

MA-133-1



Making Way
For Ontarians with Disabilities

REGION OF PEEL

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

MINUTES

AAC-2012-3

The Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee met on March 27, 2012 at 1:04 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

Members Present: H. Bajwa; G. Barnes*; R. Chopra; W. Goursky; S. Hames[♦]; M. Parker; M. Tymkow

Members Absent: N. Husain; N. Iannicca, due to illness; E. Kolb, due to other municipal business; R. Paterak, due to other municipal business

Also Present: **Region of Peel:** N. Trim, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services; D. Labrecque, Commissioner of Public Works; C. Reid, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's; A. Macintyre, Manager, Legislative Services; H. West, Legislative Specialist; M. Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist; V. Montesdeoca, Committee Clerk

* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

William Goursky, Chair, presided.

1. CALL TO ORDER

William Goursky, Chair of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION AAC-9-2012:

That the agenda for the March 27, 2012 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting include a communication from Maureen Tymkow, AAC Member providing further information regarding roundabouts, to be dealt with under Communications – Item 4b;

And further, that the agenda for the March 27, 2012, Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

See also Communications – Item 4b

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. **Minutes of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC-2012-2) meeting held on February 28, 2012**

Received

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **accessibilitynews.ca, Article posted February 1, 2012, titled "Roundabouts a Threat to the Blind, Council Told"**

Received

See also Item 4b and Delegations – Item 5a

Additional Item – Item 4b

- b. **Maureen Tymkow, Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member**, E-mail dated March 23, 2012, Providing Further Information Regarding Roundabouts

Received

See also Approval of Agenda, Communications – Item 4a and Delegations – Item 5a

Glenn Barnes, Committee Member, arrived at 1:12 p.m.

5. DELEGATIONS

Item 5b was dealt with.

- b. **Adaoma Patterson, Specialist, Peel Region Poverty Strategy, Human Services**, Providing Information and Seeking Feedback on the Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy

Received

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

Adaoma Patterson, Specialist, Peel Region Poverty Reduction Strategy, provided information regarding the Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee, which was formed in response to the Provincial announcement regarding the creation of a province-wide poverty reduction initiative. Four key issues were identified as part of the 2012-2015 Strategy that require significant attention:

- Economic Opportunity;
- Income Security;
- Food Security, and
- Affordable/Accessible Transportation

Adaoma Patterson requested the assistance of the AAC to further define the four issues, identify solutions and provide input regarding other areas that could be addressed.

The Committee agreed that input could be provided through participation in community focus groups. Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, undertook to follow up with Adaoma Patterson regarding upcoming focus group sessions.

Glenn Barnes inquired how many individuals have a physical or mental disability of the 167,000 people identified as facing significant challenges in Peel. Adaoma Patterson undertook to follow up and provide the information.

Glenn Barnes commented that income security programs are difficult to access and may be a hindrance to individuals in need of assistance, and stated that the system needs to be extensively reviewed. Adaoma Patterson noted that the Region of Peel has submitted suggestions for change, however, the Provincial government is faced with added pressures such as fiscal restraints. She stated the Region is willing to work with the Province and key stakeholders to promote advocacy and ensure the issue is kept on the forefront.

Maureen Tymkow stated that the word "poverty" used in the tagline of "Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy" suggests a negative connotation as not all individuals facing difficulties consider themselves to live in poverty. Committee members concurred and suggested that emphasis be placed on recognizing the issues that people are facing and seeking ways to better address the issues. Suggestions were made to include specific disability groups such as CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind) as active participants in the focus group sessions.

William Goursky inquired how the success of the Strategy would be measured. Adaoma Patterson advised that each key issue would be measured using Results Based Accountability (RBA) metrics.

William Goursky thanked Adaoma Patterson for the information provided and offered the assistance of the Committee in the area of accessibility. He requested that the AAC be kept up to date as the Strategy moves forward.

- a. **Joe Avsec, Manager and Sean Ballaro, Supervisor, Traffic Engineering, Public Works, Providing Information Regarding Roundabouts in the Region of Peel**

Received

See also Communications – Items 4a and 4b

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

Joe Avsec, Manager, Traffic Engineering, Public Works, provided an overview of roundabouts in the Region of Peel, including accessible features for pedestrians. Joe Avsec highlighted key benefits of roundabouts, which include:

- A continuous flow of traffic;
- Reduced number of conflict points between vehicles and pedestrians;
- Reduced potential for serious collisions;
- Speed reduction approaching the roundabout;
- Environmentally friendly, and
- Lower operational costs

William Goursky inquired how the determination is made to use roundabouts over other forms of traffic signals. He commented that roundabouts are not pedestrian-friendly and that their benefits are more for traffic control. Joe Avsec responded that the use of roundabouts in the Region of Peel is new and that only one currently exists at the intersection of Dixie Road and Old Base Line Road in Caledon. He acknowledged that improvements can be made to make them more user-friendly for pedestrians, especially those with disabilities, and was open to explore options.

Dan Labrecque, Commissioner of Public Works, advised that various factors are considered when contemplating the use of roundabouts, including cost implications, land use, pedestrian use and overall practicality. He stated that education and continuous consultation with the AAC is an important part of the process moving forward.

William Goursky suggested the use of a working group to assist with the review. Dan Labrecque responded that information sessions could be held to gather information and share ideas.

Councillor Hames reiterated the benefits of roundabouts, especially in Brampton subdivisions where stop signs are being ignored, and stated that the use of roundabouts would force traffic to slow down. She noted that roundabouts function well in other cities around the world and stressed the importance of providing accommodations for persons with disabilities to ensure their safety.

Maureen Tymkow, AAC Member, raised concern with the lack of communication on the issue of proper use of roundabouts, and that the public is confused about the location of future roundabouts. She referenced locations in Peel where roundabouts were being considered, noting that the AAC had not yet been consulted.

Dan Labrecque advised of two planned roundabouts currently in the design phase and committed to engaging the AAC in discussions moving forward.

- b. **Adaoma Patterson, Specialist, Peel Region Poverty Strategy, Human Services, Region of Peel, Providing Information and Seeking Feedback on the Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting

Additional Item – Item 7a was dealt with.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Appointment of New Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member**

RECOMMENDATION AAC-10-2012:

That Dely Farrace be appointed to the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee for a term ending November 30, 2014, or until a successor is appointed by Regional Council.

Councillor Hames departed at 2:49 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was lost and in accordance with Section III-4 of the Procedural By-law 57-2006, as amended, the meeting stood adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

The items of business listed on the agenda as published, and which were not dealt with, shall be placed on the agenda of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting to be held on April 24, 2012.