



MINUTES
Accessibility Advisory Committee
November 20, 2019

River Plate Room, Town Hall
Meeting No.7

Alternative formats available upon request by contacting:
sarah.moore@ajax.ca or 905-619-2529 ext. 3347

Committee Members:	Shandell Conboy Kailey Danks Sepelene Deonarine Rosanne Purnwasie Kathreen Smith Ray Smith Julia Stevenson Heather Steeves
Guests:	Jamie Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services – Durham Regional Transit Kassandra Cruciano, Grants & Strategic Initiatives Coordinator Abiraa Karasalingam, Ajax Resident and Youth Accessibility Leader
Staff:	Sarah Moore, Committee & Accessibility Coordinator
Regrets:	Donna Mullings, Councillor Ashmeed Khan, Barb Dowds

1. Call to Order

Chair Steeves called the Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved By: K. Smith
Seconded By: S. Conboy

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

CARRIED

4. Presentation/Discussion

4.1 Durham Region Transit – PRESTO “Transit Assistance Program”

Jamie Austin, Deputy General Manager of Business Services - DRT, provided an overview of the Transit Assistance Program (TAP) pilot launched to assist transit riders with low income. The pilot will run, and is being promoted in partnership with Durham Social Services.

He explained how the TAP pilot utilizes PRESTO card technology in place of the paper Access Pass and the difference between both programs, noting the increased advantages and conveniences with PRESTO card use. Persons receiving ODSP and OW are eligible for the TAP pilot, and the pass is renewable every 6 months.

Cost for the TAP is approximately equivalent to 14 rides and capped at \$44.80 per month, and can be topped up periodically or at the beginning of the month. J. Austin discussed the benefits of the TAP pilot, noting that eligibility had been expanded to cover \$35,000 social assistance recipients in Durham, reduces stigma without the need for a separate card, the value on the registered PRESTO card is protected, customers travelling less save, while those travelling more within the month are capped. PRESTO technology also allows for data collection to inform the program, uptake in the program, ridership and policy refinement.

Details of how, when and where the TAP PRESTO card can be loaded were identified to include the Oshawa Centre, Pickering Town Centre, Durham Regional Headquarters and Durham Regional Transit Customer Service Office at the Ajax GO Station. A PRESTO terminal has also been installed at Durham Social Service’s Office in downtown Oshawa.

Challenges with TAP were reviewed. J. Austin indicated that TAP applies to travel on DRT only; there is an additional cost to travel with other transit services such as GO Transit or TTC. PRESTO currently cannot be accommodated on certain trips such as GO bus service under the DRT “One Fare Anywhere” arrangement with Metrolinx to rural and north Durham, and specialized transit trips with private transit carriers.

In 2020, DRT will undergo a full replacement of all PRESTO readers, which may include a pilot of mobile readers to be used on taxis.

J. Austin concluded his presentation by providing customer service contact details for additional information, comments and questions.

Chair Steeves thanked J. Austin for his presentation and opened the floor to questions.

Members asked questions relating to initial set up of the PRESTO card and the need to monitor funds on the card if riding multiple transit systems (DRT, TTC, Metrolinx). Members inquired whether one may have more than one PRESTO card to coordinate funds and J. Austin noted that yes, it is an option. Members inquired the geographical reach of Durham Region Transit. J. Austin noted that service runs from Pickering to Newcastle and to northern Durham Community in Scugog, Uxbridge and Brock, and also provides on-demand coverage. DRT is the largest network in the GTHA in terms of geographical coverage. Members also inquired about measures in place to prevent fraudulent use of the TAP card.

4.2 Grants & Strategic Initiatives Discussion

Kassandra Cruciano, Grants & Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, provided information on grant opportunities through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). She reviewed funding breakdowns and project eligibility. To coincide with the Recreation Culture Master Plan review, 6 grant applications will be submitted for the campus of the Ajax Community Centre, including complete renovation of ice pads 1 & 2, skate park, basketball court, cricket pitch, multi-use sports dome with indoor walking track, and renovation of the Mclean Community Centre change rooms. The project submission totals \$17 million, with the Town responsible for only \$3 million, if selected.

K. Cruciano sought feedback from the Committee on design considerations to enhance accessibility such projects. Members shared comments and suggestions relative to the inclusion of intergenerational parks, shade structures, clear sightlines, accessible benches and recreational equipment for seniors and older adults. K. Danks shared a design best practice to be incorporated into change rooms and washrooms, with the inclusion of seats for young children (e.g. Toys R Us, Buy Buy Baby, etc.). Other comments for design consideration included accessible viewing platforms for activities such as soccer, swimming, and at the ice pads. Transitions from spectator space to play space were encouraged to be identified with high tonal contrast (yellow) tactile surface indicators.

Members asked questions relative to how this grant differs from the Kraft Heinz Project Play submission for the Ajax Community Centre. K. Cruciano shared information about the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Playful Cities Project, and sought suggestions from the Committee on how outdoor spaces in Ajax could be made more playful to people of all ages and abilities. It is a design project for students who will create ideas for relevant outdoor spaces re-design. K. Cruciano encouraged the Committee's feedback via email through S. Moore.

4.3 Enabling Accessibility Fund – Project Discussion

S. Moore and A. Karasalingam reviewed the six projects shortlisted for grant submission consideration included in the summary listing as part of the Meeting agenda package. She discussed each project in relation to timing, resources and cost, noting staff support for Building Renovations and Retrofits or purchasing of an accessible podium as part of the Council Chambers renovation and redesign.

Members discussed and weighed the community benefits of projects listed on the summary sheet and agreed that with Ajax Community Centre being one of the busiest community facilities, installation of accessible door operators for the accessible washroom at the north ice pads would be the most appropriate project for which to pursue funding.

Moved by: K. Smith
Seconded by: R. Purnwasie

That the Town submit an Enabling Accessibility Fund - Youth Innovation grant application under the Community Improvement Stream for the installation of automated door operators at the Ajax Community Centre north ice pads (3&4).

CARRIED

A. Karasalingam and S. Moore noted the application deadline to be November 30, 2019 and will proceed with preparing the submission.

4.4 Accessible Ajax Website Refresh

S. Moore shared preliminary reformatting of the Accessibility website page on www.ajax.ca. She noted she had been working with Communications staff to create a better organized, more visual presentation of information on accessible programs, feedback, planning, reports and resources. She noted that the new layout will also highlight on-going awareness initiatives such as #RespectTheSpace, as well as a social media feed using the hashtag #AccessibleAjax. As a more streamlined, user-friendly format to the Accessibility Buzz Newsletter, a newsfeed will be included on the page and will highlight individual news articles relating to accessibility. S. Moore encouraged the Committee's participation in creation of news article and social media content.

Members provided feedback on the draft layout in relation to font size, photos, opacity, and colour contrast. S. Moore agreed to share the Committee's feedback and provide a final draft before the new website is launched, with the target release for Tuesday, December 3, 2019 to coincide with International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

4.5 #RespectTheSpace Campaign Update

K. Smith, R. Smith and J. Stevenson provided feedback on their participation in the #RespectTheSpace pop-up information stations attended to date. They noted the great participation, especially from young children, in the game and conversations about accessibility. S. Moore distributed copies of the print brochure and info. card. She noted social media messaging is also under development.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Letter of Encouragement: 601 Harwood Avenue South

5.2 2019 Town of Ajax Provincial Accessibility Compliance Report

The items of correspondence listed on the November 20, 2019 Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee were received for information.

6. Update from Council

None.

7. Standing Items

7.1 Work Plan

S. Moore noted that in the interest of time, comprehensive discussion about the Committee work plan will be reserved for the December 18, 2019 Committee Meeting. She encouraged Members to review in advance and come prepared to discuss ideas and areas of interest.

8. New/Other Business

8.1 Upcoming Events

S. Moore reminded Members about details of several upcoming events and opportunities of interest. Reminders will be sent a few days in advance of each event via email:

- Let's Do Lunch 55+ Event with Unstoppable Tracy – Tuesday, November 26, 2019
- Metrolinx DRT Joint Accessibility Meeting – Wednesday, December 4, 2019

8.2 New Provincial Accessibility Resources

S. Moore shared information about two new provincial accessibility resources:

- [Our Doors Are Open: Guide for Accessible Congregations](#)
- [The Business of Accessibility: How to make your Main Street Accessible](#)

8.3 Durham District School Board #IgniteAccessibility Campaign

S. Moore informed the Committee of a new awareness campaign launched by the Durham District School Board called [#IgniteAccessibility](#). She noted a poster campaign has been launched in schools and online, and that The Durham District School Board has released a [2019 Accessibility Guide](#).

8.4 Sensory-Friendly Shopping Event

S. Conboy shared details with Members about an upcoming sensory-friendly holiday shopping experience she is facilitating with LUSH cosmetics in the Pickering Town Centre. She noted that the event was inspired by the bi-weekly sensory-friendly shopping experiences hosted by Sobey's. The event will be held on December 1, 2019 from 6-8p.m. after mall hours and there will be no music, and reduced lighting. Members congratulated her on this initiative and noted they would like to see additional stores take part in the future.

8.5 November 18, 2019 Presentation to Council

S. Moore thanked H. Steeves, D. Mullings and R. Purnwasie for delivering the Committee's report to Council presentation. She noted that Council acknowledged the Committee's hard work and dedication.

9. Adjournment

Moved By: S. Conboy
Seconded By: J. Stevenson

That the November 20, 2019 Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned.
(8:00p.m.)

CARRIED