



MUNICIPALITY OF CALLANDER INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

MEETING DATE: December 21, 2021

SUBJECT/REPORT NO: 2021-146 ADMIN – Annual AODA Status Update

SUBMITTED BY: Elaine Gunnell, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED BY: Ashely Bilodeau, Senior Municipal Director

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL MOTION

That Council acknowledge receipt of report 2021-146 ADMIN – Annual AODA Status Update for Information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main goal of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) is to make all organizations in Ontario as accessible as possible by 2025. In accordance with the AODA, the Municipality of Callander has a plan that addresses the measures it intends to take in order to make the municipal organization more accessible to persons with various types of disabilities. This plan is reviewed at least annually, and progress is reported to Council.

BACKGROUND

Regulation O. Reg. 191/11: Integrated Accessibility Standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) requires that designated public sector organizations prepare an annual status report on the progress of measures taken in that year and post the status report on their website. This report provides a summary of accessibility measures taken in 2021.

INFORMATION

The following chart shows the description of the barriers, desired actions and strategies to address some of the measures from the 2020 Update that were accomplished in 2021:

DESCRIPTION OF BARRIER, DESIRED ACTION(S), AND STRATEGY TO ADDRESS	PROGRESS MADE IN 2021
Problems with telephone auto-attendant. Make more user-friendly for those with disabilities. Administrative Matter: Change message for quick access to live attendant / change settings to hold for live attendant.	A programming change was made so that you can press 0 at any time during the intro and if no extension is dialled it automatically transfers to the operator.
Difficulty with website. Add meeting dates and information 2 news and events alerts. Ensure dates are clearly communicated.	Dates and times posted are now added to all website News and Alerts.

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DESCRIPTION OF BARRIER, DESIRED ACTION(S), AND STRATEGY TO ADDRESS	PROGRESS MADE IN 2021
Navigating the new website (launched in September 2019) Make the website more intuitive to navigate. Consultation to see how we can improve the content organization and make it more intuitive and user friendly	Intern has been hired and is currently reviewing website for ways that it can be made more accessible and user friendly.
Barrier to accessible travel is the 2-inch drop around drainage grates and manhole covers. Repair these problem areas. Address in Asset Management Plan.	Operations staff have been working to fix these as a maintenance issue. Most have been already addressed in 2021.
Sidewalk width, condition and corners create barrier for those with mobility issues. Consider wider sidewalks when redeveloping or creating new outdoor paths of travel. Address in new sidewalk standards policy	In 2021, we replaced approximately 200m of sidewalk on Lansdowne St. with a new sidewalk that meets the new standard width of 1.5 meters (5 feet). Our annual sidewalk patrol was completed by a third-party contractor and repairs made, including a bad section (part concrete / part asphalt) on Catherine St. – between Main and the Library that was widened, flattened, and resurfaced with asphalt.
Sidewalks are not user-friendly during winter months. Improve sidewalk maintenance on downtown walking routes. Review sidewalk maintenance standards	In 2021 the Municipality sidewalk maintenance standards were reviewed. It was confirmed that they far exceed the minimum maintenance standards set by the Ministry of Transportation.
Lack of wheelchair accessible play structure / swing. Add wheelchair accessible play structure / swing. Design replacement structures for inclusive play. Wheelchair accessible swing already acquired, to be installed. Play structure to be addressed in Parks and Recreation Master Plan.	We installed two accessible swings at Centennial Park in 2021. The new playground equipment, being acquired through ICIP funding, was designed around accessibility standards and the feedback received through consultation. It will be installed by spring 2022.
The library is not accessible to anyone in a wheelchair. A new accessible Library with spaces for all age groups to meet inclusively for leisure/craft/workshops would be helpful. To be addressed when Library moves to new premises. Consider interim renovations to entrance in 2021 budget, with possible funding.	Interim renovations were considered in the 2021 budget and \$10,000 allocated. Due to covid related costs and lack of available contractors, this was not accomplished in 2021, and has been proposed in the 2022 budget.

Additionally, the strategy to address twelve of the identified barriers was to address them in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. In October 2021, the Municipality hired an Intern, who is currently assisting with the Master Plan, which is expected to be completed in 2022.

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We have also continued to make small improvements where needed and practical, that were not included in the 2020 plan update. We added touchless taps in the Centennial Park washrooms and office washrooms, as a strategy to address covid, but these also enhance accessibility.

We are also in the process of trying to improve accessibility for the hearing-impaired listening to virtual council meetings, by upgrading the meeting Owl and installing acoustic panels to reduce sound reverberation and echo. This will also benefit others listening to virtual meetings, or meeting recordings, due to the pandemic restrictions.

CONSULTATION

Tim McKenna, Manager of Operations

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

N/A

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