



MINUTES – ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 10, 2023, 4:05 P.M.

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People
Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom

PRESENT: S. Jennings (Chair), L. Bartram, S. Hough, C. Marks, P. Singh
ABSENT: C. Paisley, N. Moss, J. Scott
STAFF: A. Galiev - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. Mackenzie - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, W. Doyle – Acting Director of Engineering & Public Works, D. Mcarra – Acting Assistant Director of Engineering & Public Works, B. Roder – Senior Legislative Coordinator

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By L. Bartram
Seconded By S. Hough

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 **Snow plowing and accessibility discussion (Engineering and Public Works)**

The Acting Director of Engineering and Public Works and the Acting Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works provided a verbal overview on the City's snow and ice removal as part of the severe weather response program.

Committee discussed the following:

- 1. Prioritization of areas and roads including emergency service routes, downtown core and main corridors*

2. *Encouraging members of the public to request snow removal in a designated area via the City's web form, emailing pw@victoria.ca, or calling the 24-hour phone line 250.361.0400, and staff will address on a priority basis*
3. *Desire to improve service provision by working with the AAC, embedding community mapping into decision-making*
4. *Examining the priority of secondary routes and the bus shelters outside the downtown core*
5. *Addressing the issues with snowbanks blocking sidewalk access and at the bus stops making it challenging for the bus ramp to be lowered*
6. *Discussing how a few inches of snow, ice and slush greatly inhibit individuals with mobility aids in getting around*
 - a. *Suggested that wheelchair users could use bike lanes if they were cleared of snow*
7. *Pro-actively seeking solutions in the servicing of sidewalks and bus shelters that are often due to lack of staff resources and budget*
8. *Continuing to engage with people with lived experiences and seeking their feedback on Engineering and Public Works aon related projects, programs and services.*

D. READING OF MINUTES

D.1 Minutes from the meeting held September 12, 2023

Moved By L. Bartram

Seconded By C. Marks

That the minutes from the meeting held September 12, 2023 to be approved with the following revisions:

F.1 Accessibility Strategy Work Update. Accommodation Policy and Procedures discussion (Urban Matters)

8. *Supported the inclusion of environmental sensitivity barriers in the new Accessibility Strategy, and a focus on attitudinal barriers*
15. *Future steps will include applying and streamlining best practices on accessibility standards (including the RHF) across departments and building capacity and understanding of the Accessible BC Act, Accessibility*

F.3 EV Charging Cord Cover Demonstration (Public Works- Energy and Climate Action)

Committee discussed the following:

1. *It was confirmed that cord covers were reviewed by the City of Vancouver's accessibility committee during their project implementation*
2. *AAC still had concerns that the cord covers would present an accessibility barrier*

3. *Based on the testing at the meeting by the two AAC members present:*
 - *The plastic cord covers were deemed unacceptable as they slid along the pavement when touched by the foot, wheelchair wheels or the white cane. They also had a slightly higher profile and were more likely to be caught by the foot. The cord was also not as securely held in the cover.*
 - *The preference was for the rubber-Made cord cover which was less likely to slide, had a slightly lower profile and secured the cord more firmly. It also came in yellow which is the recommended colour as it would be more visible, particularly at night when the cord would be employed.*
 - *Because only two AAC members were present, it was recommended that a pilot be carried out prior to the program being launched, to ensure that the rubber covers did not present an accessibility barrier to those using wheeled walkers, support canes, strollers, seniors and those with partial sight. Staff were open to this suggestion.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Welcome Remarks from the Chair

The Chair asked the members to share their values and experiences being involved with the Committee and what they further hope to accomplish. Committee members expressed their motivations for participating on the Committee.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.2 Curb cuts and tactile walking surface indicators (Linda Bartram)

L. Bartram, Committee member, expressed concerns regarding the City's processes involving tactile walking surface indicators, audible signals, curb cuts, etc. and discussed the pilot project previously conducted with the City's Accessibility Working Group on audible signals and tactile walking surface indicators.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Pilot locations were identified, but there has not been a follow up on whether concerns have been addressed*
2. *Are there City processes and procedures for installing tactile walking surface indicators?*
3. *Inconsistency in curb cuts and tactile walking surface indicators throughout the City*
4. *There are no tactile domes on Douglas Street to cross to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)*
5. *People with disabilities are generally less considered during the planning of pedestrian infrastructure*
6. *Suggested a field trip to one or two locations with Engineering and Public Works staff*

7. *Recommended that City departments use the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards in their processes*
8. *Expressed willingness to support City departments by providing their advice and expertise during project planning*

F.3 Community roundtable

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Lead provided an update to the Committee on the Committee Policies Implications report that will be considered by Council in the next couple months, in regard to member recruitment and terms of reference.

F.4 Action log

The Committee discussed updates to the AAC Action Log.

G. Next Meeting Agenda & Date – November 14, 2023

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By S. Hough

Seconded By L. Bartram

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY