



TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: Cheryl Dillon, Accessibility Coordinator

NOTED: Anne Marie Langlois, Director of Human Resources
M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

RE: Update on City of Barrie's 2019 – 2024 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

DATE: March 11, 2021

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning activities undertaken by the City of Barrie and Barrie Police Services in 2020 to comply with the City's 2019 – 2024 Multi-year Accessibility Plan.

Background

Like all Ontario municipalities, the City of Barrie must meet and maintain legislated requirements set forth in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), including preparing, and implementing the City's Multi-year accessibility plan. Per the AODA, the City's multi-year accessibility plan(s) must be updated at least once every five years. The City's current multi-year accessibility plan runs from January 1, 2019 through to December 31, 2024.

Under the AODA, municipal accessibility advisory committees must provide advice to municipal councils on the requirements and implementation of the accessibility standards, multi-year accessibility plans and compliance reports, in addition to providing advice regarding accessibility in the broader community. The City's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) fulfills this function for the Corporation of the City of Barrie, and as of 2013, the AAC has also been fulfilling this function for Barrie Police Services.

The Barrie Police Services (BPS) is a member agency covered by the City of Barrie's Multi-year Accessibility Plan and BPS and the City of Barrie staff will continue to work in partnership with the AAC to address issues of accessibility.

Status

The AAC has fulfilled their obligation for the 2020 AODA requirements, and despite the covid-19 pandemic, the AAC was able to provide valuable feedback and support to staff on objectives outlined in the 2019-2024 Multi-year Accessibility Plan, including: feedback on the creation of an Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) Policy to ensure efficient compliance of the accessibility regulations under the AODA; feedback on updates to the City's Accessible Customer Service Policy to ensure that it reflected updates to the AODA legislation and the Accessible Customer Service Standard; feedback regarding the City's work to meet compliance for the 2021 Information and Communication Standard requirements; feedback and recommendations related to City Transit's adoption of Magnus Cards to help improve the travel experience for both individuals with cognitive special needs as well as their caregivers while using Barrie Transit; and finally, the AAC provided feedback and recommendations on the update to the City's Official Plan and Urban Design Guidelines to ensure accessibility and universal design considerations are included in all reconstruction and new development occurring in Barrie.