



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: May 8, 2023
To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Gabby Rodriguez, Accessibility, Diversity, and Inclusion Coordinator
Report #: COU23-054
Attachments: 2021 and 2022 Status Update to the City of Stratford 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Title: 2021 and 2022 Status Update on the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Objective: To update Council on the progress made in 2021 and 2022 on the City's 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Background:

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was enacted by the provincial government in 2005. Under the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) adopted under that Act, the City is required to adopt a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and provide annual updates to Council on the progress made.

The 2018-2022 Multi-Year Plan was adopted on October 9, 2018. This is the fourth annual report since adoption. The City is committed to providing equal treatment to people with disabilities with respect to the use and benefit of services, programs, goods, and facilities in a manner that respects their dignity, independence, and integration, and is equitable in relation to the broader public. This commitment extends to residents, employees, visitors, and other stakeholders with visible and non-visible disabilities.

Analysis: The 2021 and 2022 Status Update, attached to this report, provides an overview of the initiatives completed in 2021 and 2022, and how the City has maintained compliance with the legislation. The Status Update was circulated to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for review no significant changes were requested.

The City is in the first stages of developing the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan which will be finalized and released in the final quarter of 2023.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

This report does not impact the current operating budget as the City has established a set cost to improve services and eliminate barriers. Infrastructure and Development Services have a capital budget of \$50,000 for accessibility improvements, and Community Services has a capital line for playground replacement that can range between \$80,000 - \$120,000.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

The City will continue to review and improve its services, and facilities, and work towards eliminating barriers and creating an accessible City that can serve everyone with ease. Two future projects may impact the operating budget for 2024. The first will be renovating Stratford Police Headquarters by upgrading to provide an accessible entrance (\$275,000). The second will be implementing software that will assist in auditing the City’s website for accessibility and remediating PDF documents (\$25,000). This will ensure communication and information reaches all public members effectively. The financial impact for 2024 will be an estimated total of \$300,000 and will be presented as part of the 2024 budget process.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Mobility, Accessibility and Design Excellence

Improving ways to get around, to and from Stratford by public transit, active transportation and private vehicle.

Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

Alignment with One Planet Principles

Equity and Local Economy

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the 2021 and 2022 Status Update on the City of Stratford 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be received and uploaded to the City’s website.

Prepared by: Gabby Rodriguez, Accessibility, Diversity, and Inclusion Coordinator

Recommended by: Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer