

Meeting Minutes

City of Guelph

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

City Hall, Meeting Room C

From 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Chair: Brad Howcroft

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Agenda Items

Welcome to all

Present: Mike Greer, Tanya Davies, Marlene Pfaff, Sarah Mathison, Brooke Sillaby, Brad Howcroft, Julian Murphy, Cathy McCormack

Regrets: Luc Engelen, Joanne O'Halloran, Malcolm McLeod, Raminder Kanetkar, Missy Tolton, Jason Dodge

Staff: Jason Simmons (Transit), Dave Wiedrick (Bylaw), Steve Anderson, Louis Wickline (Traffic Investigations)

3:00 to 3:05 Item 1 and 2 and 3

Item 1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve by Marlene, seconded: Mike

Carried

Item 2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None heard

Item 3. Approval of Minutes of April 18, 2017

Motion to approve by Brooke, seconded: Julian

Carried

Item 4

Taxi Bylaw from an Accessibility Perspective – **For Information** – Dave Wiedrick, Manager of Bylaw

Dave Wiedrick, the new manager of Bylaw, reported that the City of Guelph bylaw department has recently taken over the taxi bylaw that was previously managed by Guelph Police Services. The bylaw itself is 30 years old and needs updating. The update process starts with community engagement. There will be a working group created to help guide this bylaw process with

feedback. The working group meets on July 4th at 9am to 12pm. If anyone is interested in joining the working group please contact Leanne.

In terms of the community engagement piece, Bylaw is looking for the following information: do taxi drivers know how to work with someone with a disability? Do they know how to properly secure an individual's wheelchair/scooter? What customers think about the taxi services in Guelph? Are there improvements? Are there enough accessible taxis in Guelph? The working group is likely to be meeting once a month for roughly the remainder of 2017. That being said it is hard to say how long this bylaw will take as the recently passed Animal Bylaw took 3 years to complete. Dave also reported that local municipalities surrounding Guelph have gone through this same process; staff will consult to find out best practices.

Item 5

- a) Guelph Mobility Updates - **For Information** – Jason Simmons, Supervisor of Mobility and Community Bus

Jason reported that sometime in the next day or two, Guelph Transit will order 9 new mobility vehicles. The delivery of these vehicles is approximately 100 days. In addition to the mobility vehicles, there have been 3 new employees added to the Mobility team as drivers. The Mobility bus service hours have been extended to have vehicles on the road up to 11pm. Guelph transit is looking to do as much work possible "in-house" instead of contracting work to Red Top Taxi and other 3rd parties.

The Guelph Transit management group is on board to revamp the community bus when the new transit routes are released in September. This includes extending service hours to go earlier as well as later in the evening and extending stop frequency to 30 minutes rather than its current 1 hour time period.

There will be a planning group created for the community bus revamp. This planning group has not yet started. Transit staff are hoping to have individuals who use the community bus participate in the planning group. The community bus does not have an automatic counting machine like the conventional buses, so a Transit staff member will be participating in counting the number of individuals taking the community bus. One change to this service is that the community bus will no longer pick up people at their building front door at pre-scheduled buildings it stops at but rather than the community bus will stop at the generic bus stop. Committee members raised concern about this in the wintertime, as it may be difficult for individuals who use mobility devices to get to these bus stops. Finally, Jason reported that transit is looking into acquiring smaller vehicles for late night pickup and quick trips for off-hours.

- b) Provincial Transportation Standard – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren

The province is asking if the Guelph AAC agree or disagree on the recommended changes to the Accessible Transportation Standard under the AODA.

The AAC responded accordingly:

Item 1: Sizes of mobility device

The committee has a concern about having to put a sticker on a mobility device with the chance of the transit operator not seeing the sticker being present. In addition, the idea of labeling individuals with stickers was not supported as the only method of notification. Suggestion was put forward that there be provincial regulations in place for the vendors to create mobility devices to ensure that all mobility devices fit onto conventional buses. This makes it easier to settle a dispute whether or not a mobility device can get on the bus. Instead of the proposed standard (sticker on device), have an approved device: the device manufacturer must meet the

device specification from the provincial or federal level, ensuring that they will get on the bus. There is a website out now that provides the sizes of mobility devices and their locations for tie-downs attachments. A website standardizing this information could be a part of the Province's process.

Item 2: Training on the use of Conventional Transit

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Item 3: Identification of Support Persons

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item with the following comments: put this identification on health card or license to ensure an additional card is not needed.

Item 4: Accessible Seating and Mobility Aid Spaces

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Item 5: Proportion of Accessible Seating and Mobility Aid Spaces on Train and Subways

The committee has the following comments: there shall be proper access to accessible toilets on all trains or buses as well as accessible seating available in all classes of trains, i.e. business, economy, etc.

Item 6: Accessible Seating for Persons with Vision Loss

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item with the following comments: No reason why someone who is blind or with vision loss can't change seats on a bus if someone who uses a mobility device needs the accessible seating - include in the driver training to wait for the individual with vision loss to move and be seated before moving the bus again.

Item 7: Service Animals

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item with the following comments: there is a belief from the committee that support animals do not need to sit on the passenger seat of taxis.

Item 8: Priority Boarding

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Item 9: Pre-boarding and On-board Requirements

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Item 10: Reporting on Accessibility at Transit Facilities

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Item 11: Technical Requirements on Signage

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Item 12: Grab Bars, Handholds, Handrails or Stanchions

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Item 13-15: No proposed changes

Item 16: Multiple Fares

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Item 17: Booking Requirements

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Item 18: Fees for Medical Forms

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Item 19: On-demand Accessible Taxicabs

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Item 20: No proposed changes

Item 21: Training for Taxicab Drivers

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item with the following comments: there is no mention about accountability and who is providing/funding the training, more information requested regarding this expectation as well as an outlined process.

Item 22: Accessible Parking Spaces

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Coordination Between Specialized Transit Services

Committee suggests that there be an opportunity for coordination between municipal specialized transit services (e.g. Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo) with a standardized card.

New and Emerging Technologies

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Item 23: Addressing Attitudinal Barrier

Committee agrees with this recommended change and supports the item.

Further, there is an option to comment on Service Dog standards until July 14th. These comments will be considered voluntary.

3:25 to 3:30 Item 6

Accessible Pedestrian Signals – **For Recommendation** – Leanne Warren and Steve Anderson, Traffic Investigations

Steve reported that the City of Guelph is looking to update their accessible pedestrian signals to be more like surrounding municipalities that use the "Canadian Melody". It was noted that CNIB supports this melody. Committee finds the melody to be recognizable.

Motion: The AAC is in favour of transitioning to the Canadian Melody pedestrian crossing sound.

Motion by Julian

Seconded by Mike

Carried

3:30 to 3:35 Item 7

On-Street Parking – **For Engagement** – Leanne Warren and Steve Anderson, Traffic Investigations

At the February meeting the work of this committee for 2017 included engaging the AAC to gain their direction to staff regarding on-street parking. Over the past month, AAC site plan

committee members reviewed and commented on a draft motion. The motion was then sent to the AAC prior to this meeting for comment.

Background:

The Guelph Accessibility Advisory Committee recognizes that requesting on-street accessible parking during the site plan review process was too late for all who plan development. It is therefore preferred to provide planning staff with a recommended standard from the AAC.

Motion: As per the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the Guelph Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend that commercial zone property which could include live/work buildings include accessible on-street parking where off-street accessible parking is not provided. This accessible parking shall be the closest parking space(s) to the building(s). Further, general on-street accessible parking such as a downtown setting or where there is a municipal park with bookable space, the accessible on-street parking shall be distributed to serve the different amenities and follow the design of the City's Facility Accessibility Design Manual, including but not limited to public use eating areas (FADM 4.3.16), Parking (FADM 4.3.12) and passenger loading zones (FADM 4.3.12)

Motion by Brad

Seconded by Marlene

Carried

3:35 to 3:50 Item 8

Traffic Calming Measures Staff Report to Council – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren and Steve Anderson and Louis Wickline, both of Traffic Investigations.

Traffic Investigations is looking to put together a "toolbox" of appropriate traffic calming measures to go forward to council. From this "toolbox" the City can pick items where they seem appropriate. The committee has provided approval of the different measures along with comments:

Chicane- Committee supports the use of chicanes, however ensure that there are no visual barriers as a hazard.

Curb Extension- Committee supports the use of curb extensions

Curb Radius Reduction- Committee supports the use of curb radius reductions but wanted to note a concern surrounding snow collection

Intersection Channelization (right turn lane)- City staff note that this would be put in only in a rare instance. Committee not in support of intersection channelization

On-street Parking- City staff note that this would be road characteristic specific. Committee supports the use of on-street parking

Raised Crosswalk- Concerns have been heard about individuals with vision impairments missing the tactile warning surface indicators. Committee unsure of this as an option and has elected to investigate further

Raised Median Island- Committee not in support of raised median islands

Right in/Right out Island- Committee supports the use of right in/right out island

Road Diet- Committee supports the use of road diets

Roundabouts- Committee not in support of roundabout use

Pedestrian Refuge Island- Committee not in support of pedestrian refuge island use

Signage and Pavement Markings-Committee supports the use of signage and pavement markings

Speed Hump- Committee not in support of speed humps'

Speed Cushion-Committee not in support of speed cushion use

Speed Kidney-Committee unsure of this as an option and has elected to investigate further

Textured Crosswalks-Committee not in support of textured crosswalk use

Traffic Circle- Committee not in support of traffic circle use

3:50 to 4:00 Item 9

Committee Business – Member Resignation - **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren

Leanne reported that Julia has resigned. Voting for new vice chair will be done at the August meeting; election for chair position will be done in December. Please let Leanne know by mid July if it is of interest to you to allow for time to prepare for a vote.

4:00 – 4:10 Item 10

Online Voting – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren

Unfortunately online voting for the 2018 election was not supported by our council even though it was available in the past election. Council was overwhelmed with concerns from the public regarding the fear of fraud; it was felt that there are enough accessibility options at this time.

With this in mind, our AAC is very concerned of the results as we heard of many residents with a disability voting for the first time during the 2014 municipal election when online voting was available for the advanced polls.

Motion: As a united front, the City of Guelph Accessibility Advisory Committee asks that Ontario Accessibility Advisory Committees make it known to the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario that online voting is an important accommodation for people with a disability. The question of the security of online voting (real or perceived) has become a significant issue in some municipalities and therefore Councils find themselves in the tough position of deciding between the potential risks of voting fraud, (as this is the current perception), and the benefit of providing on-line voting as an option to ensure universal accessibility . We would like your support in asking the Province to review and implement a strategy via an expert panel, before March 31, 2021, and in advance of the next municipal election and prior to associated Municipal Act requirements, to ensure that accessible on-line voting can be developed as an option for all Ontario municipal elections.

Motion by Tanya

Seconded by Marlene

Carried

4:10 to 4:20 Item 11

Standard for Park Play Equipment Replacement – **For Engagement** – Leanne Warren

Leanne reports that 7 play structures are being replaced this summer. Parks has come up with standards for replacement projects that include accessibility. P2 parks are neighborhood parks and do not have a lot of accessible equipment due to their size and usage. Some park sites are

in very poor locations as a result of the land developer giving the City poor land to work with. For the parks that are not in good locations, City staff suggest to go ahead and meet Annex H requirements. Where possible, pathways will be built into the neighborhood parks. It is felt that money should be spent in P3 and P4 (premier) parks where structures will be more than 50% accessible. This item will be back for review in August.

4:20 to 4:25 Item 12

Accessibility Audit of Municipal Assets – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren

The accessibility audit is complete. It will be incorporated into other condition assessments including structural assessments. With regard to prioritizing the work to be completed, City staff will incorporate the work with the other assessments because funding has already been set side and there are cost saving opportunities.

4:25 to 4:35 Item 13

Active Wheelchair Symbol – **For Recommendation** – Leanne Warren

Forward Movement is a group that is trying to transition into the new active wheelchair symbol. The group has approached the province for use of the active wheelchair symbol and is looking to have it be a part of the AODA.

Motion: The AAC would like to make a motion for the City to use this symbol in City facilities that do not require, by legislation, to use the typical wheelchair symbol

Motion by Mike

Seconded by Sarah

Carried

4:35 to 4:50 Item 14

Bicycles on sidewalks – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren and All

Joanne was unable to make the meeting as she was feeling ill. She forwarded some information on to Leanne to share with the committee referencing an act from the UK where cyclists with disabilities carry a card with them allowing them to bike on the road if they choose to do so. Leanne will pull together a summary of the email and generate some discussion around this topic for the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

August 15 from 3 – 5 p.m. City Hall 112

Meeting Adjourned

Items for next Meeting

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Report
Multiyear Accessibility Report
Committee Orientation Manual Update
Identify Gaps in Committee Representation for Fall Recruitment
Site Plan Sub-committee Report
Accessible affordable housing
Accessible routes within development-Mike Greer
Bicycles on sidewalks