



**MINUTES**  
**Accessibility Advisory Committee**  
**October 16, 2019**

*River Plate Room, Town Hall*  
*Meeting No.6*

**Alternative formats available upon request by contacting:**

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| Committee Members: | Councillor Ashmeed Khan<br>Sepelene Deonarine<br>Barb Dowds<br>Rosanne Purnwasie<br>Kathreen Smith<br>Ray Smith<br>Heather Steeves<br>Julia Stevenson                                   |
| Guests:            | Abiraa Karasalingam, Ajax Resident and Youth Accessibility Leader<br>Jack Phelan, Planner, DRT<br>Aaron Burrige, Deputy Fire Chief<br>Lyle Quan, Emergency Management and Training Inc. |
| Staff:             | Sarah Moore, Committee & Accessibility Coordinator  |
| Regrets:           | Kailey Danks, Donna Mullings, Shandell Conboy   |

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair Dowds called the Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

None

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Moved By: J. Stevenson  
Seconded By: R. Smith

That the October 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

## 4. Presentation/Discussion

### 4.1 Durham Region Transit – Ajax Stop Updates

Jack Phelan, Planner with Durham Region Transit presented an overview of stop planning specific to Ajax and across the Region. He shared information on decision-making and planning related to placement of bus stops, distance between stops, stop design, alternative stop design, and engineering of rural cross-sections.

*S. Deonarine entered the Meeting (6:18 p.m.)*

Members asked questions relating to retrofitting of older stops in Pickering Village. J. Phelan noted that approximately 10% of all stops are currently inaccessible (with no concrete pad or pedestrian connection). He identified that hard surface retrofitting is prioritized by ridership, but that DRT is working towards all stops being accessible by 2025.

Members asked questions relating to opportunities to add depressed curbs to the concrete pads. For safety reasons, J. Phelan noted that would not be feasible, and that such scenarios may be looked at to be relocated closer to an intersection or existing pedestrian connectivity.

J. Phelan responded to questions asked about shelters, including details regarding space, size, design, benches waste collection, and maintenance. He shared new information regarding 2019 Fall and Winter service changes to several routes, including improved connections with GO Train schedules, earlier and later service, increased frequency, and rural Durham connection improvements. A Rural Transit Review is currently underway that will help to inform future improvements.

Members shared suggestion for including route numbers on bus stops, noting challenges accessing information through DRT's automated phone schedule. Other Members inquired why when using TripLinx, it does not identify accessible transit stops. J. Phelan agreed to take the Committee's feedback back to Durham Transit.

### 4.2 Enabling Accessibility Fund – Youth Accessibility Leader

Abiraa Karalasingam, Ajax resident and Youth Accessibility Leader continued discussion with the committee on an accessibility project with a budget of up to \$10,000 to apply for under the Enabling Accessibility Fund Youth Project stream. The deadline to apply is November 30, 2019. Members discussed the following projects for consideration

- Beacon navigation project
- Building renovations and retrofits (door operators)
- Intergenerational (Seniors) "indoor/outdoor recreational leisure equipment"
- Tablets at customer service counters with accessibility applications (including on-demand ASL interpretation, via Language Line) and sighted guide training
- Magnetic Emergency Response pouches

Staff sought direction on committee priority projects for budget considerations and agreed to take back ideas and determine budget implications. A summary of estimated costs will be

circulated to committee for feedback by email, in advance of the next meeting, at which a formal direction will need to be decided. The Committee emphasized selecting a project that impacts the most amount of people within the community.

### **4.3 Ajax Fire and Emergency Services**

Deputy Chief Burridge introduced Lyle Quan, Emergency Management & Training Inc. who is the consultant retained to develop the new Ajax Fire Master Plan. L. Quan presented an overview of the project and consultation. He noted that a Master Fire Plan is usually updated every 10 years. The general scope of the project was noted to include staffing needs, facilities, station location, apparatus assessment and needs, service level standards and evaluation of response data, training and public education, updating of existing mater and or strategic master plan, emergency planning, and recommended action plans for strategic priorities.

L. Quan noted that the plan document will review governance, fire prevention programs, emergency response training, apparatus and equipment, maintenance program, facilities, administration, finance, human resources, communications (dispatch services), and the emergency management program. Data collection for the plan's development has comprised of facility visits, policy and procedure reviews, interviews with staff, council and community, standards review, occupational health and safety act. From all of the data collected, a set of recommendations will be created to form the foundation of the Master Plan for the next ten years.

L. Quan reviewed the questions from the internal and external surveys and discussed next steps and timelines, noting public consultation will close on October 18, 2019 and that a report to Council is scheduled for December 2019. He responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to accessibility as a consideration of the Plan. Members shared suggestions including creation of a voluntary emergency response registry, where someone could elect to have accessibility needs/emergency/medical contacts put on file with Fire & Emergency Services. Deputy Chief Burridge noted that is something that could be looked into as part of the Plan. The Deputy Chief responded to additional questions from the Committee regarding emergency response scenarios for people with disabilities. People with disabilities in high-rise buildings are encouraged to register details with their superintendent, who keeps a master list that can be reported to Fire & Emergency Services.

Chair Dowds share an example of the "My Medical Information" magnetic pouch initiative in the United States, which encourages placement of medical and emergency information to be completed and stored in the pouch on the fridge so that emergency information is available in a consistent and visible way to first responders. Deputy Chief Burridge noted he will be looking into availability of a resource here.

### **4.4 #RespectTheSpace Campaign Update**

S. Moore shared the final versions of communications materials for the #RespectTheSpace campaign, including a brochure, large poster and rack card. She provided clarification on various scenarios questioned by the Committee as to whether an accessible parking space had been appropriately used, noted that the various scenarios were incorporated into a quiz

board for the pop-up sessions. Members encouraged

#### **4.5 Provincial Accessibility Compliance Report**

S. Moore informed the Committee that 2019 is a provincial accessibility compliance reporting year to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility. She provided an overview of the types of questions included on the report and noted that a staff report will be going to the General Government Committee on November 11, 2019. A copy of the report will be circulated to the Committee once available.

### **5. Correspondence**

S. Moore reminded the Committee of the referred motion from Council regarding the Greater County of Sudbury Correspondence (June 26, 219) Re: Onley Report Recommendations. Members were encouraged to consider action on the item for discussion at the next meeting.

### **6. Update from Council**

Councillor Khan expressed enthusiasm and support for the Treat Accessibly sign campaign. He shared a summary of recent dedication events, including tree ceremonies and renaming of the Waterfront Trail to the William Parish Waterfront Trail. He noted that Council participated in the annual Boot Drive for Muscular Dystrophy alongside Ajax Fire & Emergency Services, and other events including Run Ajax and Orange Shirt day. Councillor Khan spoke briefly about 1nnovation Village, the Town's plan to turn Pickering Village into a technology hub for artificial intelligence, cyber security and robotics.

### **7. Standing Items**

#### **7.1 Work Plan**

S. Moore discussed Members input on "homework assignments" in between meetings. She committed to creating a schedule for a site plan review subcommittee and for content submission to the newsletter. The Committee briefly discussed the format, content and presenters for the November 18, 2019 report to Council.

### **8. New/Other Business**

#### **8.1 Upcoming Events**

S. Moore reminded Members about details of several upcoming events and opportunities of interest:

- An Evening with Margaret Trudeau event - October 24, 2019, Trinity Church, Oshawa
- Regional AAC Forum – Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at Regional Headquarters
- Raine Hamilton musical performance - November 9, 2019, St. Francis Centre

- Diversity Conference – Saturday, November 16, 2019, Audley Recreation Centre
  - *Keynote Speaker (John Draper) introduction opportunity*
- Report to Council – Monday November 18, 2019, Council Chambers
- Let's Do Lunch 55+ Event with Unstoppable Tracy – Tuesday, November 26, 2019

## 9. Adjournment

Moved By: H. Steeves  
Seconded By: R. Purnwasie

That the October 16, 2019 Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned.  
(8:05p.m.)

CARRIED