



City of North Bay Report to Council

Report No: EESW 2019-27

Date: November 25, 2019

Originator: John Severino, P.Eng, City Engineer- Infrastructure & Operations

Business Unit:

Department:

Engineering, Environmental & Works

Engineering

Subject: Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005

Closed Session: yes no

Recommendation

That Council receives Report No. EESW 2019-27 dated November 25, 2019 regarding an Update to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for information purposes.

Background

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) was enacted in 2005 to serve as a framework relating to accessibility standards in several key areas, including:

- Customer Service;
- Integrated (Information and Communication; Employment; Transportation); and
- Built Environment.

The goal of these accessibility standards is to ensure all Ontarians with disabilities have full and equal access to goods, services, facilities, accommodations, employment and structures by January 1, 2025.

Under the AODA all municipalities have an obligation to prepare an accessibility plan. This plan is the framework to provide persons with disabilities full participation through the identification, removal and prevention of barriers within municipal facilities and services.

The first regulation to come into force was the *Accessibility Standards for Customer Service*, Ontario Regulation 429/07. It took effect for municipalities on January 2, 2010. The City has complied with this regulation. The City's Accessible Customer Service Policy is available on the City's web-site www.cityofnorthbay.ca and in alternate formats upon request.

The second regulation to come into force was the *Integrated Accessibility Standards*, Ontario Regulation 191/11. It took effect for large designated municipalities (those with 50 or more employees) on July 1, 2011, with compliance dates phased through to 2021.

Ontario Regulation 191/11 will remove barriers in 3 areas:

- Information and Communication - giving people with disabilities access to more of the information that we all depend on;
- Employment – expanding Ontario's labour pool and welcoming people with disabilities into more workplaces; and
- Transportation – making it easier for people with disabilities to get where they need or want to go.

This regulation also sets out the requirements for each of the three areas, as well as general requirements that apply to all, including:

- Developing policies to support each standard (January 1, 2012);
- Training employees, volunteers and third parties on the requirements of the Integrated Accessibility Standard and the Human Rights Code that are appropriate to their duties (January 1, 2014);
- Establishing and maintaining a multi-year accessibility plan outlining strategies to prevent and remove barriers (January 1, 2013); and
- Incorporating accessibility criteria and features when procuring or acquiring goods, services, facilities or self-service kiosks (January 1, 2013).

This regulation applies to public, private and not-for-profit businesses and organizations that:

- Provide goods, services or facilities either directly to the public or to other businesses or organizations; and
- Have at least one employee in Ontario.

Accessibility Plan

The Regulation requires municipalities to establish, implement, maintain and document multi-year accessibility plans which outline the municipality's strategy to identify, remove and prevent barriers to all citizens in accessing City's facilities and services, in accordance with the *Integrated Accessibility Standards*.

The objectives of the multi-year Accessibility Plan are:

- To describe the process by which the City will identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities;
- To review efforts to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities;
- To identify the facilities, policies, programs, practices, and services that the City will review in the coming years to identify barriers to people with disabilities; and
- To outline the process of how the City will make this Accessibility Plan available to the public.

On December 10, 2012, Council passed Resolution No. 2012-680 to adopt the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

The Internal Accessibility Working Group meets quarterly and on an annual basis reviews the Plan and advises Council of the initiatives that have been identified, evaluated and approved within the context of the City's Capital and Operating Budget Process.

In 2019 a number of initiatives and/or upgrades were identified and will be met before the end of the year. These initiatives include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Engineering / Roads

Sidewalk replacement (all locations listed below have the newly initiated saw-cut joints for smoother surface):

- McPhail (Front to Eva with tactile indicator panels (TIP) at Eva and Front)
- McPhail (NW corner at Eva with TIP)
- Wyld St (City Hall to Worthington with TIP at Worthington)
- Wyld St (Martin's to Worthington with TIP on NW corner at Worthington)
- Copeland St north side (from Nipissing to #1180 with TIP at Nipissing)
- Copeland north side (@ Nipissing NW corner with TIP)
- Copeland north side (Timmins to 1180 with TIP at Timmins)
- Copeland south side (Nipissing to 1131 with TIP)
- Copeland north side (@ Cormack with TIP to 910)

New sidewalk installed (Both locations listed below have the newly initiated saw-cut joints for smoother surface):

- Greenhill east side (from Bryan Road with TIP to Tower Dr with TIP)
- Lavase (from Wickstead to Hughes with TIP at Wickstead, Barber, Hughes)

Signals

Pedestrian safety and accessibility initiatives initiated by Traffic include the upgrade of existing accessible signalized intersections, the purchase of audible pedestrian buttons and countdown signals to complete a number of signalized intersections.

In the spring of 2019, all existing accessible signalized intersections were programmed to transmit a consistent audible message to pedestrians:

- Main at John St
- Oak St at Fraser
- Oak St at Wyld
- McIntyre at Algonquin
- Ferguson at Worthington
- Trout Lake Road at Giroux
- Trout Lake Road at Mountainview
- Algonquin at Jane and Front
- Algonquin at Norwood
- Algonquin at Worthington
- McKeown at McKeown Commons
- McKeown at Josephine
- Airport at Pearce
- Fisher at Princess
- Memorial at Carousel
- Memorial at Underpass

In addition, countdown heads were installed at these locations and will have audible pedestrian buttons installed in 2020:

- Main and John
- Lakeshore and Judge
- Lakeshore and Charles
- Lakeshore and Gertrude
- Lakeshore and Mulligan
- Lakeshore and Howard
- Lakeshore and Marshall Ave

Capital Project for Cassells rehabilitation was initiated that will include fully accessible intersections at:

- Cassells and Chippewa, and
- Cassells and Olive.

2. Parks and Recreation

The following initiatives were completed by Parks and Recreation:

Marathon Beach Accessibility Mat - Installed in early summer to provide access to the beach and the water's edge.

Lee Park Accessible Playground – In partnership with the Kiwanis and the City, a new accessible playground was installed. The safety surface will be completed in the spring before the official opening.

Accessible Picnic Tables – Installed additional accessible picnic tables within parks in the City (Lee Park, Silver Beach, Waterfront, Omischl Sports Complex).

3. Human Resources

Accessible Training remains a priority. The following is a summary of training to date:

- 908 employees have completed the training since 2011.
- 127 employees trained since June 2018.

Financial/Legal Implications

The City Clerk shall file the report to meet the requirements of Ontario Regulation 191/11.

Corporate Strategic Plan

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural North and Near | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Balanced Growth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spirited Safe Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible and Responsive Government | |

Specific Objectives

- Facilitate and assist the community in having access to the broad spectrum of health services; and,
- Encourage openness and diversity in the community for all residents.

Options Analysis

Option #1:

That Council receives Report No. EESW 2019-27 dated November 25, 2019 regarding an Update to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for information purposes.

This is the recommended option.

Option #2:

That Council not receive the 2019 Update to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for Information purposes.

This option is not recommended.

Recommended Option

That Council receives Report No. EESW 2019-27 dated November 25, 2019 regarding an Update to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for information purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Name: John Severino, P.Eng.

Title: City Engineer – Infrastructure and Operations

I concur with this report and recommendation.

Name: David Euler, P.Eng

Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance:

Name: John Severino

Title: City Engineer – Infrastructure and Operations