

2023 Annual Report

In addition to fulfilling, the ongoing requirements set out in the AODA and the IASR according to the required legislated timelines:

Built Environment

Administration provided the following information and update relating to the Facility Accessibility Design Standards for the City of Windsor:

- a) FADS is all about the “accessible built environment” and relates to adopting specifications that the City of Windsor will use going forward with new buildings, new sidewalks and so on.
 - b) The City of London has been the leader in developing the FADS standards and the document that the City of Windsor’s original FADS was based upon. The City of London adopted their new FADS in 2022.
 - c) The WAAC Committee upon detailed review of the new City of the London FADS and numerous updated FADS from other municipalities in 2022, chose the City of London as their preferred choice as the basis for Windsor’s FADS. The City of London authorizes communities to use their FADS in whole or part as long as proper acknowledgements are provided in the document.
 - d) The City of London FADS will be broken down into individual sections and will be reviewed chapter by chapter by a WAAC subcommittee by noting what has changed since 2006 and what has not. These changes will be reviewed and recommendations made by a WAAC subcommittee and then appropriate members of administration.
 - e) The City of Windsor will be one of the only municipalities with an accessible version of FADS (approximately 300 pages.)
- Administration requested a WAAC subcommittee to review the FADS document. Also included in the review will be appropriate administration members from various areas. Riccardo Pappini, Surendra Bagga, Peter Best, Danika McPhee, Caleb Ray and Nicholas Petro volunteered to sit on this Subcommittee.

Since that time, a Facility Accessibility Design Subcommittee has been meeting one hour every week to do an exhaustive review of the standard and make recommendations for the new Windsor Standard. As of December 2023, the Subcommittee has reviewed up to section 3.7 minus a portion of section one which will be returned to at a later date. The next steps will be for the FAD subcommittee to complete their review and then work with administration from

relevant departments across the Corporation to make needed amendments to the FAD document and then eventually take it to Council for approval. This large, detailed, and time-consuming project will have a tremendous positive impact on the accessibility of city-owned facilities when completed. As such, completion of this project within the next few years is a top priority of the Committee during this term.

- Transportation Planning advises they are making great strides with traffic calming in the city and adds perhaps members have received petitions regarding speed humps on their streets. The issue of accessibility arises with successful petitions especially on streets with no sidewalks and they do not want to create a barrier to people who are depending on moving along the roadway to get where they need to go. The standard speed hump layout is approximately 85 millimeters tall and the speed hump has to taper on the side. They recognize that may be an issue for some people with mobility devices trying to navigate over that space. The other potential concern that has been flagged is the detectability of a speed hump for people with low vision. In order to address those concerns, they are proposing a few changes to their standard speed hump layout. The first would be increasing the width of the gap, and asks WAAC to comment on how best to address the detectability for people with low vision. They are hoping to put together a modified speed hump design for these streets without sidewalks (including the committee's input); trial that at a handful of locations that they can put in this year and then report back to WAAC as well as to the Environment and Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee with the results (as a one year pilot)

Some of the accessibility issue raised to date are as follows:

Administration noted: "Upon visiting a few speed humps, it was observed that the slope is not consistent between different speed humps and the cross slope at the end can be a bit too extreme. If there are no sidewalks, then persons will have to navigate these with assistive devices and also with their white canes for low vision and blind. If they are not designed thoughtfully with gradual slopes and cross slopes that are consistent with the exact specs, then they can potentially become significant barriers to the travel and independence of individuals with certain types of disabilities. Going forward there should be an alternate way for persons to get to their destination and avoid the speed hump as some individuals with certain disabilities can find these extremely painful and are debilitating to cross. If accessibility concerns are noted during the consultation phase, it is suggested that another traffic calming measure be used."

Danika McPhee advises as a manual wheelchair user, she finds the humps to be a minor annoyance but imagines that a power wheelchair would potentially bottom out and be costly to repair.

Riccardo Pappini remarks that many of the residential roads in the city have curb and gutter and the gutter does not come out .08 meters so if someone is going through this space, there may be potential for one wheel on the concrete gutter and then the other wheel on asphalt which could be uneven. He suggests that in the .08 meter space, that a consistent material face the curb to the edge of that hump, i.e. concrete

Peter Best agrees that traffic calming is essential, however, putting in a speed hump is a barrier and becomes a liability for someone with a white cane or power chair as the speed hump ages. There is a need to extend through the curb with a passage that is safe and consistent.

Nicholas Petro adds his concern relates to the elevation changes and asks how ice buildup (for those with low vision) is handled during the winter months.

A representative from WACC, Danica McPhee, attended the Council session discussing traffic calming to provide input on behalf of the Committee and persons with disabilities.

- Application for Funding from Capital Fund 7086008 –from Your Quick Gateway (Windsor) Inc. Rosanna Pellerito, Director of Corporate Services, CFO for the Windsor International Airport is present and provides the following background information relating to the request for funding: □ The Windsor International Airport falls under the accessibility guidelines of the Federal Government (Accessible Canada Act) and they are currently working on an Accessibility Plan to be implemented in 2024 for the Airport. □ Looking to install a hearing loop copper wire in their pre-board and check-in counters to assist passengers who are hard of hearing when they come to the airport. The project will require the removal of the carpet in the pre board, to install the copper wire on the floor, replace the carpet and install the units at each of the check-in counters that will work with anyone with a hearing aid with a t-coil inside. The cost of the entire project is approximately \$67,000.
- Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Nicholas Petro, That the request for funding from Your Quick Gateway (Windsor) Inc. in the upset amount of \$67,000 in invoiced costs from the Capital Fund 7086008 for the installation of a hearing loop system, and the removal and installation of new carpeting at the Windsor International Airport BE SUPPORTED. Carried.
- Accessible Pedestrian Signals Standard
 - Shauna Boghean, Vision Loss Rehab Ontario and Mobility and Orientation Instructor appears before the Committee and she advises that there are 27 audible pedestrian signals throughout the city and requests working with Traffic and Engineering to determine the capability of the Campbell and Polaris Systems. She adds that replacement, and/or tweaking may be required to develop a safe standard. She noted that they will be meeting with Ian Day on October 20, 2023 at the Strabane and Wyandotte intersection to review ongoing

issues on behalf of blind and low vision individuals. She further indicates that a totally blind individual will be present at the October 20, 2023 site visit to provide comment.

- Peter Best expresses that immediate action is required. He advises that he and Shauna Boghean have worked with blind and visually impaired individuals to determine their specific needs. There is a need to understand the difference between the two technologies (Campbell and Polaris systems) and to discern what will work at what environment and, why they are not operating to the benefit of the client at any given intersection. There is also a requirement to train the client in how to use the APS systems because pushing the button does not work for everyone.
- Several intersections were visited soon after by Ian Day's team, Peter Best, Shauna Boghean and Gayle Jones to physically demonstrate and to go through all of the settings on both the Polaris and the Campbell to determine a standard on site. The limitations and the capabilities of the systems were reviewed and discussed and some potential standard settings were decided upon for testing. This exercise was extremely useful for all and the groups will continue to work together to develop a safe and workable accessible pedestrian signal standard for Windsor.
- Ongoing support to engineering in their work to update corporate standards to reflect any changes to accessibility standards.
- Providing ongoing support--audits and expertise regarding other City Facilities and properties
- The commemorative bench with personalized plaque was installed in Alexander Park to honour Sandra Friesen former long time member of WAAC. An accessible picnic table was also installed in Alexander Park by Parks. These additions will be enjoyed by the public as well as the many blind and visually impaired residents that live at Lion's Manor that is located across the street from the Park.
- Provide ongoing input on the accessibility of zoning by-law amendments and site plans.

Information and Communication

- Administration continued building its expertise in document accessibility and remediation. Continued developing internal processes for ongoing website review for pdf accessibility. Ongoing skills development and utilization:
 - Advanced to expert level Microsoft Word and Excel including but not limited to the development of customized extensions to the platform
 - Knowledge of languages including VBA, SQL, Java, and Python
 - Experienced on AbleDocs AxesPDF and Axes4Word, and the Equidox platforms
 - Advanced knowledge and ongoing work with Adobe Acrobat DC Pro including batching, troubleshooting, tagging, forms, and customization of the platform.

- Continued ongoing processes to remediate basic to complex documents and replace existing documents on the public and private web spaces. The current state of document remediation and completion on the City of Windsor website is now at the highest level of any prior reporting year. As of December 2023, we have remediated 98.03% of identified documents on the public websites excluding those that are too large and complex for software or originate from external sources. Although these remaining documents may not fully pass our checker quite a few have a fair degree of accessibility built in. New processes have been developed to make these documents functionally accessible and that work will continue throughout the year.

General requirements, Accessible Customer Service and Employment

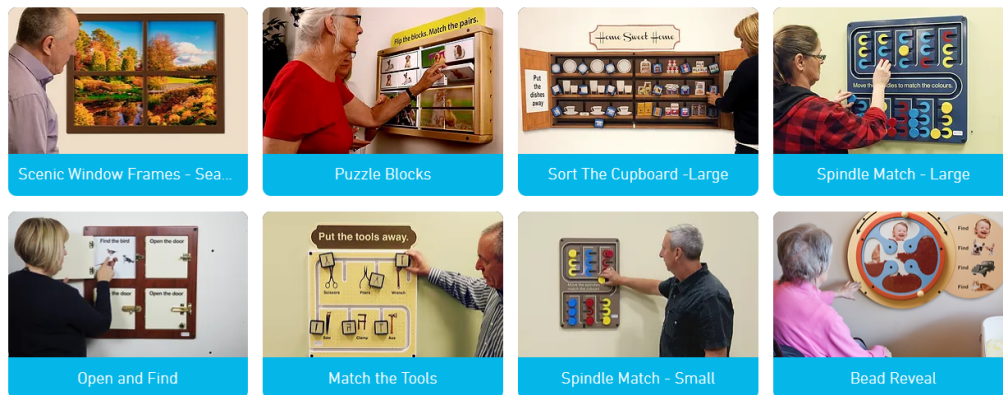
- The Committee had a discussion and planning session regarding accessibility planning priorities for the coming years.
- Ongoing- IASR training as per requirements
- Continue with implementation of Phase one of the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative and met legislated requirements regarding Multi-year Accessibility Plan.
- Continued subscription by the Corporation of the City of Windsor to the Discover Ability Network for hiring people with disabilities as they represent an untapped talent pool that can help fuel innovative growth and a measured return on investment.
- One of the members of WAAC attended council to provide accessibility input and concerns regarding to traffic calming initiatives.
- Accessibility is not only a legislative function, it is also an inherently technical and immersive field incorporates traditional engineering such architecture and urban planning to specialized knowledge focused on the digital ecosystem. That knowledge is in constant use, applied to current projects, and subject to continual change as standards are updated, new technologies emerge, and skills are enhanced as new strategies, tactics, and techniques are adopted.
- WAAC provided \$12400 in funding from their operating budget to enhance accessibility at the Windsor Public Library and Huron Lodge.
 - a. Motion to provide Huron Lodge with funding from WAAC's operating budget to an upset amount of \$7200 tied to the purchase of a Portable snoezelen cart and \$2500 of Wall Mounted Manipulatives.
 - b. Motion to provide the Windsor Public Library with funding from WAAC's operating budget to an upset amount of \$5200 tied to the purchase of a LyriQ reader, 2 ipads, Audio books and earbuds.

Examples of items to be purchased:

Manipulative Activities: utilize a Resident's existing functioning to provide physical, cognitive, and social stimulation appropriate to the ability of the Resident. Manipulatives are meaningful and purposeful, self-correcting, have good contrast and logical progression. The graphic designs are familiar, aesthetically pleasing with intuitive prompting.

Manipulative Activities

Enriching the care environment with self-accessed, purposeful activity.



LyriQ reader- The LyriQ is designed to assist people living with blindness or vision impairments by scanning printed documents and read them out loud. It is spectacularly fast, extremely accurate, and very easy to use.



- WAAC made recommendation to Council to provide \$40,000 in funding from their capital fund to provide a number of very worthwhile items that would enhance accessibility at the Windsor Public Library and Huron Lodge.
 - a. Motion to provide Huron Lodge with funding from Capital Fund 7086008 (ODA) to an upset amount of \$25,000 of invoiced costs in order to purchase a Wheelchair Accessible Bike, height adjustable table, accessible picnic table, Genie Messaging Platform and Abby Engagement model.
 - b. Motion to provide Windsor Public Library with funding from Capital Fund 7086008 (ODA) to an upset amount of \$15,000 of invoiced costs tied to the purchase of a LyriQ reader, Desktop Magnifier, 2 large print keyboards, audio books, and addition accessibility software and programming/training for persons with disabilities.

Examples of items recommended:

The Duet Wheelchair Accessible Tandem Bike

Get outside and enjoy a ride with your loved one thanks to the Duet Wheelchair Bicycle Tandem. This wheelchair bike provides comfortable natural positioning for the rider and easy pedaling for the caretaker making for fun family rides.



Genie Messaging Platform

GENIE™ is an easy to use communications portal, allowing family members to stay connected with elderly loved ones who have challenges coping with the communication technologies (i.e. smart phones, tablets) as they exist today. Family members (remote users) download the GENIE™ app to their Android or iOS smart device and upload ongoing content as part of their normal activities and social media interaction. In addition to uploading media content that documents family activities, family members may also send voice and video messages, using asynchronous interactions that are less demanding and easier for family members to negotiate.



Abby Engagement Model

ABBY™ is evidence-based and proven interactive technology that **invites residents to an activity they can easily do** – such as ‘petting the cat’ with a surprise outcome, or turning a steering wheel to find themselves ‘driving’ on a lovely country road. There are games to play and plenty of stimuli to discover. When activated, ABBY™ will play pre-selected or **personalized and familiar pictures, videos, and songs**. Residents can successfully and independently re-live memories and **settle themselves** by being thoroughly engaged.



Desktop Magnifier for Windsor Public Library Magnifies books, magazines etc...

