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The Regional Municipality of Durham
Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

A regular meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 in the Oshawa Meeting Room, Main Level, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 1:02 PM.

J. McEwen assumed the Chair.

1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

K. Smith 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.

2. Roll Call

Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.
* indicates individuals who participated electronically.

Members

Present: J. McEwen*, Chair
M. Jaffer*
M. Lloyd*
Councillor McDougall
L. Saumur*
S. Sones
J. Stevenson*
L. Williams attended the meeting at 1:34 PM

Members

Absent: P. Chandwani, Vice-Chair
W. Henshall

Staff Present: D. Daniel, A. Hector-Alexander*, M. Fitzgibbon, P. Hines, R. Inacio, K. Smith, and K. Wall

3. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor McDougall, Seconded by M. Lloyd,
That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on
Tuesday, January 27, 2026, be adopted.

Carried

5. **Presentations**

- A) Megan Fitzgibbon, Policy Advisor, Innovation and Research, and Deborah Daniel, Program Manager, Community Engagement and Change Management, Durham Region Transit
Re: Durham Region Transit Accessibility Plan: Overview and Development
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Megan Fitzgibbon, Policy Advisor, Innovation and Research, and Deborah Daniel, Program Manager, Community Engagement and Change Management, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Durham Region Transit Accessibility Plan: Overview and Development.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Our Working Definition of Accessibility
- 2026-2030 Durham Region Transit (DRT) Accessibility Plan
- Why a DRT Accessibility Plan?
- Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) Transportation Strategic Directions
- Accessibility Plan Development: The Innovation Process
- Innovation and Design Services
- Developing DRT's Accessibility Plan
- The Transformational Strategy Approach
- Innovation Process Overview
- Current Status
- Survey Overview
- Who We Heard From
 - Municipality of Residence
 - Disability Status
 - Type of Disability
 - Age
 - DRT Use & Frequency
 - If you do not use DRT, why not?
- Key Insights

- Perceived Change in DRT Accessibility
- Satisfaction with Accessibility of DRT Services and Infrastructure
- What We Heard: Key Themes
- Accessibility for Older Adults
- Next Steps

Staff responded to a question from the Committee with regards to how the Durham Region Transit's Accessibility Plan can be made equitable across all of Durham Region.

Discussion ensued with regards to the paths used to get to transit stops being designed to allow for multiple ways of moving including mobility devices such as scooters and e-bikes; and who is responsible for the maintenance of sidewalks throughout Durham Region.

6. Discussion Items

A) Revised Terms of Reference

P. Hines advised that the Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference is currently being reviewed and provided a brief overview of the recommended changes from the Legislative Services Division.

Discussion ensued with regards to the term of the committee and its correlation to the term of Regional Council; whether current committee members are required to reapply to sit on the committee for the next term; ensuring that the application process is accessible for anyone applying; whether there is a set limit of how many consecutive terms a committee member can be on the committee; and including a committee member or committee chair in the selection process for new committee members.

B) Accessibility Awards Nomination Process

K. Wall advised that the Accessibility Awards are being held in Septemberr. The nomination window will be open from April 20 to June 5, 2026 and was intended to be aligned with National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) to be promoted during the NAAW events. K. Wall stated that residents can obtain printed copies of the nomination form at local libraries and at Durham Region Headquarters and that she will be inviting local AAC members to participate in the review panel which will meet in early June.

C) National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) Events

K. Wall advised that National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) begins on Sunday, May 31, 2026 and that Durham Region will raise the Disability flag on Monday, June 1, 2026. Durham Region will also provide an online proclamation for National AccessAbility Week. The Durham Region Disabilities Committee will be hosting an Interactive Gallery Journey event during the lunch hour on Tuesday,

May 26, 2026 at Durham Region headquarters and encouraged committee members to attend as it is on the same day of the next AAC meeting. She advised that Durham Region is partnering with the Abilities Centre to host an Accessibility Symposium on the morning of Wednesday, May 27, 2026 with David Lepofsky as the keynote speaker centered around the theme of Dismantling Ableism. K. Wall advised that she is looking for a committee member to volunteer to provide closing remarks at the event and to reach out to her if they are interested.

7. Information Items

A) Education Sub-Committee Update

L. Saumur advised that the education sub-committee has confirmed that the Region of Durham Disability Employment Conference is taking place on Friday, October 16, 2026 at Ontario Tech University in the Science Building from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The event will focus on inclusive design, onsite hiring and partnership growth. There will be space for 15-20 vendors and staff are working with Corporate Communications to put a call out for vendors for the event. The sub-committee will create a job seeker survey to identify attendee needs and guide employer selection and matching.

K. Wall advised that the site plan sub-committee will be doing a tour of the Beaverton Heights residence which is a 47-unit transitional housing facility. K. Wall further advised that the decal project has been reviewed by Legal and provided some recommended changes. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Division has also consulted with the Economic Development Division who offered their support and promotion for the decal project when it is launched.

B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

The February 17, 2026 Transit Advisory Committee meeting update from J. McEwen was emailed to Committee members.

C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

K. Wall provided the following update:

- The Beaverton Heights tour will be taking place on Monday, May 11, 2026
- The current vacancy for a committee member with a family member with a disability has now concluded and will be presented to the May 12, 2026 Finance and Administration Committee and subsequently to the May 27, 2026 Regional Council for approval
- The 2026-2030 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) and 2025 Accessibility Report will be presented to the April 14, 2026 Finance and Administration Committee and subsequently to the April 29, 2026 Regional Council for approval

- Durham Vision Zero has confirmed that they will be providing an update at the May 26, 2026 AAC meeting

8. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor McDougall, Seconded by S. Sones,
That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

J. McEwen
Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee

K. Smith
Committee Clerk