

Annual Multi Year Accessibility Plan Report

City of Guelph

Date: 2022

Introduction

The City of Guelph's commitment to Accessibility compliance is firmly aligned with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The organization strives to identify, prevent, and remove barriers to accessibility in key areas such as customer service, information access, public transportation, employment, and public spaces. With a focus on inclusivity, the City of Guelph adheres to the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) under the AODA, ensuring that accessibility standards are met and maintained. This dedication is reflected in the development of a multi-year accessibility plan (MYAP). This year there was a strong focus on road and pedestrian space designs, the design of both interior and around seasonal patios, updated at least once every five years, and the establishment of written accessibility policies that are publicly available, demonstrating a continuous commitment to creating an accessible and inclusive environment for all.

Achievements

The work outlined in the MYAP overlaid onto the work of staff as they consulted the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). The consultations included:

- Cycling network study where some of the layouts included potential for pedestrian and cyclist conflicts. The AAC recommended that these two spaces be divided and protected as well, the bike lanes to be 2.5m wide to allow for adult tricycles and sidewalks, include visibility triangle for the driveways, and include tactile warning safety indicators (also known as TWSI's) at intersections.
- Guelph's seasonal patio program first accessibility standards were developed
- 2022 downtown accessible on-street parking updates as the downtown parallel parking layouts changed to accommodate some patios, however
- Review of vehicle for hire program funds allocation
- Transit regarding the Mobility and Community bus services and new digital scheduling system
- The AAC continues to participate in the Site Plans Review internal process
- Annual play equipment lifecycle project

In 2015 the AAC weighed in on the City's Facility Accessibility Design Manual (FADM). Since that time, when the City builds or renovates its properties, it builds to the standards in the FADM. During 2022, the City demonstrated its commitment to leading accessible design in Ontario by designing to the FADM. All renovation over this past and as staff continue to design the new Guelph Public Library Main Branch and the South End Community Centre, as well as accessibility-related designs in the Linear Infrastructure Standards, the FADM continues to be the standard to meet.

Challenges and Improvements

We're able to focus on improvements as more departments are incorporating accessibility in general, at times beyond the AODA requirements, into their daily work.

Conclusion

As we look towards the coming year, the commitment to accessibility compliance work is more crucial than ever. With the global web accessibility market expected to grow significantly, organizations are recognizing the competitive advantage of inclusive digital spaces. Aligning with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), businesses and institutions in Ontario are poised to lead by example, ensuring that their programs and facilities are navigable, usable, and beneficial to all, including those with disabilities. This alignment not only fosters an inclusive society but also propels organizations towards meeting the provincial goal of full accessibility Ontario.

For an accessible version of this document, questions or feedback, please contact accessibility@guelph.ca or 519-822-1260 or TTY 519-826-9771