



Accessibility Advisory Committee

MINUTES 15

Tuesday, 16 January 2018

6:30 p.m.

Colonel By Room

- Notes:*
- 1. Please note that these Minutes are to be considered DRAFT until confirmed by Committee.*
 - 2. Underlining indicates a new or amended recommendation approved by Committee.*

Present:

Chair: Brian Wade
Vice-Chair: Phillip Turcotte
Members: Daniel Boyer, Guy Desroches, Marc Dorion, Murray Gallant, Peter Morel, H el ene Nadeau and Don Patterson
Councillor Shad Qadri (non-voting member)

Absent: **Members: Victor Emerson and Adele Furrie**

Others:

Tyler Cox, Manager of Legislative Services
Lucille Berlinguette-Saumure, Accessibility Specialist
Rob MacLachlan, Specialist, By-law Review, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department
Linda Carkner, Program Manager, Right of Way, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department
Marnie Peters, Accessibility Consultant

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were declared.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes 14 - November 21, 2017

CONFIRMED

COMMUNICATIONS

Response to Inquiries

- AAC 17-04 - Emergency Evacuation Procedure - Transit
- AAC 17-05 - Presto Fare Payment System

PRESENTATIONS

1. ACCESSIBILITY OF PATIOS WITHIN THE PUBLIC ROAD ALLOWANCE

CITY WIDE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive the presentation and provide feedback as appropriate.

Rob MacLachlan, Specialist, By-law Review, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department, spoke to a PowerPoint Presentation, which is held on file with the City Clerk and Solicitor. Linda Carkner, Program Manager, Right of Way, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department and Marnie Peters, Accessibility Consultant were in attendance to respond to questions.

Questions and responses were with respect to ensuring the tactile areas at intersections are clear, and recommended more advertisement and a communications strategy.

After discussion, the Committee RECEIVED this item for information and advised that further questions and comments were to be forwarded to staff through the Committee Coordinator.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2. DYNAMIC SYMBOL OF ACCESS

CITY WIDE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive this item and provide feedback as appropriate.

Vice-Chair Turcotte advised that he circulated a proposed motion for consideration, which was presented to Committee as follows:

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) received a presentation from the Forward Movement campaign (the Forward Movement) on September 19, 2017, and received further written submissions from Forward Movement following the meeting;

WHEREAS the Forward Movement has asked the AAC to work with the City of Ottawa to pass a resolution supporting the use of the proposed Dynamic Symbol of Access (Dynamic Symbol) in Ottawa;

WHEREAS the Forward Movement has also asked the AAC to recommend that the City of Ottawa update its municipal accessibility guidelines to favour the use of the Dynamic Symbol over the currently-used International Symbol of Access (International Symbol);

WHEREAS the Forward Movement has also asked the AAC to adopt certain other practices and activities that lie outside the advisory mandate and the Terms of Reference of the AAC;

WHEREAS the AAC has reviewed the Forward Movement's presentation and written submissions;

WHEREAS the AAC recognizes that the current International Symbol is not representative of the full spectrum of disability diversity and that it does not depict accessibility more generally;

WHEREAS the AAC is concerned that, while well intentioned, the Forward Movement's proposed Dynamic Symbol is also not representative of the full spectrum of disability and also does not depict accessibility more generally;

WHEREAS the AAC believes that the Dynamic Symbol has the same problems as the International Symbol and fails to solve these problems;

WHEREAS some members of the AAC feel that the Forward Movement has failed to present any convincing evidence that the current International Symbol creates accessibility barriers or prevents persons with disabilities from using the accessibility features that the symbol indicates;

WHEREAS the AAC notes that the proposed Dynamic Symbol is not an official symbol for accessibility and that it does not have the approval of the International Organization for Standardization;

WHEREAS the AAC notes that the proposed Dynamic Symbol's lack of official status would make it difficult to use in Ottawa and that the International Symbol would have to continue to be used alongside the Dynamic Symbol;

WHEREAS some members of the AAC are concerned that Ottawa's adoption of the Dynamic Symbol alongside the International Symbol would lead to confusion and might create accessibility barriers;

WHEREAS the AAC believes the International Symbol is an important symbol that has significant every-day implications for persons with disabilities and that the use of this symbol should not change without good reason and without an adequate new symbol to replace it;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the AAC does not endorse the Forward Movement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AAC will not recommend that the City of Ottawa adopt or use the Dynamic Symbol.

Brett Hockley, representative of Forward Movement updated the Committee on other organizations that have adopted the new accessibility symbol, as requested by Committee last fall.

Questions to the delegation pertained to cost of replacing the existing symbol; if other cities (outside of Ontario) are being approached and if the Federal government has been approached to change the *Highways Act*.

The following motion was then proposed by Member Boyer:

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive regular updates from the Forward Movement group.

Committee then proceeded to provide comments on both motions and voted as follows:

AAC MOTION N° 15/1

Moved by Vice-Chair P. Turcotte:

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) received a presentation from the Forward Movement campaign (the Forward Movement) on September 19, 2017, and received further written submissions from Forward Movement following the meeting;

WHEREAS the Forward Movement has asked the AAC to work with the City of Ottawa to pass a resolution supporting the use of the proposed Dynamic Symbol of Access (Dynamic Symbol) in Ottawa;

WHEREAS the Forward Movement has also asked the AAC to recommend that the City of Ottawa update its municipal accessibility guidelines to favour the use of the Dynamic Symbol over the currently-used International Symbol of Access (International Symbol);

WHEREAS the Forward Movement has also asked the AAC to adopt certain other practices and activities that lie outside the advisory mandate and the Terms of Reference of the AAC;

WHEREAS the AAC has reviewed the Forward Movement's presentation and written submissions;

WHEREAS the AAC recognizes that the current International Symbol is not representative of the full spectrum of disability diversity and that it does not depict accessibility more generally;

WHEREAS the AAC is concerned that, while well intentioned, the Forward Movement's proposed Dynamic Symbol is also not representative of the full spectrum of disability and also does not depict accessibility more generally;

WHEREAS the AAC believes that the Dynamic Symbol has the same problems as the International Symbol and fails to solve these problems;

WHEREAS some members of the AAC feel that the Forward Movement has failed to present any convincing evidence that the current International Symbol creates accessibility barriers or prevents persons with disabilities from using the accessibility features that the symbol indicates;

WHEREAS the AAC notes that the proposed Dynamic Symbol is not an official symbol for accessibility and that it does not have the approval of the International Organization for Standardization;

WHEREAS the AAC notes that the proposed Dynamic Symbol's lack of official status would make it difficult to use in Ottawa and that the International Symbol would have to continue to be used alongside the Dynamic Symbol;

WHEREAS some members of the AAC are concerned that Ottawa's adoption of the Dynamic Symbol alongside the International Symbol would lead to confusion and might create accessibility barriers;

WHEREAS the AAC believes the International Symbol is an important symbol that has significant every-day implications for persons with disabilities and that the use of this symbol should not change without good reason and without an adequate new symbol to replace it;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the AAC does not endorse the Forward Movement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AAC will not recommend that the City of Ottawa adopt or use the Dynamic Symbol.

CARRIED

YEAS (7): D. Boyer, M. Gallant, P. Morel, H. Nadeau, D. Patterson, P. Turcotte,
B. Wade

NAYS (2): G. Desroches, M. Dorion

AAC MOTION N° 15/2

Moved by Member D. Boyer:

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive regular updates from the Forward Movement group.

CARRIED

3. BUDGET DEBRIEF

CITY WIDE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive this item for information and provide feedback as appropriate.

Chair Wade provided an overview of the process in preparing for the 2018 budget. He noted that overall the presentations were to increase the Committee's presence at standing committee meetings and with members of Council. He congratulated all Committee members for their hard work in successfully presenting before Committees for this year's budget.

The Chair and committee members noted some problematic areas and what areas to work on for the next term. He also apologized to Member Furrie for having revised the Community and Protective Services presentation that she had worked on, without fully considering her comments. Councillor Qadri also provided feedback on what is important in presentations and what councillors are looking for in presentations of advisory committees. He thanked everyone involved including staff in assisting the committee with this task.

In terms of presentations, members inquired if the presentations presented by advisory committees be posted online, either with the standing committee minutes or the advisory committee minutes. Chair advised that he liked the spirit of this

idea, however cautioned that there may be implications. He suggested this idea be brought forward to the City Clerk and Solicitor in preparation of the next governance report.

4. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

CITY WIDE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive the updates for information.

Members provided updates on the following activities:

- Vehicles for Hire: consultation sessions on January 30 and February 16
- Slater/Queen Streets meeting
- Bronson Bridge meeting
- Site Plans

INQUIRIES

Vice-Chair Turcotte

The Ontario Human Rights Commission's "Policy on preventing discrimination based on mental health disabilities and addictions" recognizes that addictions are disabilities and thus that persons living with addictions are protected against disability-based discrimination under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*. See:

<http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-preventing-discrimination-based-mental-health-disabilities-and-addictions>

1. Does the City of Ottawa recognize that it has a duty to accommodate persons living with addictions as persons living with disabilities under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*?

2. Does the City of Ottawa's working definition of disability include addictions?
 - a. If not, why not?
3. What is the City of Ottawa doing to accommodate and reduce accessibility barriers for :
 - a. Its employees living with addiction-based disabilities?
 - b. Members of the public living with addiction-based disabilities?

Vice-Chair Turcotte

In a December 19, 2017 article, CBC News reported that the Canadian Transportation Agency fined OC Transpo \$25,000.00, following an investigation, for failing to ensure that bus stops were properly called-out.

Also considered in the drafting of this inquiry were the following decisions from the Canadian Transportation Agency regarding OC Transpo's obligation to ensure all stops and requested stops are called-out: 200-AT-MV-2007; 610-AT-MV-2007; and 85-AT-MV-2009.

Inquiry:

1. How will OC Transpo respond to the issued fine?
2. What has OC Transpo done to make the calling-out/announcement of all stops and requested stops mandatory?
3. How does OC Transpo proactively monitor the mandatory calling-out of all stops and requested stops?
4. How many times were all stops and requested stops not called-out in 2017?
5. Given the allegations in the article mentioned above, how does OC Transpo ensure that stops called-out are made in a manner that permits them to be clearly heard, especially in a crowded bus or when the automated system fails?
6. How does OC Transpo ensure that all stops and requested stops are called-out in both English and French (especially when the automated system fails)?

7. What penalties and other corrective measures are in place for when stops are not called-out?
8. How many times were those penalties and other corrective measures used or applied in 2017?
9. From May 2009 to May 2011, did OC Transpo make monthly updated public reports on its Web site of its compliance level on the calling out of major and requested stops [as required by Decision 85-AT-MV-2009]?
10. How will OC Transpo ensure that all stops are called out and clearly heard on the light rail system, especially when the automated call-out system fails?

OTHER BUSINESS

Member Patterson requested to submit an inquiry with respect to accessible elevators, however Chair Wade suggested he discuss this offline with the Chair and Vice-Chair on how to proceed with this request.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Committee Coordinator

Chair