



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

AAC#03-25

Thursday, June 19, 2025, 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, June 19, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers and via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Councillor Cilevitz (Chair)
Sherry Caldwell
Ted Moritsugu
Simon Waldman

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Councillor Davidson
Yuwei Lin
Saadia Mirza
Barry Munro
Lawrence Raifman
Shahla Yaghoubian

Regrets:

Lopa Banerjee (Vice-Chair)
Wilson Wong

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

F. Suppa, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering
M. Kashani, Manager, Design and Construction
H. Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator

C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

A. Hertel, Project Manager, Transportation Planning

J. Geleff, Sustainable Transportation Coordinator

J. Ward, Sustainable Transportation Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: S. Waldman

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#02-25 held April 24, 2025

Moved by: L. Raifman

a) That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting AAC#02-25 held April 24, 2025, be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

5. Delegation(s)

There were no delegations.

6. Scheduled Business

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

Mohammad Kashani, Manager, Design and Construction, provided an overview of construction projects scheduled to begin this year, highlighting the incorporation of accessible features and outlining their anticipated

completion timelines. He reviewed active design projects, identifying new growth trails, and those scheduled for repairs and replacement. M. Kashani reviewed new parks under development, as well as those scheduled to be upgraded, and advised where to find additional information on active projects. He also shared responses to questions he received when he last addressed the Committee with respect to all-gender washrooms, accessible playground surfacing and wheelchair-accessible swings and teeter-totters. M. Kashani concluded by reviewing the City's park portfolio and trail network.

Committee members sought clarification on the location of the family washroom at Lake Wilcox Park and suggested improvements to communication and signage to better inform visitors. Staff noted that webpage enhancements were underway to provide residents with detailed information about accessible features in City parks.

Committee members inquired about the accessibility features planned for Dr. James Langstaff Community Park, and recommended enhancements to inclusive play elements, such as adding a wheelchair-accessible teeter-totter. It was further suggested that third-party organizations, like AccessNow, be engaged to audit parks for accessibility.

There was discussion on how the City balances accessibility with environmental sustainability when selecting the appropriate trail surfaces, and the importance of clear signage in parks and along trails to identify accessible features. It was also suggested that Dave Barrow Civic Park serve as a model for showcasing accessibility.

Committee members also emphasized the importance of involving individuals with lived experience of disability early in the planning process for parks and trails. They recommended that the Accessibility Advisory Committee be consulted during public information sessions for new park projects. Staff encouraged committee members to provide their feedback through the City's website.

Staff noted that they continue to pursue grant funding to support accessible park and trail development, and committee members were encouraged to share suggestions on how accessibility-related communication to residents could be improved.

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

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

Carried

6.2 Presentation by Frank Suppa, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering, and Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, regarding the City of Richmond Hill's Micromobility Strategy

Frank Suppa, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering, provided introductory remarks regarding the Micromobility Strategy Project and outlined the purpose of the presentation.

Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, outlined the project objective of developing a Micromobility Strategy and outlined the timeline to Council adoption of the finalized strategy. He reviewed what micromobility is, its associated opportunities and challenges, and noted how the strategy was incorporated into the City's policy context. H. Ng reviewed the proposed regulations that will be recommended for various device types, as well as recommendations regarding e-scooters for personal use, education, enforcement, and shared micromobility. He concluded by outlining the proposed implementation timeline and next steps.

Committee members sought clarification on whether assistive mobility devices would continue to be permitted on sidewalks, whether fines would apply for not wearing a helmet while cycling or operating other micromobility devices, and whether the City has sufficient resources to enforce the regulations. Committee members acknowledged the challenges of sharing space on multi-use paths, and agreed with staff on the importance of public education to raise awareness of existing rules.

Committee members suggested that staff review Amsterdam's micromobility strategy, noting its success in achieving harmony between pedestrians, vehicles, and micromobility users. Further suggestions included incorporating sidewalk markings to clearly indicate areas where micromobility devices are not permitted, and reinforcing safety messaging through public education efforts. It was also suggested that staff connect with the City of Vaughan to learn from their approach to managing a shared micromobility system.

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

a) That the presentation by Frank Suppa, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering, and Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, regarding the City of Richmond Hill's Micromobility Strategy, be received with thanks.

Carried Unanimously

6.3 Presentation by Ryan Ban, Deputy City Clerk, regarding the 2024 Status Report on the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Ryan Ban, Deputy City Clerk, provided an overview of the City's obligations under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, highlighting the requirement to report annually on progress made through the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. He outlined the City's efforts to deliver accessible customer service, ensure clear and accessible information, implement accessible employment practices, improve the accessibility of public spaces, and advance other City-wide accessibility initiatives.

Clarification was requested regarding whether the City's accessible employment practices extend beyond municipal operations. Staff also advised that the website link to the status report will be shared once published.

Moved by: S. Caldwell

a) That the presentation by Ryan Ban, Deputy City Clerk, regarding the 2024 Status Report on the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, be received with thanks.

Carried Unanimously

7. Adjournment

Moved by: S. Caldwell

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.