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*Making Way*  
For Ontarians with Disabilities

**REGION OF PEEL**

**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)**

**MINUTES**

**AAC-2013-5**

The Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee met on August 27, 2013 at 1:05 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

**Members Present:** R. Chopra; C. Fonseca\*; S. Hames; N. Husain; M. Tymkow; R. Paterak

**Members Absent:** H. Bajwa; G. Barnes; D. Farrace; E. Kolb, due to other municipal business

**Also Present:** N. Trim, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services; K. Lockyer, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's; A. Adams, Manager, Regulatory Compliance; M. Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist; H. West, Legislative Specialist; V. Montesdeoca, Committee Clerk; S. Valleau, Legislative Assistant

*Naz Husain, Chair, presided.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Naz Husain, Chair of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee

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\* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

(AAC) called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### RECOMMENDATION AAC-15-2013:

That the agenda for the August 27, 2013, Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, include an update from Maureen Tymkow regarding Roundabouts in the Town of Caledon, to be dealt with under Reports – Item 6b-iv-1;

And further, that the agenda for the August 27, 2013, Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

See also Reports – Item 6b-iv-1

## 3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. **Minutes of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC-2013-4) meeting held on May 21, 2013**

Received

*Councillor C. Fonseca arrived at 1:18 p.m.*

## 4. DELEGATIONS

- a. **Mark Head, Manager, Research and Analysis, Integrated Planning Division, Presenting the Region of Peel Official Plan Review 2013 - Accessibility Policies**

Received

See also Communications – Item 5c

A copy of the presentation is available from the Office of the Regional Clerk.

As requested at the April 23, 2013 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee, Mark Head, Manager of Research and Analysis, Integrated Planning Division, provided an update on the 2013 Region of Peel Official Plan (ROP) Review as it relates to accessibility policies. The 2013 Region of Peel Official Plan Review includes land-use planning and policy documents and incorporates accessibility-related legislation and policies such as the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) and Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR). The results of the review indicate that the Regional Official Plan has good accessibility policy coverage relating to:

- Housing;
- Transportation System;
- Parkland, Open Space and Trails; and,
- Human Services.

Mark Head stated that a separate stand-alone accessibility policy review is not required as accessibility policies will be reviewed and updated through related Official Plan Review program areas or focus areas (e.g. policies related to aging, accessible transportation, etc.). A Regional Official Plan Review work plan will be presented to Regional Council for approval in the fall of 2013.

Councillor Hames inquired why the Information and Communication Standard, and the Employment Standard were shown as “not applicable” in the presentation. Mark Head responded that those standards were addressed through corporate accessibility policies related to the specific service or program area and do not fall under the context of municipal land-use planning policy.

Raj Chopra, Committee Member, noted that the “not applicable” reference made in the presentation for the Information and Communication Standard, as well as, the Employment Standard is confusing and misleading. She suggested that a footnote be included for clarification.

Mark Head explained that the memo, attached as Communication Item 5c in the agenda, provides a more thorough explanation why the Information and Communication Standard and the Employment Standard are considered “not applicable”.

Maureen Tymkow, Committee Member, suggested consulting with caregivers and parents of children with disabilities when incorporating policies relating to Complete Communities and Community Design. She noted that this demographic could get overlooked since they may not necessarily be utilizing Regional programs or services, and that their feedback would be very valuable. Mark Head undertook to take the suggestion under consideration and review with Regional staff involved in the ROP Review.

- b. **Sotabdo Debnath, Capital Project Manager, Real Property Asset Management and Rebecca Fortin, Advisor, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Peel Public Health, Presenting the Active Outdoor Space Project: Phases 1 and 2 and Active Stairwells**

Received

A copy of the presentation is available from the Office of the Regional Clerk.

Rebecca Fortin, Advisor, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Peel Public Health, described some of the projects undertaken by the Actively Designed Buildings Workgroup. Through direction from Council, this inter-departmental workgroup was tasked with providing workplace enhancements for activities that support the Term of Council Priority of Supportive Environments for Healthy Living. Rebecca Fortin noted that the Active Stairwells project introduced in May 2013 has resulted in a 30 per cent increase in stairwell use by Region of Peel staff. She noted that the project is also looking to improve the atmosphere and make stairwell use more appealing at 10 Peel Centre Drive and 7120 Hurontario Street.

Rebecca Fortin reviewed the two-phase Active Outdoor Project located at 7120 Hurontario Street which incorporates active design principles such as new walking paths and meeting spaces. The goal of the project is to increase physical activity and reduce sedentary behaviour for employees and visitors.

Sotabdo Debnath, Capital Project Manager, Real Property Asset Management, reviewed the site plan layout proposed for Phase 1. Sotabdo Debnath stated that Phase 2 design ideas would be presented to the AAC at a future meeting.

In addition to trees, Councillor Paterak suggested the use of shrubs and

bushes in the project as they provide many positive benefits to the environment.

Naz Husain suggested that the AAC be consulted regarding improvements to the two stairwells.

## 5. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **Region of Waterloo**, Report dated January 29, 2013, titled "Accessibility Solutions at Intersections and Roundabouts on Regional Roads in the Region of Waterloo"

Received

- b. **Ann Hoy, Assistant Deputy Minister, Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment**, Letter dated July 5, 2013, Announcing the Appointments for the New Accessibility Standards Advisory Council/Standards Development Committee

Received

- c. **Mark Head, Manager, Research and Analysis and Jelena Baker, Planner, Integrated Planning Division**, Memo dated July 17, 2013, titled "Region of Peel Official Plan Review 2013 - Accessibility Policies"

Received

See also Delegations – Item 4a

## 6. REPORTS

- a. **Accessible Transportation Master Plan Update (Oral)**  
Update by Hillary Calavitta, Principal Planner,  
Transportation Planning Division, Region of Peel

Received

A copy of the presentation is available from the Office of the Regional Clerk.

Hillary Calavitta, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning Division, provided an update on the Accessible Transportation Master Plan. She noted that the Open House held on June 17, 2013 was very successful. Building on the success of the event, more open houses will be proposed. Hillary Calavitta stated that all comments received at the Open House have been compiled into a database and will be examined to determine areas of focus. She provided a review of the next steps which include a joint AAC/ATAC (Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee) focus group on policy shifts scheduled for September 17, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. All AAC members were encouraged to attend.

Raj Chopra inquired how other modes of transportation such as GO Transit and local conventional transit are involved in the Master Plan and how these modes of transportation would be interlinked. Hillary Calavitta explained that the Region of Peel provides paratransit service for persons with disabilities, however, the use of local conventional transit is also a good accessible transportation option. She noted that persons utilizing paratransit service do not become ineligible when conventional transit is used. The use of a cross-service transfer system is being explored in an effort to encourage conventional transit use. Hillary Calavitta noted that GO Transit was a participant at the Open House, however, discussion needs to take place regarding the participation of GO Transit in the overall plan. A discussion on this topic with transit stakeholders is scheduled for September 9, 2013.

Councillor Paterak inquired if a door to door assistance service, such as the one that has been implemented in Portland, Maine which ensures that clients safely reach their destination point, would be considered. Hillary Calavitta responded that different service delivery models that address the demographic and geographic needs of the Region, are being considered.

**b. Updates**

**i) Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program Monthly Update (June/July/August) (Oral)**

Update by Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel

Received

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, stated that the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) training modules have been completed and that training for Regional staff is underway. A booklet has been developed for staff that do not have access to a computer, as well as, a brochure for volunteers. Meenu Sikand noted that work is underway to prepare the annual provincial IASR progress report.

As part of the new recruitment process, letters have been distributed to various organizations in search of individuals interested in becoming members of the AAC. Meenu Sikand encouraged AAC members to pass on the message within their networks.

Meenu Sikand asked members to hold the date for the next International Day of Persons with Disabilities event scheduled for December 3, 2013 in the Council Chamber. An e-mail with more details about the subject event will follow as planning gets underway. She also reminded AAC members of the upcoming Run, Walk and Roll event scheduled for October 26, 2013 and encouraged participation from everyone.

ii) **Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan Update**

Received

iii) **Subcommittee Updates – Nil**

iv) **Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Updates**

**Additional Item – Item 6b-iv-1:**

1. **Roundabouts in the Town of Caledon (Oral)**

Received

See also Approval of Agenda

Maureen Tymkow shared the following draft motion presented at the Town of Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on July 18, 2013, regarding roundabouts:

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

“Whereas, the Accessibility Advisory Committee is committed to increasing accessibility and removing barriers for persons with disabilities; and

Whereas, if accessibility is not considered, roundabouts and traffic signals can create a major barrier for persons with disabilities; and

Whereas, other regions and municipalities in Ontario are adopting accessibility principles to ensure key accessibility measures are in place when developing and retrofitting roundabouts and traffic signals;

Therefore be it resolved, that the following accessibility principles regarding roundabouts be adopted;

- Audible pedestrian signals;
- Tactile advisory surface indicators;
- Tactile guide strips;
- Yellow curbs at pedestrian refuge islands;
- Smart channels;
- Roundabout Accessible Traffic Control Signals;
- Ladder crosswalks; and
- Red light cameras at high traffic and roundabout intersections

That the following accessibility principles at new and retrofitted intersections with traffic signals be adopted:

- Audible pedestrian signals;
- Tactile advisory surface indicators;
- Tactile guide strips;
- Yellow curbs at pedestrian refuge islands;
- Smart channels;
- Ladder crosswalks; and
- Red light cameras at high traffic and roundabout intersections

That this resolution be forwarded to the Region of Peel and its member municipalities; and



That the principles be communicated by Council to Regional Council and applicable Staff; and

That Peel Regional Council adopt the same principles.”

Maureen Tymkow inquired as to the process to have the motion presented to Regional Council. Kathryn Lockyer, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerks, responded that once Town of Caledon Council approves the motion presented by Caledon AAC, it would then be forwarded to the Region of Peel, at which time it would be placed on a Council agenda.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS – Nil**

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2013, at 1:00 p.m., Council Chamber, 5th floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters, Suite A, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, Ontario.

Please forward regrets to Veronica Montesdeoca, Committee Clerk, (905) 791-7800 ext. 4384 or at [veronica.montesdeoca@peelregion.ca](mailto:veronica.montesdeoca@peelregion.ca).

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.