



SUBJECT: 2020 to 2022 Accessibility progress report

TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.

FROM: Engineering Services Department

Report Number: ES-01-23

Wards Affected: ALL

File Numbers: 838-01

Date to Committee: May 4, 2023

Date to Council: May 16, 2023

Recommendation:

Receive and file engineering services department report ES-01-23 and Appendix A regarding 2020 to 2022 Accessibility progress report.

PURPOSE:

Respond to legislation.

Background and Discussion:

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, or AODA, aims to identify, remove, and prevent barriers for people living with disabilities by the development and enforcement of standards. The AODA applies to all organizations (public, private and not for profit) with one or more employees in Ontario and includes requirements that the obligated organizations must meet, with deadlines specific to an organization's type and size. Current reporting requirements based on the AODA, and its standards include:

1. Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (5-year plan)
2. Accessibility Progress Report (annual)
3. Compliance Report to the Province (bi-annual), and
4. Compliance Audits (on demand).

Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

On January 28, 2019, Council approved the [City of Burlington 2019 – 2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan](#) (CW-01-19). The plan describes how the city will continue in its work to remove barriers and improve accessibility to the city's goods, services, programs, and facilities over the next five years. The plan builds on the work completed to date, incorporates the legislative requirements of the AODA and provides our approach to compliance with Ontario's accessibility legislation.

Since Burlington's Council adopted Multi-Year Accessibility Plan expires at the end of 2023, work will begin on the new 2024 – 2028 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan in Q3 2023. The 2023 Accessibility Progress Report will be made available in Q1 2024.

Accessibility Progress Reports

To ensure progress is being made with the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, annual progress reports are required. In response to this requirement, refer to Appendix A: 2020 to 2022 Accessibility Progress Report. This document covers a two-year span as a result of the interruption of COVID.

This report will be made available in an accessible format on the city's website. The [2019 – 2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan](#) and the [2019 Accessibility Progress Report](#) are available as an accessible PDF on the city's website and available in alternative formats or with communication supports upon request.

Compliance Reports to the Province

As required by subsection 14(1) of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the city shall file an accessibility compliance report with the province every two years.

The city filed a compliance report to the province in December 2021 and February 2023. Our next compliance report will be filed in 2025. The city is compliant in all areas.

In addition to the regularly scheduled compliance reports, the province can reach out on demand for a compliance audit. Notification regarding the most recent compliance audit was received on December 1, 2020, with documentation of compliance to be provided to the province by December 16, 2020.

Financial Matters:

As projects and programs are identified for delivery, construction, renovation or renewal, the requirements for accessibility are applied as part of the regular business process. Specific costs associated with the continuous improvement initiatives and the legislated requirements identified in the plan are brought forward for consideration by Council through the annual capital and operating budget review process.

Total Financial Impact

Not applicable

Source of Funding

Not applicable

Other Resource Impacts

Not applicable

Climate Implications

Not applicable

Engagement Matters:

While there are no legislated requirements for public consultation for Accessibility Progress Reports, a draft copy of the report was made available to the Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee for their review and comment.

Conclusion:

The AODA prescribes multiple reporting requirements to the province. To meet AODA legislative requirement, the city must prepare Accessibility Progress Reports that describe the measure taken to implement the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. Appendix A: 2020 to 2022 Accessibility Progress Report responds to this requirement.

In addition to preparing an annual progress report the city must also file an accessibility compliance report with the province, bi-annually. Our 2023 report was submitted on February 24. The city is in compliance in all areas. The next report will be due in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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Accessibility Coordinator

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Appendices:

A. 2020 – 2022 Accessibility Progress Report

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.