



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

AAC#03-24

Thursday, November 28, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Council Chambers

225 East Beaver Creek Road

Richmond Hill, Ontario

An Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Thursday, November 28, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers and via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Councillor Cilevitz (Chair)
Sherry Caldwell
Simon Waldman

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Councillor Davidson
Ted Moritsugu
Yuwei Lin
Lawrence Raifman
Shahla Yaghoubian
Barry Munro

Regrets:

Lopa Banerjee (Vice-Chair)
Maxine DiGiovanni

Also in attendance via video conference:

Councillor Thompson

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

M. Kashani, Manager, Design and Construction
H. Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic
A. Hertel, Project Manager, Transportation Planning
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk

S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: S. Caldwell

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried Unanimously

3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest by members of Committee under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

4. Adoption of Previous Minutes

4.1 Minutes - Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting AAC#02-24 held September 26, 2024

Moved by: S. Waldman

a) That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting AAC#02-24 held September 26, 2024, be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

5. Delegation(s)

There were no delegations.

6. Scheduled Business

6.1 Presentation by Mohammad Kashani, Manager, Design and Construction, and Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, regarding an Annual Infrastructure Delivery Division Update on Active Projects

Mohammad Kashani, Manager, Design and Construction, made a presentation to the Committee regarding the Annual Infrastructure Delivery Division Update on Active Projects. He provided an overview of the legislative requirements and standards that guide the City's work, and highlighted accessibility features implemented across City projects.

M. Kashani reviewed the construction projects that were completed in 2023, and projects that have been completed or will be near completion by the end of 2024. He also announced that grant funding applications were awarded for the Kozak Park Revitalization and Lake Wilcox Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, presented the City's Traffic Safety and Operations Strategy, emphasizing safety improvements through 18 traffic calming sites and street upgrades. He highlighted traffic calming measures, including speed cushions, and outlined intersection improvements where accessible compliant pathways and tactile plates were installed.

M. Kashani concluded the presentation by providing details on ongoing active design projects aimed at enhancing accessibility.

Committee members discussed park improvements, focusing on accessibility for individuals using walkers and wheelchairs. Committee members raised questions regarding the accessibility of woodchips and the accessible features of Kozak Park. Committee members questioned if all-gender accessible washrooms were considered in new and revitalized park projects, and a request was made to enhance the signage for accessible tables and chairs at Lake Wilcox Park.

Committee members inquired if there were City parks that have wheelchair-accessible swings and teeter-totters, and discussed refurbishment options that could enhance accessibility of parks. They also recommended that staff consider holding a public consultation to gather community input on enhancing accessibility for children, adults and seniors in the community.

Moved by: S. Caldwell

a) That the presentation by Mohammad Kashani, Manager, Design and Construction, and Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, regarding an Annual Infrastructure Delivery Division Update on Active Projects, be received with thanks.

Carried Unanimously

6.2 Presentation by Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, and Attila Hertel, Project Manager, Transportation Planning, regarding City of Richmond Hill Micromobility Strategy

Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, provided an overview of the City's ongoing Micromobility Strategy. He defined micromobility and shared micromobility, highlighting that this emerging transportation trend is not yet regulated within the City. He outlined that the strategy aims to address the known micromobility challenges while also understanding the benefits and risks, such as accessibility, safety and education.

H. Ng detailed how the Micromobility Strategy aligns with several City plans and policies, and shared the opportunities and challenges associated with advancing micromobility. He addressed accessibility concerns related to cycling on sidewalks, noting that these issues will be further examined as part of the Micromobility Strategy's development. H. Ng concluded by outlining the current phase of the strategy and the next steps, with finalization of the strategy expected between March and May 2025.

Committee members discussed the challenges of enforcing micromobility regulations, the feasibility of banning micromobility devices, and safety concerns regarding sidewalk sharing and speed within neighbourhoods and on trails.

The role of micromobility in supporting the City's net-zero 2050 target and enhancing first-and-last-mile transit connections was discussed, with a focus on finding a solution that balances micromobility with pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Moved by: S. Waldman

a) That the presentation by Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, and Attila Hertel, Project Manager, Transportation Planning, regarding City of Richmond Hill Micromobility Strategy, be received with thanks.

Carried Unanimously

6.3 Proposed 2025 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

a) That the proposed 2025 meeting schedule for the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried Unanimously

7. Adjournment

Moved by: L. Raifman

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.