



HALIFAX

Accessibility Strategy Annual Update 2022

2022-06-16

Introduction

- The Accessibility Strategy was approved by Regional Council on May 18th, 2021.
- The Strategy contains 30 action items with a completion goal of 2030.
- 19 action items have been started since May 2021.
- An Accessibility Strategy Task Force was formed to oversee the Strategy's implementation

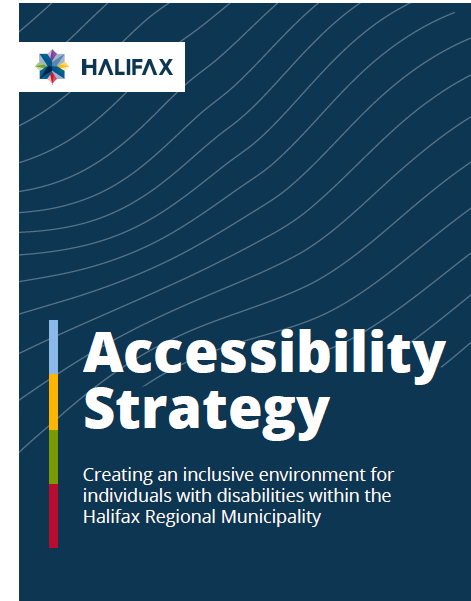


IMAGE DESCRIPTION: The cover of the Condensed Accessibility Strategy

Accessibility Strategy Task Force

- The Task Force is comprised of 15 HRM staff from various business units and the Accessibility Advisor.
- There are a total of 3 subcommittees:
 - Interior Built Environment Subcommittee (6 members)
 - Exterior Built Environment Subcommittee (7 members)
 - Employment Subcommittee (5 members)



Interior Built Environment Subcommittee

Responsible for action items relating to the interior of buildings and other infrastructure.

Assigned a total of 4 action items beginning in 2021.



Interior Built Environment Subcommittee Highlights

- The design build contract was awarded for a new pool at the Halifax Commons, which will include a variety of accessibility features.
- Newly constructed accessible and gender-neutral washrooms are open at the Woodside Ferry Terminal.
- An accessibility auditing tool has been completed and HRM is now in the process of developing a list of potential auditors.
- Moving forward, the operating budget for new buildings with gym floors (including for parasports) will include refurbishing every three years.

Exterior Built Environment Subcommittee

Responsible for action items relating to the exterior of buildings and exterior built environment infrastructure, such as sidewalks.

Assigned a total of 6 action items beginning in 2021.



Exterior Built Environment Subcommittee Highlights

Based on the bus stop inventory completed in partnership with TPW, there have been a total of 731 identified bus stops that require accessibility upgrades; these bus stops are currently being categorized by priority level and investment required.



Image Description: A bus stop at the West Bedford Park and Ride with accessibility features installed. These features are labeled with red text which read “Coloured curb,” “Wayfinding,” and “Way finding marker for bus stop” respectively.

Exterior Built Environment Subcommittee Highlights

- An initial update has been made to the Winter Works [website](#) and will be further revised in Summer 2022.
- Accessible playground components have been installed at Africville Park.
- Accessible beach mats have been installed at Penhorn Lake.
- An additional Hippocamp beach and all-terrain chair was purchased for use at day camps.



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A beach mat at Penhorn Lake

Employment Subcommittee

Responsible for action items relating to municipal employment, including recruiting, hiring, and workplace accommodations.

Assigned a total of 3 action items beginning in 2021.



Employment Subcommittee Highlights

Information regarding workplace accommodations has recently been updated on all external and internal job sites.

In Fall 2021, Employee Relations hired a Duty to Accommodate (DTA) Specialist.



Other Action Items

There were five additional action items beginning in 2021 that were not assigned to subcommittees, but that are being overseen by individual Task Force members including the Accessibility Advisor.



Other Action Item Highlights

- HRM is in the process of procuring an electronic fare collection system for Access-A-Bus.
- Accessible taxi service is expected to launch with a new vendor in June 2022.
- With the approval of the Accessibility Strategy, business units are now required and encouraged to consider yearly goals that are specifically associated with accessibility in addition to the aforementioned diversity and inclusion goals.

Additional Accessibility Initiatives

Several business units have undertaken accessibility initiatives outside of the Accessibility Strategy action items. Examples of these include:

- **Parks and Recreation:** Wheelchair and stick curling was offered at the Sackville Sports Stadium in partnership with the Lakeshore Curling Club.
- **Transportation and Public Works:** Prioritizing the accessibility of construction zones
- **Corporate Communications:** Implemented mandatory alternative text on all images on hfxgov social media channels



Questions?

