

Staff Report to Council

Title: Accessibility Update

Report Number: Legislative Services-2024-19

Director: Corporate Services

Manager: Legislative Services

Meeting Date:
Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Date to be considered by Council:
Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Recommendation:

That Council approve the 2023 Accessibility Annual Public Status Update including the Catalogue of Issues.

Executive Summary:

Ontario Regulation 191/11: Integrated Accessibility Standards requires that municipalities maintain a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The draft 2023 Accessibility Annual Public Status Update including the Catalogue of Issues fulfills the requirement in Ontario Regulation 191/11 that municipalities prepare an Annual Public Status Report on the progress of measures taken to implement the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Strategic Priorities:

B.5-Evaluate and proactively plan for infrastructure to meet population growth and long-term sustainability

Financial Considerations:

There are no direct financial implications from approval of the Annual Public Status Report. Financial considerations come to Council in the annual budget process regarding items included in the Catalogue of Issues.

Policy:

- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
- Ontario Regulation 191/11: Integrated Accessibility Standards
- Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) Terms of Reference

Context and Background Information:

Ontario Regulation 191/11: Integrated Accessibility Standards, requires that municipalities must establish, implement, maintain, and document a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, which outlines their strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its requirements under the regulation.

In 2023, the Municipality approved the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2023-2027, and the Regulation requires that the accessibility plan be reviewed and updated at least once every five years.

The Regulation also requires that municipalities prepare an annual status report on the progress of measures taken to implement the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The purpose of this Status Report is to make the public aware of the Municipality of Kincardine's progress in 2023. It also highlights areas for future initiatives. It is provided to Staff to review issues identified and consider them for inclusion in the annual budget process.

In addition, the Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee requires that they "Catalogue and prioritize accessibility issues related to existing municipal facilities" and consult with the various municipal departments on their upcoming plans to improve accessibility in our municipality.

This task is performed annually by the Committee and compiled into a Catalogue of Issues that is attached to the Accessibility Annual Public Status Report. The Accessibility Advisory Committee will continue to inspect Municipal facilities and parks and update the Catalogue of Issues.

The attached 2023 Public Status Update provides an updated format that clearly highlights the progress the Municipality has made in the key areas covered by Ontario Regulation 191/11:

- Customer Service
- Information and Communication
- Employment
- Transportation
- Design of Public Spaces (Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment)

The status update included the strides made by the Municipality to remove barriers in our community. A list of all the accomplishments can be found in the attached in the Annual Status Update and are identified as follows:

- Designed Boardwalk with accessibility features.
- Provided accessible summer camp programs.
- Completed Accessibility Audit of Davidson Centre (DC) with Julie Sawchuk.
- Staff and Committee members completed Accessibility Training with Julie Sawchuk.
- Designed Station Beach accessible washroom.
- Reviewed design of Queen Street reconstruction with AAC and added a limited mobility parking space.
- Installed accessible fixtures in various washrooms throughout the municipality.
- Designed plans for accessible washroom in the Kincardine library.
- Designed playground equipment at Grozelle Park for accessibility.

- Designed an accessible ramp at Tiverton Library.
- Purchased wheelchair for DC.
- Accessible Customer Service Training to all staff and summer students.
- Installed new accessible ramp at the DC pool.
- Confirmed Council's commitment to using the Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS), which may exceed AODA requirements for some design standards; and using the FADS when maintaining or designing work on Municipal facilities or parks.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) has been active in 2023. A list of all the accomplishments can be found in the attached in the Annual Status Update and are identified as follows:

- AAC met 13 times in 2023; including an annual Holiday Social with family members.
- Met with Members of SMART Board to advocate for returning to pre-covid services – requested quote for enhanced services for Kincardine, to present at Budget time.
- Media Campaign for National AccessAbility Awareness week.
- Partnered with Strategic Initiatives to participate in Seniors Forum.
- Participated in the Transportation Study provided by the County of Bruce.
- Advocated for addition parking space on Queen Street. Suggested limited mobility parking space, first of its kind in Kincardine.
- Made 2 Delegations to Council to advocate for accessibility.
- Attended Parks and Recreation Master Plan Information Session, participated in online survey and made recommendations.
- Attended Boardwalk Information Session and made recommendations. Subsequent meeting with Consultant, to demonstrate how the AAC comments were incorporated into the design.
- Provided input into accessible summer programming. Reached out to personal contacts to assist with volunteers.
- Met with Chief Building Official to discuss site plan agreements and timelines and advocate for accessibility.
- Advocated for mobility scooters to be permitted on bike lanes.
- Reviewed 3 private site plans, to advocate for accessibility.
- Reviewed plans for Sidewalk Patios and made recommendations.
- Reviewed 9 plans for Municipal facilities and made recommendations.
- Initiated Facility Audit of DC with Julie Sawchuk and participated in tour and training with staff.
- Toured Fire Station #12.
- Toured 4 facilities to update Catalogue of Issues.
- Toured and prepared an analysis of all accessible parking spaces in Kincardine.
- Toured and prepared analysis of all crosswalks in Kincardine.

Consultation Overview:

Plan and Catalogue of Issues was reviewed and approved by the AAC at the May 30th, 2024, meeting.

Origin:

- AODA

- O. Reg 191/11 Integrated Accessibility Standards
- Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2023-2027

Implementation Considerations:

The AAC will continue to re-inspect municipal facilities and parks and update the Catalogue of Issues. Staff and Council will consult the Catalogue when future renovations or new build of municipal parks and facilities are planned and approved.

Once approved, per O. Reg 191/11, the Status Update will be posted on the website in an accessible format.

Risk Analysis:

The Annual Public Status Update is a requirement of Ontario Regulation 191/11: Integrated Accessibility Standards. If the Status update is not completed the Municipality will not meet the Regulation.

Attachments: 2023 Annual Public Status Update including
Catalogue of Issues
, Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2023-2027

Prepared by: Tracey Guy, Deputy Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Lawrie, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk