



Minutes

Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Corporation of the City of Brampton

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Members Present: Sherri Hopkins (Vice-Chair)
Nicolle Guillen
Nuno Alberto Peixoto
Raymond Shaver
Franco Spadafora
Deepa Mohandoss
Daleara Hirjikaka
Regional Councillor Pat Fortini - Wards 7 & 8

Members Absent: Glenda Coupland (Chair)
Harpreet Bhons
Steve Anthony Chronicles

Staff Present: Janice Adshead, Deputy Clerk, Legislative Services
Henrik Zbogar, Sr Manager, Transportation Planning
Nelson Cadete, Project Manager, Active Transportation
Shawnica Hans, Sr. Coordinator, Election/Spec
Projects, Legislative Services
LoriAnn Beckford, Coordinator, Elections
Roberta Van Belkom, Enforcement Officer, Legislative
Services
Chandra Urquhart, Legislative Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. and adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

AAC001-2022

That the agenda for the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of March 8, 2022, be approved as published and circulated.

Carried

3. Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

Nil

4. Minutes

4.1 Minutes - Accessibility Advisory Committee - November 30, 2021

The minutes were considered by Committee of Council on January 19, 2022, and approved by Council on January 26, 2022. The minutes were provided for Committee's information.

5. Presentations\Delegations

5.1 Delegation by Tim Lichti, CEO, Swap Robotics, re: Swap Robotics

Tim Lichti, CEO, Swap Robotics, advised that his company has developed the 'world's only' commercial ready fully electric sidewalk snow plow and salting robot. He highlighted the following:

- Pilot project underway in the City
- Safety features
- Winter operations

- Benefits to the City

Mr. Lichti responded to questions regarding the technology and its operations, noting that an in-person chaperone will be available to ensure safety at all times when in use.

The following motion was considered:

AAC002-2022

That the delegation of Tim Lichti, CEO, Swap Robotics, to the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of March 8, 2022, re: **Swap Robotics** be received.

Carried

5.2 Presentation by Nelson Cadete, Project Manager, Active Transportation, Planning, Building and Economic Development, re: Micromobility - Electric Scooter Pilot

Nelson Cadete, Project Manager, Active Transportation, Planning, Building and Economic Development, provided a presentation entitled, 'Micromobility - Electric Scooter Pilot', highlighting the following:

- The Electric Scooter Pilot program is a City initiative viewed as a test for micromobility
- Electric scooter is defined as a micromobility device
- Pilot program launched by the Province on January 2020
- Support of the program and policies outlined
- Benefits of the electric scooter
- Initiative aligns with the City's 2040 Vision and Active Transportation Plan
- Pilot parameters - how scooter works, speed, weight and safety features

- By-law to regulate the use of the scooter - will be used wherever a bicycle is used and will be prohibited on sidewalks
- Terms of Reference

Delegations 5.3, 5.4, 5.6 and 5.7 were brought forward at this time.

Shoaib Ahmed, CEO, Scooty (Scooty Mobility Inc), was not in attendance for item 5.7.

David Lepofsky, Chair of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance, advised that his organization does not support the e-scooter initiative and outlined his reasons, which included the following:

- Opinion that the needs of persons with disabilities have been 'severely' overlooked, including seniors
- Considered the e-scooter dangerous and hazardous for persons with disabilities, and pedestrians when used on sidewalks
- Indicated that e-scooters are ridden on the sidewalks in municipalities where they are prohibited

Bernard Akuoko, Program Lead of Advocacy, Accessibility & Community Engagement (GTA), CNIB, supported the comments of the previous speaker and reiterated the challenges and danger of the e-scooters for persons whose disability is blindness.

Chris Schafer, Vice President, Government Affairs, Bird Canada, provided a presentation regarding the electric scooter pilot project, highlighted the following

- Safety and accessibility features and technology
- Economical and environmental benefits
- Rider and public education
- Safe street program
- Parking strategies

Moaz Ahmad, Civic Lead, Scooty (Scooty Mobility Inc.), provided a presentation regarding the electric scooter pilot project, highlighting the following:

- Commitment to safety and accessibility is ongoing
- Details of consultation with the City and Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Provides an alternative method of transportation
- Opportunity to reduce carbon emissions and improve health and social impacts

In response to questions and comments from Committee, the delegations provided information on the e-scooters which included the following:

- Methods for educating e-scooter riders
- Rules for riding/stopping/parking
- Charging station technology and operations
- Safety features of the device
- Suggestions for dedicated parking location for the e-scooters
- Completion of training video module for riders prior to riding
- Riders' ages range from 16 years to seniors

Committee commented that many concerns were not addressed and suggested that staff consider the comments and concerns expressed by members. The following motion was put forward:

'That staff be requested to consider the concerns expressed by committee and provide additional information with respect to safety at a future meeting'.

Active Transportation staff advised that the e-scooter pilot project program has already been approved by Council and reiterated the benefits as an alternative mode of transportation. Staff clarified that

some of the issues raised may have already been addressed in the Terms of Reference for the pilot project and the concerns that remain outstanding can be reviewed and brought back to Committee at a future meeting.

Committee expressed varying options to address the safety concerns with a suggestion for a demonstration of the device at a City location noting that a demonstration 'in-person' would help to alleviate their concerns.

Clerk's Office staff explained that a demonstration outside of a meeting at City Hall will not be considered a Committee meeting and attendance at such an event will be up to individual members.

Active Transportation staff referenced the report that was approved by Council for the pilot project and suggested that Committee review the report as many of the issues raised during discussion were addressed in the report.

There was consensus to withdraw the motion for a staff presentation and for Committee to review the staff report and provide feed back on any issues they felt were not addressed in the report.

The following motion was considered:

AAC003-2022

1. That the presentation by Nelson Cadete, Project Manager, Active Transportation, Planning, Building and Economic Development, to the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of March 8, 2022, re: **Micromobility - Electric Scooter Pilot** be received;
2. That the following delegations to the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of March 8, 2022, be received:
 - David Lepofsky, Chair of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance, re: Danger that Electric Scooters present for People with Disabilities, Seniors and Others

- Bernard Akuoko, Program Lead of Advocacy, Accessibility & Community Engagement (GTA), CNIB, re: Legalization of E-Scooters
- Chris Schafer, Vice President, Government Affairs Bird Canada, re: Micromobility - Electric Scooter Pilot
- Moaz Ahmad and Shoaib Ahmed (not in attendance) Civic Lead and CEO, Scooty (Scooty Mobility Inc), re: Micromobility - Electric Scooter Pilot.

Carried

- 5.3 Delegation by David Lepofsky, Chair of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance, re: Danger that Electric Scooters present for People with Disabilities, Seniors and Others

Dealt with under Item 5.2, Recommendation AAC003-2022

- 5.4 Delegation by Bernard Akuoko, Program Lead of Advocacy, Accessibility & Community Engagement (GTA), CNIB, re: Legalization of E-Scooters

Dealt with under Item 5.2, Recommendation AAC003-2022

- 5.5 Presentation by Shawnica Hans, Sr. Coordinator, Election/Special Projects, and LoriAnn Beckford, Coordinator, Elections, re: 2022 Municipal Election – Accessibility Plan

Shawnica Hans, Sr. Coordinator, Election/Special Projects, and LoriAnn Beckford, Coordinator, Elections, provided a presentation on the '2022 Municipal Election – Accessibility Plan'. The following was highlighted:

In response to comments, staff advised that the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), is contacted regarding the voting process.

The following motion was considered:

AAC004-2022

That the presentation by Shawnica Hans, Sr. Coordinator, Election/Special Projects, and LoriAnn Beckford, Coordinator, Elections, to the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of March 8, 2022, re: **2022 Municipal Election – Accessibility Plan** be received.

Carried

- 5.6 Delegation by Chris Schafer, Vice President, Government Affairs Bird Canada, re: Micromobility - Electric Scooter Pilot

Dealt with under Item 5.2, Recommendation AAC003-2022

- 5.7 Delegation by Moaz Ahmad and Shoaib Ahmed, Civic Lead and CEO, Scooty (Scooty Mobility Inc), re: Micromobility - Electric Scooter Pilot

Dealt with under Item 5.2, Recommendation AAC003-2022

6. Municipal Accessibility Plan Priorities

- 6.1 Discussion by Janice Adshead, Deputy Clerk, Administrative Services and Records, re: Draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan - 2022-2026

Janice Adshead, Deputy Clerk, Administrative Services and Records, provided an overview of the Draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan - 2022-2026, noting that the plan was provided to Committee for review and feedback by April 15, 2022.

The following motion was considered:

AAC005-2022

That the **Draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan - 2022-2026** by Janice Adshead, Deputy Clerk, to the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of March 8, 2022, be received.

Carried

7. **Other/New Business**

Nil

8. **Correspondence**

Nil

9. **Information Items**

Nil

10. **Question Period**

Nil

11. **Public Question Period**

Nil

12. **Adjournment**

The following motion was considered:

AAC006-2022

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of March 8, 2022
do now adjourn to meet again on June 7, 2022 or at 6:00 p.m.

Carried

Sherri Hopkins, Vice-Chair

Glenda Coupland, Chair