



MINUTES - ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 11, 2024, 4:44 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 and in-person

- PRESENT: S. Jennings (Chair), S. Hough (Vice Chair), L. Bartram, C. Paisley, P. Singh (Arrived 4:39 p.m.)
- ABSENT: C. Marks, N. Moss, J. Scott
- STAFF: A. Galiev - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. Mackenzie – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, Y. Funahashi – IMPACT Associate, A. Heimburger– Legislative Coordinator
- GUEST: S. Turcott – Accessibility Directorate, BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, M. Moore - Lived Experience Consultant

S. Turcott, BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction provided a presentation on the Accessible BC Act Standards at 4:03 p.m. The meeting was called to order upon reaching quorum.

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:44 p.m.

Committee requested that agenda item F.1 - Accessible BC Act Standards presentation and engagement (Accessibility Directorate – BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction) be the first item of business and that the remainder of the agenda be reordered accordingly.

F.1 **Accessible BC Act Standards presentation and engagement (Accessibility Directorate – BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction)**

S. Turcott - Assistant Deputy Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction provided a presentation on the Accessible B.C. Act, Accessibility Standards and an overview of initiatives planned and supported by the Government of British Columbia's current accessibility plan.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Accessible BC Standards*
 1. *Community led engagement opportunities until July 31 on accessible standards, including accessible service delivery standards and employment accessibility standards*

2. *Online questionnaire, virtual townhalls and written submission formats*
3. *Strategy attempts to create standards intended to be applied to a broad range of organizations, including local governments*
4. *Desire for consultation and development of sector-specific standards*
2. *Disability Assistance Programs*
 1. *Federal: Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefit (CPP-D); and Provincial: Person with Disabilities (PWD)*
 2. *Need for equity in the eligibility requirements and coverage of CPP-D versus PWD benefits*
 3. *Need for improved disability benefits to address poverty experienced by senior residents*
 4. *Qualification for subsidy opportunities based on previous year's income*
 5. *Does not account for changes in individual and household financial situations*
3. *Desire for additional presentations and discussion with staff representatives of the Province*
 1. *Publication of BC Poverty Reduction Strategy and impacts*
 2. *Gap in subsidy and other funding programs to provide opportunities for caregivers with foster children*
 3. *Impacts of BC Poverty Reduction Strategy*

B. Land Acknowledgement

The Vice Chair 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

L. Bartram requested that item F.6 Research Project be added to the agenda.

Moved By L. Bartram
Seconded By S. Hough

That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. READING OF MINUTES

D.1 Minutes from the meeting held May 14, 2024

Moved By S. Hough
Seconded By C. Paisley

That the minutes from the meeting held May 14, 2024 be approved with the following revisions to agenda item F.1 *Truncated Domes Guidelines engagement*

(consultant Karin Pacqua - Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Program)

F.1 Truncated Domes Guidelines engagement (consultant Karin Pacqua - Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Program)

Committee received a presentation from Karin Pacqua, Meaningful Access Consulting regarding guidelines and accessibility considerations for the installation of truncated infrastructure.

Committee provided the following feedback:

- 1. Considerations of the current scope of work and importance of incorporating Guidance Tactile Walking Surface Indicators (TWSI) as well as Attention TWSI into the scope of the project.*
- 2. Specific accessibility concerns in Victoria due to angled street crossings in relation to sidewalks*
 - 1. Stability and tipping hazards for mobility device users*
 - 2. Difficulty navigating roadways to find curb cuts without consistency in application*
 - 3. Importance of incorporating both guidance and warning truncated dome strips in response to angled crossings*
- 3. Use of TWSI at decision points*
- 4. Existence of a variety of accessibility infrastructure types in the City of Victoria as part of an earlier pilot project.*
 - 1. examples of applications which are not best practices (e.g. black coloured or steel truncated domes)*
 - 2. Needing to focus on functionality of infrastructure vs aesthetics.*
- 5. Steel truncated domes and traction concerns*
 - 1. Hazardous in wet or icy conditions due to a lack of grip surface*
- 6. Complications of extending Attention TWSI around the corner from one curb cut to the one for the perpendicular crossing at blended curbs. Attention TWSI should span the width of the marked crosswalks only. The corner should be delineated by a different tactile surface or an actual curb, not Attention TWSI.*
- 7. Importance of contrast for design considerations*
- 8. Boulevard trees and impacts to sidewalks caused by roots and metal casings installed to protect trees*
 - 1. Specific concerns through the 700 Block of Fort Street and the 600 Block of Pandora Street*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Welcome Remarks from the Chair

The Chair provided an update on events and successes of National AccessAbility Week.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.2 Chair and Vice Chair updates (Suzan Jennings and Sandra Hough)

The Chair provided an overview of the *Access Awareness Day* event she attended with the Vice Chair as the AAC representatives on June 1, 2024 at the Shoal Centre in Sidney.

The Vice Chair noted that the Committee was featured in a Rick Hansen Foundation article "Accessibility Advisory Committee Seeks to Lead City of Victoria Towards a More Accessible Future". The article highlighted successes and contributions of the AAC and an example of meaningful engagement with people with lived experience of disability.

The Vice Chair shared that she is now able to support the work of the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion under the lived experience consultant model. The Vice Chair explained that her role would include providing input on City projects from an accessibility lens with a goal to extend into additional intersectional roles, such as poverty reduction, inclusion in recreation, housing and accessibility.

F.3 National AccessAbility Week recap

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Funding opportunities through the Federal Government*
 1. *The Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion engaged in exploring research partnership models regarding climate action and emergency management through accessibility lens*

F.4 Accessibility assessments

F.4.1 Crystal Pool & Fitness Centre accessibility assessment

The Vice Chair provided an overview of the Crystal Pool & Fitness Centre accessibility assessment held on May 28, 2024.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Touring of the Crystal Pool facility confirmed that there are accessibility barriers that need to be addressed.*
2. *Gap in accessible signage to indicate emergency exits and routes*
3. *Lack of sufficient accessible entry points*
 1. *Crystal Pool has committed to immediate installation of an additional accessible entry point*

F.5 Community roundtable

Committee discussed the following:

1. *GoodMaps update*
 1. *EDI staff and consultant completed scanning of various City facilities and accesses*

2. *City of Victoria locations in the process of going live through GoodMaps*
2. *BlindSquare update*
 1. *EDI staff and Lived Experience Consultant conducting further testing on Trans Canada Trail*
 2. *Soft launch anticipated by the end of June or early July 2024*
3. *Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) 'Get on Board' transit campaign and bus ride-along*
 1. *Greater Victoria representation from City of Victoria, District of Saanich and Town of View Royal*
 2. *Effectivity of tour for raising awareness of sighted participants*
 3. *Low participation from low vision community with the majority representing the Accessibility Advisory Committee*
 4. *Significance of transit concerns being addressed and acknowledged by BC Transit*
4. *Floating bus stops within the City of Victoria*
 1. *Desire to schedule a discussion on a future Accessibility Advisory Committee agenda*
5. *Preparation and logistics for the Committee's participation in the July 7, 2024 Pride Parade.*
6. *City of Victoria Official Community Plan Update, June 8, 2024 'Places & Spaces' workshop at James Bay Community School – accessibility concerns:*
 1. *Lack of accessible staff washroom*
 2. *Insufficient and inadequate event advertising and lack of participant diversity*
7. *Committee attendance and maintaining quorum*
 1. *Options to improve attendance, including recruitment and inclusion of Lived Experience Consultant*
 2. *Concerns that rigid procedures and policies can present barriers to participation by those with disabilities*
8. *Request to the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office to provide an update on the City of Victoria's Governance Review.*

F.6 Research Project

Committee Member L. Bartram provided an overview of a research opportunity through the CNIB Foundation seeking to improve access to employment opportunities for those with visual impairments through studying communication within existing workforce teams with mixed vision.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Eligibility of the Accessibility Advisory Committee to participate in the program*

G. Next Meeting Agenda & Date – July 9, 2024

H. Adjournment

Committee, by unanimous consent, adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.