

Date: 2020-02-03

Subject: **Municipal Accessibility Plan Update**

Contact: Shant Goswami, Accessibility Coordinator

Report Number: Legislative Services-2021-186

Recommendations:

1. That the report titled Municipal Accessibility Plan Update, to the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of March 9, 2021, be received;

Overview:

- The City of Brampton's 2019 - 2025 Multi-Year Municipal Accessibility Plan (MAP) outlines how the City will continue to remove barriers and improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. It builds upon the accomplishments of the previous accessibility plans and continues to implement Provincial requirements to create an accessible Ontario by 2025.
- The City of Brampton has taken, and continues to take, a very progressive approach to addressing barriers to accessibility. Not only has this commitment improved the quality of life for residents of Brampton, it has provided a sound base upon which the City will continue to build an inclusive community that meets the needs of people of all ages and abilities. The MAP is also an integral part of the City's ongoing commitment to accessibility and inclusiveness.

Background:

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requires municipalities to develop a multi-year accessibility plan, which outlines the municipality's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its legislative requirements. The plan must be:

- Posted on the website and available in an accessible format;
- Reviewed and updated at least once every five years;

- Reviewed and updated in consultation with persons of disabilities and /or designated accessibility advisory committee;
- Included in an annual status report related to the progress taken to implement the measures; and
- Be posted on the municipal website.

The City of Brampton's 2019 - 2025 Multi-Year Municipal Accessibility Plan (MAP) outlines how the City will continue to remove barriers and improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. It builds upon the accomplishments of the previous accessibility plans and continues to implement Provincial requirements to create an accessible Ontario by 2025. The current Municipal Accessibility Plan was approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee in October 2019 and has been attached for reference.

Current Situation:

The Accessibility team would like to present an update on the City's Municipal Accessibility Plan, as this was not reviewed in 2020.

Update on Next Steps and Initiatives

- Preparation and submission of 2019 Accessibility Compliance Report

Update: This was prepared and submitted in 2019. The next compliance report is due on December 31, 2021

- Development and implementation of accessibility review and input process for new City parks

Update: An Inclusive Play Space procedure is being developed in consultation with Parks Planning & Development.

- Development of a "user-friendly" Accessibility Technical Standard summary manual for applications pertaining to parks playground equipment and components

Update: A summary checklist is being created in consultation with Parks Planning & Development

- Collaboration on the development and implementation with Microsoft Canada and the Soundscape application that will help to add more insight and information to help people of all abilities gain confidence and get more from their experiences in Brampton

Update: Soundscape is an iOS app that uses 3D audio technology to enable individuals with vision loss or visual impairment to gain more awareness of their surroundings. The project reached a final review with Microsoft and is still underway, however due to COVID-19 there have been delays. An update will be provided once it is available.

- Transit launch and implementation of the MagnusCards by Magnusmode application to provide an inclusive environment for people with disabilities to perform everyday tasks

Update: The MagnusCards app provides step-by-step guidance on performing everyday tasks through free downloadable card decks. Brampton Transit successfully rolled out the card decks in September 2019, which assists individuals in understanding how to take the bus in Brampton:

- Development and implementation of accessibility awareness training event for City staff

Update: The Accessibility team hosted a hands-on interactive awareness event for City staff in December 2019. In June 2020, a short video was developed for internal training purposes as an overview on Accessibility at the City of Brampton. In December 2020, a week-long virtual awareness event was held for City staff with various learning resources and activities including a public facing component featuring a conversation with Maayan Ziv, Accessibility activist and founder of the AccessNow app.

- Continuation of annual Accessibility Awards program

Update: The 2020 Accessibility Awards program was postponed due to the pandemic but has resumed in 2021. The nominations have opened and are available on the City's website. The program has resumed with the changes that were discussed at the December 2020 AAC meeting.

- Work towards WCAG 2.0 Level AA compliance by 2021

Update: The Digital Innovation and Information Technology (DI&IT) Team has implemented various software programs, tools and resources to help the City meet this mandate and the goal is to develop training for website content creators to create accessible content

- Continue to implement the City of Brampton (COB) Accessibility Standards and ensure compliance with all Provincial technical standards

Update: The Accessibility Team continues to implement and apply the COB Accessibility Technical Standards to all capital projects that are reviewed.

The Accessibility Team is working on some new initiatives and an update will be brought to the AAC in 2021 to request an update to the plan.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications to the City from this report.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report fulfills the Council Priority of the City of Brampton as a Mosaic, recognizing the City has continued commitment towards accessibility for all residents of Brampton.

Conclusion:

This report provides a status update on the City of Brampton's Municipal Accessibility Plan and provides a snapshot of progress thus far. Further updates will be provided on an on-going basis.

Authored by:

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Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Municipal Accessibility Plan (MAP)

Appendix 2 – MAP Presentation to Accessibility Advisory Committee, October 2019