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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:03 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

D. Campbell, Vice-Chair, read the following land acknowledgement:

The Region of Durham exists on lands that the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg inhabited for thousands of years prior to European colonization. These lands are the traditional and treaty territories of the Nations covered under the Williams Treaties, including the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, and the Chippewa Nations of Georgina Island, Beausoleil and Rama.

We honour, recognize, and respect Indigenous Peoples as rights holders and stewards of the lands and waters on which we have the privilege to live. In our efforts towards reconciliation, we continue to build and strengthen relationships with First Nations, as well as the growing Inuit communities and large Métis communities and here in Durham. We commit to learning from Indigenous values and knowledge, building opportunities for collaboration, and recognizing that we are all connected.

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: A. Beach\*, Oshawa  
D. Campbell\*, Whitby, Vice Chair  
P. Chandwani\*, Whitby  
W. Henshall\*, Whitby, attended the meeting at 1:32 PM  
Councillor McDougall  
J. McEwen\*, Clarington, attended the meeting at 1:09 PM  
S. Sones\*, Whitby  
L. Williams\*, Pickering  
**\*denotes members of the committee participating electronically**

Absent: A. Blum, Scugog  
R. Purnwasie, Ajax, Chair

#### Staff

Present: N. Dash, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
D. Dunn\*, Manager, Rapid Transit Office, Durham Region Transit  
A. Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
P. Hines, Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
J. Phelan\*, Supervisor, Service Scheduling, Durham Region Transit

K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
**\*denotes staff participating electronically**

## 2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by S. Sones, Seconded by A. Beach,  
That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on  
Tuesday, September 26, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor McDougall, Seconded by S. Sones,  
That the minutes of the Joint Forum of the Accessibility Advisory  
Committees meeting held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

## 4. **Introduction of Members**

P. Hines, Manager, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, introduced Natalie Dash,  
Accessibility Coordinator and welcomed her to the team.

P. Hines invited members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee to introduce  
themselves. The members introduced themselves and provided a brief overview  
of their background.

## 5. **Presentations**

### A) David Dunn, Manager, Rapid Transit Office, re: Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Project and Future Sites

David Dunn, Manager, Rapid Transit Office, participating electronically, and Jack  
Phelan, Supervisor, Service Scheduling, participating electronically, provided a  
PowerPoint presentation with regards to Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Project and  
Future Sites.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP)
- Proposed Cross-Section
- ICIP Update Ajax, Whitby & Oshawa Rapid Transit
- ICIP Update – Pickering
- Intersection Design
- Median Shelter Platform Design
- Median Shelter Design Font
- Simcoe Street Rapid Transit

- Bus Rapid Transit Preferred Option
- Bus Rapid Transit Advantages
- Gondola Transit Preferred Option
- Gondola Transit Advantages
- Simcoe Street Rapid Transit

D. Dunn advised that they would be looking to work with Committee members regarding identification between the sidewalk and bike lane for individuals that are visually impaired.

D. Dunn responded to questions with regards to what a public information centre (PIC) involves; why the Simcoe Street rapid transit will be extended down to the lake; where on Simcoe Street the lanes will be reduced to a single lane in each direction; whether the cost of operating the BRT and Gondola systems was included in the business case; whether micro-mobility devices will be considered for the bike lanes; whether there will be bike lanes heading north and south on Simcoe Street for the entire stretch; when the initial business case analysis is expected to be finalized; and the role of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act in this process.

## **6. Discussion Items**

There were no items of discussion.

## **7. Correspondence**

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

## **8. Information Items**

### **A) Education Sub-Committee Update**

D. Campbell advised that the education sub-committee is open if any new Committee members would like to join. She provided a brief overview of what the education sub-committee works on each year.

D. Campbell also advised that December 3<sup>rd</sup> is International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

P. Hines advised that N. Dash will reach out to Committee members with ideas regarding initiatives for the Education Committee.

### **B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)**

The November 21, 2023 Transit Advisory Committee meeting update from J. McEwen was emailed to Committee members prior to the meeting.

Discussion ensued with regards to the one fare system being proposed for transferring between transit systems; and feedback received for the ambient sounds from the heating system on the buses that make it difficult to hear the announcement of stops.

C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

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P. Hines provided the following update:

- The AAC Joint Forum held on November 7, 2023 had 106 people in attendance with half of them in-person and that the feedback received was positive.
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities is on December 3, 2023 and Durham Region will be raising the accessibility flag and hosting an event on Friday, December 1 at 11:30 AM to recognize the day. P. Hines welcomed Committee members to register for the event.
- Staff have started working on the annual Accessibility Report and collecting data from different Regions and departments and will also be working on preparing a compliance report.

Discussion ensued with regards to providing a commitment as a Region to support persons with disabilities through employment and/or transportation.

P. Hines advised that the link to register for the event on Friday, December 1 will be sent to Committee members will be able to attend the event virtually.

**9. Reports for Information**

There were no reports to consider.

**10. Other Business**

A) Terms of Reference

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P. Hines advised that the draft Terms of References was shared with Committee members in advance of the meeting and has asked that Committee members review the draft document and provide feedback. She also advised that the draft Terms of Reference will be provided to the Finance and Administration Committee and Regional Council for approval.

Discussion ensued with regards to an appropriate timeframe to receive feedback from Committee members on the Terms of Reference and it was agreed that comments should be provided by December 15, 2023. Committee members requested that the draft document be provided in an accessible format and that a calendar reminder be sent for the deadline.

B) 2024 Meeting Dates

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Councillor McDougall requested that calendar invites be sent out to all Committee members for the 2024 AAC meeting dates.

K. Smith advised that the 2024 meeting dates are January 23, March 26, May 28, June 25, September 24, and November 26 and that calendar invites will be sent out in the near future.

C) Employment and Representation in the Community

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W. Henshall brought forward concerns with regards to improving the employment and representation of the community in relation to hiring of employees at the Region of Durham; and being intentional with ensuring that persons with disabilities are being hired and retained at the Region.

A. Hector-Alexander advised that the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Division is in the process of reviewing and implementing the 86 recommendations received from the first equity audit, and will be requesting input from Committee members prior to completing another equity audit to see how numbers have changed.

D) International Day of Persons with Disabilities

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D. Campbell requested that social media and media posts made with regards to International Day of Persons with Disabilities be shared with Committee members so that they may share with their community groups.

E) Document Sharing

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Discussion ensued with regards to best ways to share documents with Committee members in order to see edits or comments from other members. It was decided that documents requiring feedback will be shared using OneDrive so all members can comment on the same version of the document.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

**12. Adjournment**

Moved by J. McEwen, Seconded by S. Sones,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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D. Campbell, Vice-Chair, Accessibility Advisory  
Committee

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K. Smith, Committee Clerk