



City of North Bay Report to Council (DRAFT)

Report No: CORP 2023-xx

Date: August 8, 2023

Originator: David Jackowski

Business Unit:

Department:

Corporate Services

Engineering

Subject: Multi-Year Accessibility Plan - Annual Status Report 2020-2022

Closed Session: yes no

Recommendation

That Council receives Report No. **TBD** dated August 8, 2023 regarding a status update to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for information purposes. This is the recommended option.

Background

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was established in 2005 to set standards for accessibility in key areas such as customer service, information and communication, employment, and the built environment.

The aim of these standards is to ensure that by January 1, 2025, all individuals in Ontario with disabilities have equal access to goods, services, facilities, accommodations, employment, and structures. As part of the AODA, every municipality is required to develop an accessibility plan. This plan serves as a framework for identifying, removing, and preventing barriers within municipal facilities and services, enabling full participation for persons with disabilities.

The first regulation to come into effect was the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07. It applied to municipalities starting from January 2, 2010. The City of North Bay has complied with this regulation and has an Accessible Customer Service Policy available on its website and in alternate formats upon request.

The second regulation, the Integrated Accessibility Standards (Ontario Regulation 191/11), came into force on July 1, 2011, for large designated municipalities. Compliance dates were phased in until 2021. This regulation aims to eliminate barriers in three areas: information and communication, employment, and transportation. It sets out specific requirements for each area and includes general obligations for all businesses and organizations, such as developing policies, providing training, and incorporating accessibility criteria in procurement processes.

On 1 January 2013, the "Design of Public Spaces (Built Environment)" standard took effect, and became part of the "Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation". This regulation aims to eliminate barriers in the built environment. Specific elements of the built environment addressed in this standard include pathways, seating and rest areas, outdoor play space, service counters and parking facilities.

The regulation applies to public, private, and not-for-profit entities that provide goods, services, or facilities and have at least one employee in Ontario.

Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

The Regulation requires municipalities to establish, implement, maintain, and document accessibility plans which outline the municipality's strategy to identify, remove and prevent barriers to all citizens in accessing the City's facilities and services, in accordance with the *Integrated Accessibility Standards*. To demonstrate the City's long-term commitment to accessibility, and to provide a roadmap for ongoing improvements, a multi-year accessibility plan was established. A multi-year accessibility plan is a specific type of Accessibility Plan that focuses on the implementation of accessibility measures over a period of multiple years. It outlines the organization's strategy and objectives for addressing accessibility barriers in a phased and systematic manner. The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan provides a roadmap for the organization's ongoing efforts to improve accessibility and demonstrates its long-term commitment to creating an inclusive environment.

The objectives of the multi-year Accessibility Plan are to:

Identify Barriers: The plan aims to identify barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from fully participating in the programs, services, facilities, and employment opportunities provided by the organization or municipality.

Remove and Prevent Barriers: The plan sets out strategies and actions to remove and prevent barriers to accessibility. This involves implementing measures to make facilities, services, and information more accessible, as well as adopting inclusive practices and policies.

Review and Improve: The plan includes a process to review existing efforts and identify areas for improvement. It enables the organization to assess its progress in removing barriers and to continuously enhance accessibility initiatives.

Future Planning: The plan outlines the facilities, policies, programs, practices, and services that will be reviewed in the coming years to identify and address barriers to accessibility. It helps in prioritizing future actions and allocating resources effectively.

Public Availability: The plan ensures that the accessibility initiatives of the organization or municipality are transparent and accessible to the public. It outlines how the plan will be made available to individuals with disabilities and other stakeholders, fostering accountability and engagement.

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

The Internal Accessibility Working Group strives to meet quarterly to identify barriers and discuss their removal as well as on an annual basis to review the Multi-Year Plan and provide a status report 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 2020-2022 a number of initiatives and/or upgrades were identified and completed. 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):

- Cassells (King to east of Drew)
- Gertrude (Knox to WF Arena)
- Third Ave. (Cassells to Front)
- Algonquin (Front to High)
- Algonquin (McLaren to Bloem)
- Laurentian (Trout Lake Road to 1st mall entrance)
- Marshall (Value Village to Lake Shore Dr.)
- Lake Shore Dr. (Howard to Fabricland)

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

- Lindsay (Johnston to Turnaround)
- Johnston (Lindsay to Giroux)
- Giroux (Johnston to Trout Lake Road)
- Seymour (Franklin to Station)
- Glenwood (Parkwood to Cedargrove)

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 2020-2022, the following intersections received audible pedestrian buttons:

- Lakeshore Drive at Mulligan
- Lakeshore Drive at Gertrude
- Lakeshore Drive at Judge
- Main at John
- Main at Memorial
- Oak at Fraser
- Oak at Wyld
- McIntyre at Algonquin
- Worthington at Ferguson
- Cassells at Second
- Cassells at King
- Cassells at Chippewa
- Cassells at Olive
- Trout Lake Road at Connaught
- Trout Lake Road at Giroux
- Algonquin at Jane/Front
- Algonquin at Norwood
- Algonquin at Worthington
- McKeown at Champlain
- McKeown at Villarbois
- McKeown at Josephine
- Airport at Pearce
- Fisher at Princess
- Memorial Drive at the Carousel
- Memorial Drive at the Underpass
- College Drive at Monesarie Road
- Main W at Nipissing/Timmins

In addition, countdown heads were installed at these locations:

- Main at Fisher
- Main at Wyld
- Main at Ferguson
- Main at Fraser
- Main at Algonquin
- Main at Memorial
- Oak at Ferguson
- McIntyre at Fisher
- McIntyre at Algonquin
- Worthington at Fisher

- Worthington at Wyld
- Worthington at Ferguson
- Worthington at Fraser
- Cassells at Worthington
- Cassells at Second
- Cassells at King
- Trout Lake Road at Laurentian
- Trout Lake Road at Twin Pines
- Trout Lake Road at Connaught
- High at O'Brien
- McKeown at Villarbois
- Airport at O'Brien
- College Dr. at Monesarie Rd.
- Main W. at Nipissing/Timmins

In addition, tactile indicators strips were added at these locations:

- Airport at Pearce (3 corners)
- McKeown at A&W (all corners)
- McKeown at Josephine (all corners)
- McKeown at Champlain (all corners)

2. Parks and Recreation

The following initiatives were completed by Parks and Recreation:

- Armstrong Beach Accessibility Mat - Installed in early summer to provide access to the beach and the water's edge.
- Olmstead Beach Accessible Playground –a new accessible playground was installed. The safety surface will be completed in the spring before the official opening.
- Olmstead Beach Accessible Washrooms – New fully accessible washrooms built to current AODA standards including a full universal washroom are complete and in use.
- Amelia Park Accessible Washrooms – New fully accessible washrooms built to current AODA standards including a full universal washroom are complete and in use.
- Accessible pathways, tables and parking stalls have been added to the following parks:
 - Champlain Park
 - Sunset Beach
 - Silver Beach
 - Olmstead Beach

3. Human Resources

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

- 1204 employees have completed the training since 2011.

4. Information Systems

In 2020 all City websites and web content was modified to meet the requirements of Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR, O. Reg 191/11 to the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*). This required that we conform with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 Level AA, other than Captions (Live), and Audio Descriptions (Pre-recorded).

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

1. That Council receives Report No. **TBD** dated August 8, 2023 regarding a status update to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for information purposes. This is the recommended option.
2. That Council not receive the 2020-2022 status update to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for Information purposes. This option is not recommended.

Recommended Option

1. That Council receives Report No. **TBD** dated August 8, 2023 regarding a status update to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for information purposes. This is the recommended option.

Respectfully submitted,

David Jackowski, P.Eng.
Manager, Special Projects

Scott Franks
Manager Roads

We concur in this report and recommendation.

Domenic Schiavone
Director Public Works & Parks

Margaret Karpenko, CPA, CMA
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

John Severino, P.Eng., FEC, MBA.
Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance:
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