



Minutes

Accessibility Advisory Committee

May 23, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Chair Christine Farrell
Vice Chair Carol Merton
Member Jason Crone
Councillor Marion Koepke
Member Jacob Morris-Wheeler

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Donald Anderson
Member Rebecca Knisley

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Bethany Chandler, Human Resources Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Farrell called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Chair Farrell Re: Changes to Recommendation from Staff Report OP-23-016

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.a Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on March 28, 2023.

"THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on May 23, 2023."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.a Deputation from Sean Tuckett, Manager of Voyago Re: Transit Services

The Manager of Voyago provided an overview of the features of the permanent fleet of transit buses that are now in service and discussed the concerns raised regarding the accessibility features of the temporary buses.

Committee members requested an update be brought to a future meeting regarding the accessibility features that are being used on the new fleet.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Manager of Voyago indicated that additional statistics regarding accessibility will be presented as part of the mobility transit dashboard at future meetings, including statistics on unaccommodated trips. He also advised that a survey will be conducted after two or three months of the new fleet's service.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Manager of Voyago advised that the transit team has been asked to turn the music down whenever requested. He indicated that calling the Voyago transit supervisor is the best way to provide feedback to the Voyago team and that they will also look at additional options for giving feedback.

Committee members discussed unaccommodated trips, accessible scheduling of mobility transit trips, accessibility concerns, and statistics that would be beneficial for the Committee to see on the dashboard.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Manager of Voyago advised that in most cases, one person at a time is on the mobility transit in 30-minute intervals; however, depending on the location of the riders, in some cases, they would have more than one on board.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Manager of Voyago advised that the Director of Health and Safety and his team created the training program provided to their transit drivers, which is in line with the training provided to transit operators throughout Ontario.

5.b Presentation from John Slocombe, GM Blue Plan Engineering Re: Alpha Street Reconstruction

John Slocombe of GM Blue Plan Engineering provided a presentation to Committee on the Alpha Street Reconstruction project which aims to improve the

road surface and underground infrastructure as well as support the City's active transportation initiatives. The presentation highlighted the following:

- Environmental assessment process;
- Assessment of other accessibility features and options that were identified for further review, including rest stops along the east side of Alpha Street hill, the addition of a sidewalk on the west side of the hill, pedestrian crossings, and active transportation route end points;
- Other issues that have been identified, including long term slope stability issues with the Pottawatomie ravine, pedestrian crossing improvements at the intersection of 10th Street West and 9th Avenue West, installation of a bike assist for uphill accessibility, and a future review of the City's Transportation Master Plan; and
- Next steps for the project.

Responding to a question from Committee, John advised that due to the relatively low volume of pedestrian traffic, the sidewalks will remain as they are now, with rest areas to the side.

Committee members discussed concerns with mobility devices and bicycles sharing the sidewalk, the designed rest areas, and having them wide enough to accommodate both a bench and an area for a mobility device.

Committee members discussed the grading of the road and having rest stops every 100 meters with a bench in a level area, with curbing around it.

AC-230523-002

Moved by Member Crone

"THAT in consideration of the presentation from GM BluePlan Engineering provided on May 23, 2023 respecting the Alpha Street Reconstruction, the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to include:

- 1. A minimum of two rest stops on the Alpha Street Hill at a maximum of 100 meters between stops in a level graded area; and**
- 2. In the design for the rest stops, a hard surfaced area adjacent to the bench for those with mobility devices."**

Carried.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

There were no reports of City Staff.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

11.a Mobility Transit Dashboard - Month Ending April 30, 2023

11.b Report OP-23-024 from Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Transit Data Collection Implementation and Reporting Update - CONSAT 360

AC-230523-003

Moved by Member Crone

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the May 23, 2023, Accessibility Advisory Committee agenda, the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that City Council receive Items 11.a. and 11.b. for information purposes."

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Changes to Recommendation from Staff Report OP-23-016

Committee members discussed the recommendations from Report OP-23-016 from the Director of Public Works and Engineering respecting Mobility Transit Application and Mobility and Conventional Transit Fare Review, and the changes to the recommendation regarding fares as approved by Council from the March 28, 2023, Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

Committee members discussed the current fee structure for conventional transit and requested that a fare subsidy for those on ODSP, and other means-tested criteria, be considered.

The Director of Public Works and Engineering advised that the recommendation regarding a fare subsidy was not approved, in part due to it needing to be presented to the Operations Committee first and that a fare review is scheduled to be conducted through the Operations Committee in the future.

Committee members discussed the mandate of the Accessibility Advisory Committee regarding roles and responsibilities. They requested that a copy be sent to members and a presentation at a future meeting on how the Accessibility Advisory Committee is to interact with other Committees and Council.

AC-230523-004

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that City Council directs staff to bring forward a report to the Operations Committee respecting a review of transit fares, including an affordable transit fare option."

Carried.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Farrell adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.