



Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

Committee Members Present: Roger Koert – Chair Presiding, Diane Sims, Jamie Pritchard, Andy Mark, Jen Weber, Kathleen Barry, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Brittany McCabe

Staff Present: Nathan Bottema – Project Engineer, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Joan Jones, Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator, Oonagh Vaucrosson – Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Roger Koert, Chair presiding, called the AAC meeting to order at 12:03 a.m.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgement and a Moment of Silent Reflection.

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Policy.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Jamie Pritchard

Seconded by Diane Sims

THAT the minutes from the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated January 7, 2025 be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Delegation – Revised Preliminary Design for National Stadium Public Washrooms

Tim Wolfe, Director of Community Services presented new designs for the washrooms at National Stadium which includes one universal washroom, a women's washroom and a men's washroom.

AAC provided the following comments and suggestions regarding the proposed design:

- automatic door openers installed on all three washroom entrance doors;
- zero threshold entrances into all three washrooms;
- the women's and men's washroom entrance doors are designed to open out, review the same for the universal washroom;
- ensure that towel dispensers are located near sinks;
- resize the stalls in both the women's and men's washrooms to have one larger accessible size in each to have as an alternative option to the universal washroom.

Tim Wolfe will update the AAC on the progress of the washroom and when construction may commence.

Diane Sims inquired about the status of the accessibility work at the entrance to the Police Station on George Street. The AODA deadline of January 1, 2025 has now passed. Tim Wolfe updated the committee that there were problems with the previous contractor and a new contractor has been hired to finish the door. There are a few small items regarding the ramp that also need to be addressed to have it ready for use.

Tim Wolfe no longer present at the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

5. Infrastructure Services Update

Nathan Bottema, Project Engineer provided the following updates for 2025:

- missing sidewalk link on Gordon Street (west) to be completed;
- finish small section of sidewalk on Willow Street (near Canterbury Ave.);
- Erie Street sidewalk from Lorne Avenue to connect with sidewalk at Midas;

- staff is applying for an active transportation grant for funding for a multi-use path along a section of Lorne Avenue;
- Erie Street multi-use path from Lorne Avenue to CRP is being re-done;
- a study was completed to improve the intersections at Huron/Church, Waterloo/Ontario and Downie/George;
- the Huron/Church intersection will be completed this year, bumping the curb out and reducing the pedestrian crossing distance at this location;
- regarding the request to investigate curb cuts on Short Street at Culliton Street – the sidewalk on Short Street is significantly lower than the street (13-14% grade difference), which does not meet AODA requirement for sidewalks and would require approximately 40-60 meters of sidewalk to be raised and replanting the trees along the street.

Roger Koert inquired if Nathan Bottema could price raising the Short Street sidewalk and curb cuts at Culliton Street to give the AAC an idea of what the cost of the project might be;

- staff has surveyed the missing sidewalk Forman Avenue (from Britannia north) in front of the church and confirmed trees, hydro and utilities in the way, however, they are looking at adding it as a priority section in 2026;
- in the next few weeks, staff will be finalizing the pedestrian crossover locations, aiming to complete two more in 2025;
- road resurfacing projects for 2025 will be finalized shortly;
- the process has been started to acquire land to complete missing sidewalk links on Lorne Avenue and Douro Street with an in-camera report will go to Council requesting that staff can proceed to negotiate with the property owners.

Roger Koert suggested that once some of these projects are finalized, the AAC could make a motion at the April or May meeting to apply their engineering budget towards one of them. Nathan Bottema will clarify what the AAC can put their engineering budget towards to ensure that they stay within the parameters of what the funds are intended for.

Councillor Henderson inquired if the multi-use path on Lorne Avenue from Erie to Downie Street is in the 10-year capital project plan. Nathan Bottema stated that

normally very large projects such as this are not included in that plan, however, they are currently applying for the funding.

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Jamie Pritchard

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee requests that a multi-use path along Lorne Avenue from Erie Street to Downie Street be included in the 10-Year Capital Forecast. Carried

6. Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Update

A written update was provided by Oonagh Vaucrosson.

Site plans reviewed in January/February 2025:

- 342 Erie Street (Jenny Trout Centre, 2nd Floor to residential units);
- 156 Albert Street (funeral home to residential units);
- 976 Erie Street (building materials yard).

Outstanding plans to review:

- Rename a section of "Line 29" to "Gibb Line 29", between Highway 9 (Erie Street) and Wright Blvd;
- 1 Crane Avenue (resubmission and response to developers' comments).

The site plan review committee is scheduled to meet to review the outstanding plans on March 10, 2025.

7. Update from the Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator

A written update was provided to AAC members.

8. Update from Council

No new updates.

9. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

9.1 Police Station Update

As discussed in Item 4.

9.2 National AccessAbility Week Plans (May 25-31, 2025)

Oonagh Vaucrosson provided suggestions in the March Accessibility Coordinator Report regarding events for N.A.A.W:

- FADM Town Hall Event;
- Series of school presentations – the power of words in including everyone;
- Inclusive sport presentation – invite Kylie Wasser;
- Funding available 2027 – plan required.

Roger suggested that perhaps the AAC could focus this year on adults and seniors. Committee members could go on a local retirement home tour to introduce the AAC to people. A display could be set up in the lobby's, serve coffee/tea and snacks and visit with people to hear their feedback and concerns on accessibility needs and barriers they encounter. Andy Mark suggested also visiting the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association for an event.

9.3 Council Presentation Summary

Andy Mark inquired if the members have any additional feedback regarding items that the committee could present at Council. Some of the priority projects and recent success stories suggested:

- Stratford Police Station;
- bridge onto Tom Patterson Island;
- SERC site;
- Upper Queens Park - accessibility near the parking lot;
- Mobi-Mats;
- doorbell program;
- curb cuts and sidewalk updates;

Members discussed if it was necessary to have four presentations to Council a year. Councillor Henderson suggested that if the AAC has a topic or item that they want to present or update Council on, then by all means schedule to go to Council. Try to avoid going to Council just to present, save the presentations for new updates or specific topics when they come up.

Diane Sims and Andy Mark will plan for the next presentation for National AccessAbility Awareness Week (NAAW) and focus on some recent success

stories. The committee would like to present at Council prior to NAAW, possibly earlier in May.

10. New Business

10.1 Living in Stratford with a Visual Impairment

Roger Koert has been contacted by Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach regarding a resident in Stratford who is visually impaired and provided feedback on their experiences here. Councillor Henderson will contact Councillor Burbach for an update and report back to the AAC.

10.2 Kayak Boat Launch

Councillor Henderson reported that a citizen has requested assistance from the AAC regarding grant funding for the installation of an accessible kayak launch on the Avon River. Councillor Henderson will follow up with Oonagh Vaucrosson to inquire if there is funding for this type of project and give them some direction and also request an update on the status of the project from the requestor.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the AAC will be held on Tuesday, **April 8, 2025**, at 12:00 p.m. at the University of Waterloo – Room 1003, 125 St. Patrick Street, Stratford ON

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Andy Mark

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee purchase refreshments for the April 8, 2025 Committee meeting. Carried

12. Adjournment

Motion by Kathleen Barry

Seconded by Jen Weber

THAT the March 4, 2025, Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 12:03 P.M.

End Time: 1:28 P.M.