



Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: May 3, 2023

Report Number: SRCFS.23.026

Department: Corporate and Financial Services

Division: Office of the Clerk

Subject: **SRCFS.23.026 Richmond Hill's 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan**

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan to Council for approval and to make the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan available to the public as required by the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That staff report SRCFS.23.026 regarding Richmond Hill's 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be received;
- b) That the Draft 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, attached as Attachment A to staff report SRCFS.23.026, be approved;
- c) That the approved 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be posted to the City's website as required by the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.

Contact Person:

Brian Inglis, Legislative and Special Projects Officer, x6526

Ryan Ban, Manager, Legislative Services/Deputy City Clerk, x5547

Stephen M.A. Huycke, Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk, x2529

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Sherry Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services

Approved by: Darlene Joslin, City Manager

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All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

Background:

Under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)*, the City is required to establish, implement, maintain and document a multi-year accessibility plan (MYAP) every five years, outlining its strategy to identify, prevent and remove barriers for persons with disabilities and meet accessibility standards in consultation with the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee.

The City adopted its first MYAP on February 25, 2013, covering the period from 2013-2017, and its second MYAP on April 16, 2018, covering the period from 2018-2022. The proposed 2023-2027 MYAP reaffirms the City's commitment to accessibility.

Starting in 2022, staff began the development of the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The process included consultation with various City Departments, the Accessibility Advisory Committee and included the review of comments received from the Accessibility Advisory Committee in connection with annual status reports in previous years, and staff analysis of the strengths and opportunities for improvement of the 2018-2022 MYAP.

On April 20, 2023, staff presented the draft 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for comments and consultation and have taken their feedback into consideration. Comments from the Accessibility Advisory Committee related to accessible housing and the various standards that the City has to meet with respect to its facilities as well as those contained within the Building Code Act. While many of the comments were outside of the scope of the MYAP, staff will work to provide insight to and address comments made by the Accessibility Advisory Committee throughout its Term irrespective of its relation to the MYAP.

Overview of the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

The draft 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (Attachment A) proposes a strategic approach based on three interconnected principles:

- Meeting or exceeding standards
- Community engagement
- Continuous improvement

Initiatives in the plan are based on accessibility standards under the AODA and guided by its strategic principles. Key initiatives include:

- Enhancing engagement with the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the community

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- Maintaining and improving accessibility related to accessibility standards for information and communications, employment practices, design of public spaces, and customer service
- Ongoing review of accessibility policies and procedures
- Continuous improvement based on feedback from the community and collaboration with the Accessibility Advisory Committee

The 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is designed to reaffirm the City's commitment to being accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities, and the strategies and initiatives of the plan will maintain and build upon the progress we have made since the first MYAP was adopted in 2013.

Next Steps

Once approved, the new Multi-Year Accessibility Plan will be posted to the City's website as required under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. Staff will begin implementing the initiatives of plan and continue to collaborate with its residents, Accessibility Advisory Committee and other stakeholders on any initiatives which may be relevant to them.

Additionally, the Accessibility Advisory Committee will receive annual status reports on the plan, and those reports will be posted to the City's website. Consistent with the strategy and initiatives of the plan, staff will continue to engage with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to identify new priorities and initiatives and explore ways for the Committee and/or the City to have an impact in those areas.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

There are no financial or staffing implications to this staff report.

Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities 2020-2022:

This report relates to Council's strategic priority of Strong Sense of Belonging. By approving the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, the City will be affirming its commitment to being accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities.

Climate Change Considerations:

Climate change considerations are not applicable to this staff report.

Conclusion:

Staff recommend that Council approve the proposed 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) and that the approved MYAP be posted to the City's website.

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Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. All attachments have been reviewed and made accessible. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Attachment A: Draft 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRCFS.23.026 - 2023-2027 MYAP.docx
Attachments:	- SRCFS.23.026 - Attachment A - Draft 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Apr 23, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Stephen Huycke - Apr 21, 2023 - 2:25 PM

Sherry Adams - Apr 21, 2023 - 3:33 PM

Darlene Joslin - Apr 23, 2023 - 10:02 AM