

February 24, 2025

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Accessible Parking Update

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Intro – Jeff Nephew, P.Eng.

- Born and raised in HRM
- Employed with HRM since 2013
- Named Senior Parking Advisor in 2020
- Three areas of interest
 - Policy
 - Legislation
 - Technology
- Primarily concerned with on-street parking only

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Agenda

- Accessible Parking Availability
 - Accessible Parking Design & Planning Guidelines (2021)
- Enforcement
- Legislation
 - Accessible Parking Permits
 - Paid Parking
 - Snow Removal
 - Signage

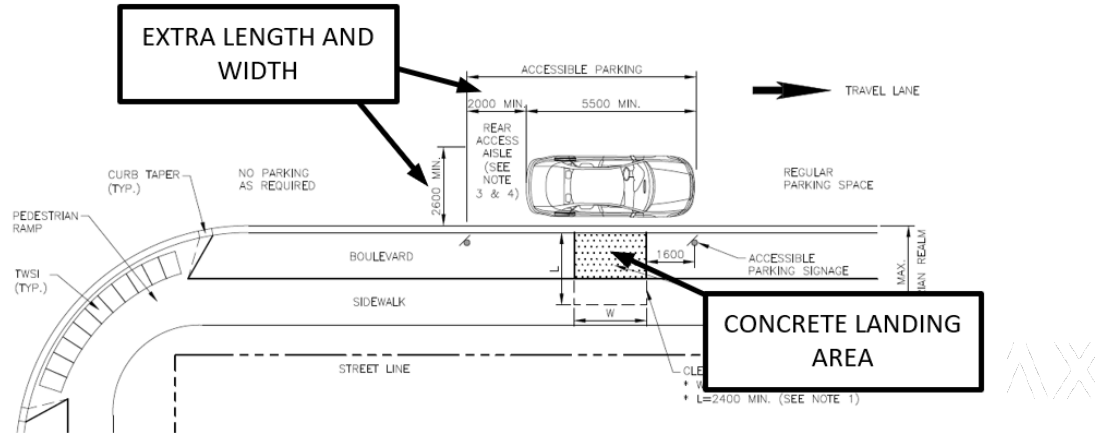
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Accessible Parking Availability

- In 2021 HRM adopted the Accessible Parking Design & Planning Guideline
 - Where?
 - How Many?
 - What should they look like?
- Audits on existing accessible parking spaces
- New lens for project reviews

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Accessible Parking Detail



Enforcement

Parking Services heard that:

- Accessible Parking enforcement was inadequate
 - 2018 Accessible Parking Tickets – 967
 - 2024 Accessible Parking Tickets – 4,606
- Accessible Parking violation penalties were inadequate
 - Increased fines introduced for repeat offenders
 - 154 Tier 2 (\$200) and 3 (\$400) tickets issued in 2024
 - Province still ultimately controls fine amounts

Accessible Parking Identification Permits

- Issued by the Province of Nova Scotia
- Requires the certification of a medical professional
- No fee
- Municipality has no official role outside of enforcement
 - Can direct citizens to resources





Enforcement

Accessible Permit abuse crackdown

- Parking Services staff can verify permit validity
 - Expired
 - Stolen
 - Deceased

Unlike most other infractions, ticket first, ask questions later

- Review is more lenient

Paid Parking

Toronto

“An Accessible Parking Permit holder may park at on-street parking meters, parking machines or mobile only zones without depositing a payment during the hours of legal operation.”

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Paid Parking (cont.)

What we heard

- Accessible permit holders desire quality over quantity
- Fear that a blanket exemption for paid parking would remove the urgency of designing good accessible spaces
 - Accessible Parking Design & Planning Guideline
- Designated Accessible Parking spaces are free
 - Some have time limits

Winter Works

- On street accessible spaces typically cleared with other on street spaces
 - Winter Parking Ban applies to accessible spaces too
 - Residents encouraged to find off street alternatives during snow events
- Report issues via 311

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Signage



Signage Must Haves



RB-52B

- White background
- No Parking red circle/letter P
- Blue International Symbol of Accessibility
- Accessible Parking By Permit Only

Nova Scotia Traffic Signs Regulations

Alternatives - New York State



- Municipality has no direct capacity to change regulations
 - Appeal to provincial counterparts

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Questions?

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