Bay/Blanchard)

D. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

D.1 Minutes from the meeting held January 14, 2025

Moved By L. Bartram

Seconded By S. Hough

That minutes from the meeting held January 14, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.2 National AccessAbility Week planning discussion

The Committee conducted a preliminary review of National Accessibility Week, scheduled for the last week of May. They engaged in discussions about the possibility of collaboratively organizing an event at City Hall to mark the occasion.

F.3 Chair and Vice Chair Updates (Suzan Jennings and Sandra Hough)

The Chair shared the action plan and ideas for the Committee for the next year, underlining the importance of each of their individual functions on the Committee.

The Vice Chair shared the information about her and Michael Moore's participation on the disability discussion panel as part of the CREAN (Coastal Research, Education and Advocacy Network) conference on March 22nd.

Linda Bartram shared the information about the February 20th event dedicated to the launch of the new CNIB legal referral and resource program

Carolyn Brandly is a new Research Associate with the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, leading research on dementia within the City's built and social environment. This partnership project is funded by Health Research BC/MITACS.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Committee, by unanimous consent, adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.