Enclosure 1

Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Annual Report

July 12, 2022



Background

- March 2019: Inception of Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
- Purpose
 - Provide advice and recommendations on improving accessibility for all people in Strathcona County
- Members

Bonnie Maguffee	Brenda Frederick
Carley Dobko	Leah Lyseng
Sarah Valois	Kim McDonald (Vice-chair)
John Vrolijk (Chair)	

Council Representatives: Councillors Katie Berghofer, Linton Delainey (alternate to June) Lorne Harvey (November)



AAC Mandate Alignment

Becoming Canada's Most Livable Community

2021 Strathcona County Strategic Goals

- Goal 1: Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents
- Goal 6: Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents
- Goal 7: Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

Social Framework Outcomes

• Affordability, Access, Safety, Connectedness and Inclusion

Recreation and Culture Strategy and Transit Master Plan Principles

 Access, Collaboration, Forward Thinking, Viability, Safety, Customer-focused, Reliable, Efficient

Strathcona County policies: Diversity and Inclusion, Inclusive Hiring



AAC Mandate Items

Mandate Letter - 2021 / 2022 Items

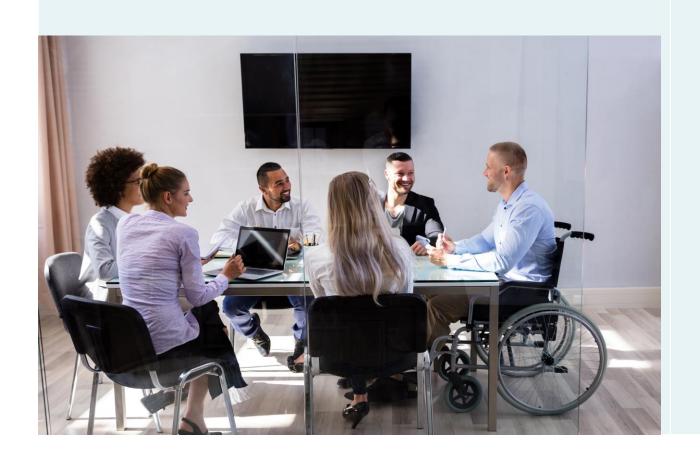
- 1. Provide input: Diversity and Inclusion Policy implementation
- 2. Invite organizations / groups: perspectives on accessibility challenges
- 3. Provide advice / considerations: educating the business community
- 4. Participate in engagements: Indoor Fieldhouse and accessibility
- 5. Provide advice: community safety and wellbeing impacts for accessibility
- 6. Provide advice: pandemic impacts related to accessibility considerations



Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Activities

 Diversity and Inclusion Policy implementation: update and engagement



- Appreciate emphasis on fostering a culture of inclusion – it is about attitudinal and behavioral change
- Continued priority on training for all staff, including front-line
- Potential synergy: external strategy and AAC mandate item on educating the business community
- AAC support: Diversity and Inclusion blog for International Day of Persons with Disabilities



Organizational perspectives: accessibility and COVID-19 impacts

Activities

- Robin Hood Association
- Heartland Housing Foundation



- Big impacts on mental health: residential programs - significant isolation, decreased connections, lost access to services
- Transportation a key support: Everybody Rides Program important; suggested expanded Mobility Bus access for teens
- Accessible affordable housing a priority:
 - Adaptable housing for seniors
 - Accessible housing for young adults seeking to stay in their home community
 - Families with accessibility requirements
- Affordability and AISH: re-examine affordability assumptions/policy



Community safety and wellbeing (CSWB)

Activities

- Two CSWB engagements: project planning input, accessing lived experience of diversity of residents with disabilities
- Seniors Initiative: CSWB considerations for seniors



- Accessibility in CSWB planning important: personal safety significantly impacted by ease of accessibility
- A comprehensive CSWB picture of accessibility and lived experience: engage regional providers for more complete picture of experiences
- CSWB and seniors:
 - Age-friendly community spaces seniors are welcomed, included and supported
 - Accessible safe sidewalks and curb cuts
 - More accessible parking by entrances



Indoor Fieldhouse project engagement

Activities

- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- Review of What We Heard Report



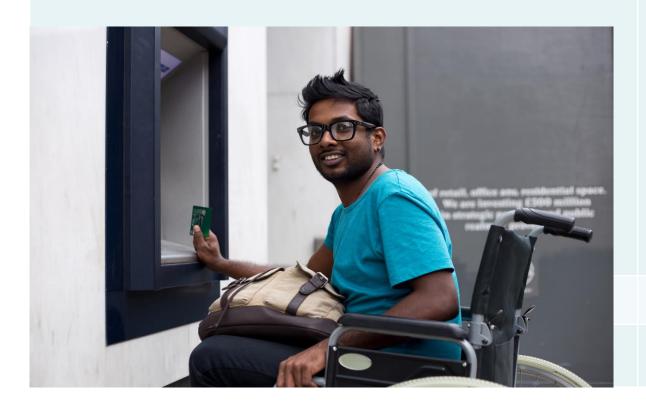
- Think of the whole user journey: in reviewing preliminary designs, members stressed the importance of adequate accessible parking and spacious accessible elevators
- Planning details: AAC members look forward to more detail in upcoming reports
 - Choice of non-slip surfaces
 - Comfortable flow and space for wheelchair navigation
 - Transit access right to the front door



Business community education – advice

Activities

District Chamber of Commerce



- Outreach to Sherwood Park & Strathcona County businesses under pressure in 2021: significant financial impacts of successive COVID-19 waves
 - Collaboration important: discuss, codesign strategies with businesses is AAC's desired approach
 - Tabled: This is a continued AAC mandate item for 2022



AAC additional engagement requests

Activities	Findings
 Accessible Strathcona County Municipal Election Engagement Strathcona County Elections Officer and team Strathcona County Transportation Master Plan Engagement Engagement team and representatives from Soles & Company 	 Supports for visible and invisible disabilities: staff training; design of accessible flow and processes such as colored markings for ease of navigation for visually impaired Removing barriers to access: Local and regional transportation for employment, education, service access Mobility Bus: growing population and specific cohorts Future thinking: transportation options for persons with disabilities



Mandate focus for 2022

- Diversity and Inclusion policy external implementation
- Engaging organizations on accessibility considerations <u>and</u> COVID-19 impacts
- Advice on education of the business community
- Universal design lens for Indoor Fieldhouse
- Community safety and wellbeing actions





Summary considerations

- Strathcona County 2023-2026 Strategic Plan
 - Accessibility lens: goal of Healthy & Safe Community
 " ...diverse, welcoming, inclusive and an accessible community for all"
 - Looking forward: how to embed this in all County departments
- Front-line staff training: visible and invisible disabilities









Summary considerations

• Current and proposed Strathcona County infrastructure development: consistent coherent approach to Universal Design for residents, tourists, employees, etc.

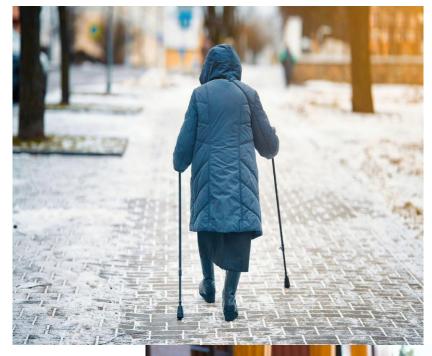
• 2023-2026 budgets: cutting or investing in accessibility











THANK YOU!





