



**HALIFAX**

# **Accessibility Strategy Annual Update 2023**

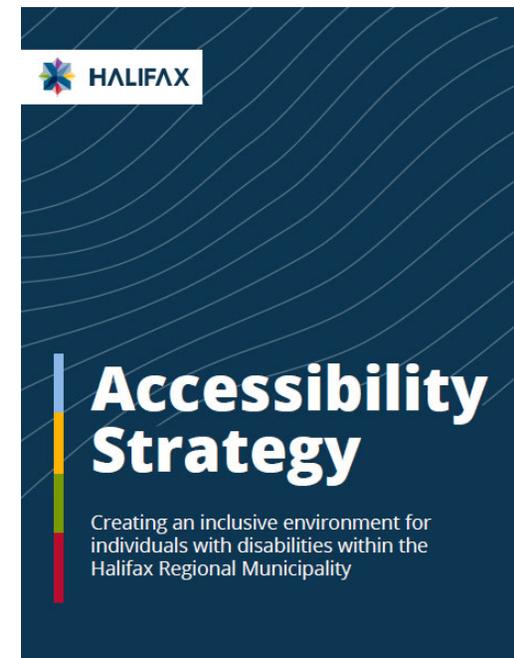
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# Background

- The Accessibility Strategy was approved by Regional Council on **May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.
- The Strategy contains **30 action items** with a completion goal of 2030.
- 20 action items initiated since May 2021.
- An Internal **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 **19 HRM staff** from various business units and the Accessibility Advisor.
- There are currently 3 subcommittees:
  - **Interior** Built Environment Subcommittee
  - **Exterior** Built Environment Subcommittee
  - **Employment** Subcommittee



# Action Item Progress - Highlights

**Use Rick Hansen gold certification and CSA B651-18 standards for future infrastructure in the Halifax region (e.g. curb cuts, public washrooms, and accessible parking spaces) – 2030 deadline**

- Accessible washrooms constructed in Fort Needham Memorial Park.



*Image description:* The newly constructed Fort Needham Memorial Park accessible washrooms. The building sits on a concrete barrier-free pad and has windows spanning the front side. Solar panels sit on the roof.

# Action Item Progress - Highlights

- Traffic Services installed **thirteen accessible traffic signals** with another two planned before April 2023.
- **Sixty per cent** of approved 2022/23 capital playground projects will have inclusive play elements.

# Action Item Progress - Highlights

**Adopt Rick Hansen gold certification and CSA B651-18 standards for current infrastructure, including street infrastructure, owned by HRM - 2030 deadline**

- The playground at the George Dixon Community Centre was replaced with a new all-inclusive JumpStart playground.



**Image description:** The JumpStart inclusive playground at the George Dixon Community Centre. The playground is fully accessible and is coloured grey and red. Accessible elements displayed include a ramp, swings, a We-Saw, We-Go-Around and rubber surfacing.

# Action Item Progress - Highlights

- The **Woodside Ferry Terminal** reopened in fall 2023. The terminal now has accessible universal washrooms.
- Infrastructure, Maintenance & Operations and Design & Construction Services collectively designed, tendered and installed more than 3000 TWSIs in over 560 pedestrian ramps.

# Action Item Progress - Highlights

**Develop review system to audit buildings, public facilities, recreational parks/playgrounds, and trails to assess when repairs or upgrades are needed to maintain accessibility – *2024 deadline***

- An **Accessibility Auditor** was hired to conduct audits on current municipal facilities and assist with Park audits. Regular audits are now being conducted.

# Action Item Progress - Highlights

Increase public awareness, to the disability community, around snow removal – *2028 deadline*

- One-page information sheet created to educate the public on expectations for snow removal based on geographical area, weather conditions and timeframe.

**Image Description:** HRM Snow Removal Guideline Sheet

## Roads and On-street Bikeways

Priority Level	Type of Road	Service Standard for clearing (starts after end of event)	Minimum Accumulation	What roadways should look like
1	Main arterial roads, emergency routes, Halifax Transit routes and roads with steep grades	12 hours	2 cm of snowfall	Bare
2	Residential streets, gravel roads and private lanes	24 hours	10 cm of snowfall	Snow covered but passable

## Sidewalks and Protected Bike Lanes

Priority Level	Priority Level Location/type of sidewalk or bike lane	Service Standard for clearing (starts after end of event)	Minimum Accumulation	What roadways should look like
1	Downtown Halifax and Dartmouth	12 hours	5 cm of snowfall	Bare
1	Main arterials and school drop-off zones	12 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Bare
2	Halifax Transit routes	18 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Mostly bare with salt for traction
3	Residential streets and walkways	36 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Mostly bare with salt for traction

**When to contact 311**  
 Once the service timelines have expired, you can report any snow or ice removal issues on municipal streets, sidewalks or bike lanes by emailing [ContactUs@311.halifax.ca](mailto:ContactUs@311.halifax.ca) or by calling 311.

Please note, clearing timelines may be exceeded during exceptional weather conditions.

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# Action Item Progress - Highlights

**Develop a Workplace Accommodation Policy which outlines a formal process for providing accommodations to job candidates and employees with disabilities – 2022 deadline**

- Workplace accommodations policy, job candidate accommodations policy and supplementary documents are underway but not yet finalized.
- **Draft policy** will be complete by end of **June 2023**.

# Action Item Progress - Highlights

**Implement Mobile Data Computer Software, online booking, and automatic fare systems to improve Access-A-bus booking service – *2022 deadline***

- The Mobile Data Terminal project is now **complete**. A mobile app for fare payment is expected to be implemented in spring 2023.
- The online booking system is a longer-term project.

# Action Item Progress - Highlights

**Increase number of accessible taxis and/or have an alternative provider for accessible cabs in the Halifax region – 2030 deadline**

- **Extra Care Taxi**, the new accessible taxi service, was introduced in July 2022.
- Currently: fleet of **10 accessible taxis** in the Halifax region.
- Steady growth in bookings and ridership during the first six months of the service.

# Action Item Progress - Highlights

**Increase training for municipal staff (e.g. recreation, fire, police, librarians) on how to serve/accommodate persons with disabilities – 2026 deadline**

- **75 employees** participated in '*Going from Support to Inclusion: Accessibility Training*' from May 2022-March 2023.
- This training is now offered **monthly** in Spring and Fall 2023.
- In June 2023, the Accessibility Advisor will offer a condensed accessibility training to **Halifax Regional Police cadets**.

**Thank you**



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