



Burlington Accessibility
Advisory Committee



Burlington City Wide Parking Study – Recommendations

Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee

Delegation to Committee of the Whole

Monday June 10, 2019

To the Committee of the Whole, residents, and businesses in the City of Burlington, thank you for the opportunity to speak about accessible parking. The Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee wishes to express our thanks in the continuance of accessible parking throughout the City of Burlington for those living with disabilities or challenges which grants them the right to possess an accessible parking permit when requiring closer, easier access to buildings and facilities.

We know, and new numbers released by Statistic Canada in December 2018 show, that the percentage of people with disabilities is increasing at a much faster rate than the growth of the general population. The statistics show that 22 per cent of Canadians have a disability that impacts their daily living, and in Ontario that number increases to 24 percent. And we know, the instance of disability increases with age with more than 38 per cent of people 65 year of age or older report having at least one disability.

Accessible parking spaces should be viewed as an investment for our residents, and equally important, our tourism and local businesses, if we are to maintain that Burlington is one of Canada's best and most livable city.

When BAAC was made aware of Report PB-43-19 on May 9, 2019 we were extremely concerned because the consultant's recommendation was to amend Burlington accessible parking standards to match the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, Design of Public Spaces Standards. That recommendation would decrease the dimension of accessible parking spaces, decrease the width of the access aisle adjacent the accessible parking space and decrease the numbers of accessible parking spaces required in lots with 167 spaces or more. Since that time, we have heard from staff there is no recommendation to change the size of the accessible parking spaces or access aisles and no plans to lower the supply of accessible parking spaces. That is a big relief to us and so is their commitment to work with BAAC on the accessible parking file.



The discussion about accessible parking brings opportunity to make requests for further improvements. We would like staff and Committee to consider the following improvements:

- BAAC would also like to see that all accessible parking spaces include a sign that identifies the \$400 fine for illegal parking, along with a telephone number for by-law enforcement for all on and off-street parking and all private and municipal parking lots/facilities.
- The BAAC highly recommends that the city maintain the number of required accessible parking spaces where the city currently exceeds the minimum requirements of AODA Design of Public Spaces Standards (DOPS). Again, the AODA prescribes minimum requirement, we can always do better.
- The Ontario Building Code does not provide maximum distance from a barrier-free parking stall to an elevator lobby or main entrance. BAAC strongly recommends that the City of Burlington adopt a mandatory building process whereby any multi-unit building such as condominiums, have accessible parking located in close proximity to the elevator lobby and/or entrance doors.
- Finally, the BAAC is requesting that, if a private lot is planning to re-surface their lot, that the lot be brought into current compliance with respect to number and sizes of accessible parking spaces and access aisles.
- With regards to downtown parking, the BAAC would like to have the Non-residential Downtown Parking Exemption amended so that at least one accessible parking space is required at any facility that provides medical services- something very important to people with disabilities.

In closing, the BAAC would like to reiterate once again, that we are pleased the existing accessible parking spaces will not be reduced, and sincerely hope that Council will consider our recommendations, to better improve the business and lives of Burlingtonians, including those with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee