



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

Meeting #: 27
Date: September 20, 2022
Time: 6 pm
Location: Electronic Participation

Present: **Chair:** Phillip B. Turcotte
Vice-Chair: Brian Wade
Members: Wayne Antle, Ana Maria Cruz-Valderrama, Holly Ellingwood, Adele Furrie, Murray Gallant, Vania Karam and Don Patterson

Absent: **Member Tammy Kelly**

1. Notices and meeting information for meeting participants and the public
Members of Committee and Council, City staff, media and the general public may join the meeting with this link:

Notices and meeting information are attached to the agenda and minutes, including: availability of simultaneous interpretation and accessibility accommodations; personal information disclaimer for correspondents and public speakers; notices regarding minutes; and remote participation details.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available, upon request.

The deadline to register to speak by phone or email, or submit written comments or visual presentations is 4 pm on the day of the meeting.

This draft Minutes document contains a summary of the disposition of items and actions taken at the meeting. This document does not include all of the text that will be included in the final Minutes, such as the record of written and oral submissions. Recorded votes and dissents contained in this draft Minutes document are draft until the Minutes of the meeting are confirmed by the Committee. The final draft Minutes will be published with

the agenda for the next regular Committee meeting and, once confirmed, will replace this document.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 AAC Minutes 26 – June 21, 2022

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Universal Accessibility at The Ottawa Hospital's New Campus Development

City Wide

Add extract here

Committee Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive the presentation for information and provide feedback as appropriate.

Received

4.2 Accessibility Office Update

City Wide

Add extract here

Committee Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive an update and provide feedback as appropriate.

Received

5. Committee Business

5.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee - Annual Report

Add extract here

Committee Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend that the Community and Protective Services Committee receive the 2021-2022 Accessibility Advisory Committee annual report for information.

Carried

5.2 Working Group Updates - E-Scooters Accessibility Working Group Update

City Wide

Add extract here

Committee Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive the updates for information.

Received

5.3 End of Term Motions & Wrap-Up

City Wide

Add extract here

Committee Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee consider and discuss end of term motions and wrap-up.

Committee voted on the motions below as follows:

Motion No. **2022-27-1**

Moved by Phillip Turcotte

WHEREAS the availability of wheelchair and mobility device-accessible taxicabs (accessible taxicabs) is essential to the full inclusion of disabled residents and disabled visitors in Ottawa;

WHEREAS it has been well established that the sustainability and attractiveness of the accessible taxicab market is on the decline in Ottawa, as is the availability of accessible taxicabs compared to non-accessible taxicabs;

WHEREAS news media have recently reported on instances where disabled passengers have been left stranded to the lack of available on-demand accessible taxicabs;

WHEREAS according to those same media reports, it appears that taxicab drivers have a practice of not accepting service request by disabled clients for accessible taxicabs;

WHEREAS disabled Ottawans have indicated to the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) that taxicab companies have denied them the opportunity to book an accessible taxicab in advance, despite the fact that non-disabled Ottawans are able to book taxicabs in advance;

WHEREAS the right of disabled clients to taxicab services without discrimination on the basis of their disability is protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code; and

WHEREAS the present situation appears to be contrary to Ottawa's obligations under s. 79 of the Integrated Accessibility Standards, O. Reg. 191/11.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AAC calls on City Council and city staff to act immediately to address the availability of accessible taxicab cabs in Ottawa by, amongst other things:

- i. Ensuring that accessible taxicabs are on the road and available to take on-demand requests twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, on par with non-accessible taxicabs;**
- ii. Ensuring that accessible taxicab drivers are not allowed to decline service requests for an accessible taxicab; and**
- iii. Ensuring that taxicab companies are required to offer the same level and quality of service to disabled and non-disabled clients alike, including the advance booking of taxicabs;**

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the AAC calls on City Council to take additional, immediate measures to incentivize and sustain the accessible taxicab market in Ottawa.

Carried

Moved by Phillip Turcotte

WHEREAS, in 2016, City Council adopted the Vehicle for Hire By-Law, By-law No. 2016-272 which, amongst other things permits the operation of Private Transportation Companies” (PTCs), like Uber and Lyft, to operate in Ottawa;

WHEREAS, despite recommendations to the contrary by some members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee and disabled communities in Ottawa more broadly, the Vehicle for Hire By-Law allows PTCs to operate in Ottawa without providing services to persons with disabilities who would require an accessible PTC vehicle capable of accommodating a wheelchair or mobility scooter;

WHEREAS, PTCs in other municipalities across North America do provide services to disabled persons who require an accessible PTC vehicle;

WHEREAS the Vehicle for Hire By-Law excludes disabled residents and tourists in Ottawa from a class of service otherwise available to non-disabled residents and tourists;

WHEREAS initiatives like the Vehicle-for-Hire Accessibility Fund, while well-intentioned, only further reinforce the exclusion of disabled residents and tourists from a class of service otherwise available to non-disabled residents and tourists; and

WHEREAS this exclusion is Ableist and contrary to the spirit and intent of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, and the building of an inclusive and disability-positive city;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAC call on City Council to amend the Vehicle for Hire By-Law to require PTCs to provide services to disabled persons by way of accessible PTC vehicles; and BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the AAC call on the City to immediately enter into discussions with PTC providers to encourage them to willingly provide these services pending regulatory changes.

Withdrawn

Motion No. **2022-27-3**

Moved by Phillip Turcotte

WHEREAS access to quality, reliable, and accessible public transportation options is vital to the full inclusion and participation of disabled residents in Ottawa;

WHEREAS Para Transpo is meant to provide a level of inclusionary public transit service that OC Transpo's bus service cannot;

WHEREAS Para Transpo's door-to-door service for qualifying disabled residents is an essential service;

WHEREAS despite the fact that Para Transpo offers a different kind of service than OC Transpo, it nonetheless forms part of Ottawa's public transit infrastructure and is a critical component of that infrastructure;

WHEREAS OC Transpo buses in Ottawa generally provide services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week;

WHEREAS Para Transpo does not provide services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, leaving disabled residents without equitable access to public transit; and

WHEREAS this inequity promotes the segregation of disabled residents and leaves them unable to fully enjoy the city on par with non-disabled residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) calls on City Council to direct that Para Transpo's services be made available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, without delay; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the AAC calls on City Council to properly staff and resource Para Transpo to make such level of service practicable and sustainable.

Carried

Carried as amended by the following motions:

6. Notices of Motions (For Consideration at Subsequent Meeting)

There were no Notices of Motion.

7. Inquiries

There were no Inquiries.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting

To be determined.

In closing, the Chair and members thanked the Committee and staff for the continued support in assist with the Committees work. In turn, staff thanked Committee members for their hard work, countless hours of their time and dedication during the 2018-2022 Term of Council.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm

Original signed by C. Legault,
Committee Coordinator

Original signed by Phillip B.
Turcotte, Chair