



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 12.2.1
Executive Standing Committee
August 22, 2022

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of the Executive Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: - Original Signed -
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant, for Jacki Purcell, Vice Chair, Accessibility
Advisory Committee

DATE: August 11, 2022

SUBJECT: Accessibility Advisory Committee 2022 Work Plan

ORIGIN

July 18, 2022 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Item 9.1.1:

MOVED by Rachele Manett, seconded by Jordan Waterbury

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approve the 2022 work plan and forward it to the Executive Standing Committee for approval.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order Number 2017-005-GOV, *Respecting the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in the Halifax Regional Municipality*, section 17:

Reporting

17. The Committee may make reports to the Executive Standing Committee on the activities of the Committee as necessary, or as requested, together with such other presentations that the Committee may deem advisable.

Administrative Order One, Schedule 6, *Executive Standing Committee Terms of Reference*, section 15:

15. The following Committees shall be advisory committee or liaison with the Executive Standing Committee:

... Accessibility Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Executive Standing Committee review and approve the Accessibility Advisory Committee 2022 Work Plan as set out in Attachment 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility in the Halifax Regional Municipality (formerly called the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities) was established by the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality in July 1996. The Committee was formed to provide advice to Regional Council on facilitating and promoting the access of all residents to their community, including municipal government, programs and services.

On October 12, 2010, Halifax Regional Council determined that the Accessibility Advisory Committee would report to the Transportation Standing Committee. On August 15, 2017, Halifax Regional Council approved recommendations from a Transportation Standing Committee Report titled, *Reporting Structure and Terms of Reference of the Accessibility Advisory Committee*, which established the Accessibility Advisory Committee as an Advisory Committee to the Executive Standing Committee.

The Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee are outlined in Administrative Order Number 2017-005-GOV, *Respecting the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in the Halifax Regional Municipality*.

DISCUSSION

On July 4, 2022, the Accessibility Advisory Committee held a special meeting to identify potential themes for the 2022 Work Plan. The Legislative Assistant and Accessibility Advisor aligned the themes identified by the Committee with the Terms of Reference and returned to the Committee for final selection and approval.

At the July 18, 2022 meeting, members of the Committee and Halifax Regional Municipality staff worked together to identify stakeholders, partners, and identify action items under each priority. The Committee unanimously approved the 2022 Work Plan with the following three priority areas:

- Educating the community on disability and accessibility
- Built Form – Impacts of construction on accessibility within HRM, accessibility of sidewalks, and accessibility of HRM-owned infrastructure
- Accessible parking, parking services, and transportation in HRM

For further information refer to Attachment 1.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendation in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Committee is comprised of 8 community members and 2 Councillors, and meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agendas, reports, videos, and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

The Accessibility Advisory Committee did not provide alternatives.

The Executive Standing Committee could request amendments to the Accessibility Advisory Committee 2022 Work Plan to address specific issues or concerns.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Advisory Committee on Accessibility in Halifax Regional Municipality 2022 Approved Work Plan

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk’s Office 902-943-8741.

Advisory Committee on Accessibility in Halifax Regional Municipality 2022 Approved Work Plan

The duties of the Accessibility Advisory Committee are specified in sections 6-9 of Administrative Order 2017-005-GOV, *Respecting the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in the Halifax Regional Municipality*ⁱ, as written below:

Duties of the Committee

6. *The Committee shall advise Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on matters related to persons with disabilities as follows:*
 - a) *review and monitor existing and proposed Municipal by-laws to promote full participation of persons with disabilities, except for Package B respecting the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy, the Regional Centre Land Use By-law, and any necessary amendments to existing planning documents arising from Package B;*
 - b) *identify and advise on the accessibility of existing and proposed municipal services and facilities;*
 - c) *advise and make recommendations about strategies designed to achieve the objectives of the Committee;*
 - d) *receive and review information directed to it by Council and its committees, and to make recommendations as requested; and*
 - e) *advise Council on disability issues that may have an impact on the budget planning process through the Budget Committee of the Whole process.*
7. *To advise business units in responding to issues and concerns of persons with disabilities, when requested to do so by the Chief Administrative Officer.*
8. *To host community consultations related to accessibility in the Municipality, including an annual Town Hall Meeting, and report to the Executive Standing Committee on the issues identified through such community consultations.*
9. *Significant municipal matters, plans and programs having an impact on persons with disabilities and the disability community shall be referred to the Committee for its consideration and recommendations to Regional Council through the Executive Standing Committee, except for Package B respecting the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy, the Regional Centre Land Use By-law, and any necessary amendments to existing planning documents arising from Package B.*

To effectively carry out the duties outlined above, members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) will gain a deeper understanding of the programs, services, and strategies relating to persons with disabilities and accessibility within the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), and provide advice on the impact in the community to HRM staff and the Executive Standing Committee.

The three items listed in the Subcategories/Action column listed below were identified at the July 2022 AAC meeting as priorities for 2022. The actions listed in the Performance Outcomes column indicate the AAC's desire to convert learning objectives to action.

Subcategories/Action	Alignment with Terms of Reference	Resources required other service providers, Government, Funds, etc.	Time Frame	Desired Outcome	Performance Indicators: Progress Tracking
<p>Priority 1: Educating the community on disability and accessibility</p>	<p>Sections 6 (b)-(c), & 8</p>	<p>Expertise of staff members of HRM (Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO, Parks & Recreation, Halifax Public Libraries, Customer Contact Centres, Government Relations & External Affairs, and Municipal Clerk's Office) regarding accessibility services, education on accessibility and persons with disabilities facilitated by the HRM.</p> <p>Support from the Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO, Municipal Clerk's Office, and other partners in the planning and execution of the Annual Town Hall.</p> <p>Expertise of Committee members and organizations in the HRM that advocate for persons with disabilities and prioritize accessibility.</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>The Annual Town Hall will serve as an opportunity for Business Units of the HRM to provide information to the community on programs, services, and strategies relating to accessibility, and for the community to provide feedback to the HRM on the impact of these programs, services, and strategies.</p> <p>Committee members will receive information about programs, services, and strategies relating accessibility services and education within the HRM through presentations at Committee meetings with emphasis on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessibility services and education through Parks and Recreation at camps, programs, and facilities - Accessibility services and education at Halifax Public Libraries - Broad municipal services for those with intellectual disabilities - Standards for ASL interpretation, CART, and other interpretation services at meetings and events of the HRM 	<p>Committee members will work with staff in the planning and hosting of the 2022 Annual Town Hall, and forward the report to Executive Standing Committee.</p> <p>Committee members will receive presentations from at least 2-3 Business Units regarding this priority area.</p> <p>Where data regarding these issues is lacking within the scope of the Halifax Regional Municipality, the Committee will forward motions to the Executive Standing Committee regarding collection of data for evidence-based decision making.</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The relationship between the HRM and the Accessibility Directorate - Live chat option for HRM website, 311 <p>The Committee will provide information about issues facing persons with disabilities and relating to accessibility on these topics to Regional Council through the Executive Standing Committee.</p>	
<p>Priority 2: Built Form - Impacts of construction on accessibility within HRM, accessibility of sidewalks, and accessibility of HRM-owned infrastructure</p>	Sections 6 (a)-(c)	Expertise of staff members of HRM (Public Works, Planning & Development, Parks and Recreation, and Property, Fleet & Environment) with knowledge about programs, services, strategies, and by-laws relating to impacts of construction on accessibility within HRM, accessibility of sidewalks, and accessibility of HRM-owned infrastructure.	2022	<p>Committee members will receive information about programs, services, strategies, and by-laws relating to impacts of construction on accessibility within HRM, accessibility of sidewalks, and accessibility of HRM-owned infrastructure programs through presentations at Committee meetings with emphasis on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HRM road and sidewalk audits - Relationship between municipally-owned sidewalks and inaccessible private property - Standards for accessibility considerations in construction projects in the HRM - Impact of curb cuts - Decision-making processes for placement of accessible infrastructure 	<p>Committee members will receive presentations from at least 2-3 Business Units regarding this priority area.</p> <p>Where data regarding these issues is lacking within the scope of the Halifax Regional Municipality, the Committee will forward motions to the Executive Standing Committee regarding collection of data for evidence-based decision making.</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessible playgrounds and information on standards for upgrades - Public washrooms and drinking fountains strategy - Accountability measures throughout each topic <p>The Committee will provide information about issues facing persons with disabilities and relating to accessibility on these topics to Regional Council through the Executive Standing Committee.</p>	
<p>Priority 3: Accessible parking, parking services, and transportation in HRM</p>	Sections 6 (b) & (c)	Expertise of staff members of HRM (Parking Services, Halifax Transit, Public Works, Planning & Development, and Property, Fleet & Environment) with knowledge about programs, services, and strategies relating to accessible parking, parking services, and transportation in the HRM.	2022	<p>Committee members will receive information about programs, services, and strategies relating to accessible parking, parking services, and transportation in the HRM through presentations at Committee meetings, with emphasis on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessible Parking placement/process for selection of parking spaces - Impact of bike lanes on accessible parking - Impact of snow removal on accessible parking - Built form of municipally owned parking lots, parkades, and technology used to facilitate parking (parking meters, hot spots) - Access-A-Bus, areas for expansion/improvement 	<p>Committee members will receive presentations from at least 2-3 Business Units regarding this priority area.</p> <p>Where data regarding these issues is lacking within the scope of the Halifax Regional Municipality, the Committee will forward motions to the Executive Standing Committee regarding collection of data for evidence-based decision making.</p>

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¹ [Administrative Order 2017-005-GOV, Respecting the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in the Halifax Regional Municipality | Halifax.ca](#)

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