



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: CLK2021-03
Meeting Date: March 9, 2021
Title: 2020-21 Municipal Accessibility Master Plan Progress Report
Description: Annual Progress Report
Author and Title: Barbara Condie, Accessibility Officer

Recommendation(s):

That Report CLK2021-03, **2020-21 Municipal Accessibility Master Plan Progress Report**; be received; and

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Council Meeting of June 5, 2018, Council adopted the following resolution:

CR2018-354

That Report CLK2018-005, **Municipal Accessibility Master Plan 2018-2023**, be received;

That the **Municipal Accessibility Master Plan 2018-2023**, be approved; and

That the necessary by-law be brought forward for adoption.

Carried

This report addresses the direction of removing barriers to provide greater accessibility for people with disabilities as outlined in the Municipal Accessibility Master Plan and the planned approach to reach set goals. It also commits to providing an annual progress report addressing accomplishments each year.

Rationale:

Considering the priorities given to the framework associated with COVID-19 measures, Work Plans adopted by Council in 2019, for the 2020 year, were impacted to some degree and re-evaluated for alignment with the framework.

This report reflects the many accomplishments made given the circumstances before us. The **2020 Review and Progress Report - Accessibility Masterplan 2018-2023** has been included as **Appendix A** to this report.

The paragraphs to follow are included in this report to highlight and raise awareness of the exceptional work completed throughout the year, or projects that are well underway.

Heightened communications with vital weekly updates both internally and externally along with an enhancement of on-line presence such as the Zoom internet platform has provided Council, Staff and our volunteers with the opportunity to continue important work through virtual meetings. Timely accommodations required to work from home and indoor space retrofits allowed for a safe and uninterrupted workflow transition.

Offering our citizens' the opportunity of improved public areas continue to be of great importance, especially during the course of a pandemic. This has been accomplished during 2020 with the inclusion of accessible buildings/washrooms, pathways, playgrounds, kayak docking, streetscapes, etc. throughout Kawartha Lakes.

The Community Improvement Program (CIP) continues to accept applications for funding from local business that seek to upgrade their locations with new signage, façade enhancements and overall interior and exterior building upgrades. With Council's approval of an accessibility grant component to the CIP, there has been a welcomed increase in participation this past year for a request for funding to include a number of accessibility features in the business application. Features such as the inclusion of accessible entrances, door opening devices and washroom facilities, etc. resulting in beautiful and inclusive downtown business areas throughout Kawartha Lakes.

The Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) have created the statement to follow to include as they begin their comments in the Site Plan review process. "According to Statistics Canada within 13 years, approximately 53% of the Kawartha Lakes population will be 50 years of age or older. Recent studies from the Government of Canada proclaim up to 22% of our Canadian population have some form of visible, developmental, or invisible disabilities. Also presently, one fifth of the Kawartha Lakes population is over 65 years of age. Noting the above increase in the percentage predicted within the next 10 years, it is clear that new development together with open landscaped areas should adhere to accessibility standards within the exterior and interior elements of development. The current and future demographic trends of citizens living in Kawartha Lakes speak to the requirement of inclusivity for all, including those with visible as well as invisible disabilities." Notably, with the many development proposals for the Kawartha Lakes area that are geared to providing residential housing for the older adult, the AAC strongly believes that providing accessible, adaptable, and visitable housing should be the strategy as the City moves forward with new development to ensure aging in place measures are available. As part of their Work Plan, the committee will continue to educate in this regard and will pursue an opportunity to include materials that will be an asset to the Secondary Planning processes and the pre-design stage for developers. They will continue to provide comment to City Council and Staff for consideration as they investigate ways to encourage, educate and support accessible development as noted within the Accessibility Master Plan.

In addition to the contents of **Appendix A**, On December 1, 2020, the City was in receipt of a compliance audit of inquiry from the Province of Ontario based on 2019 compliancy report. The audit as per **Appendix B** was a series of questions. The Accessibility Officer resourced the answers to the questions and submitted the paperwork back to the Province before the suggested deadline date of December 15, 2020.

Other Alternatives Considered:

No other alternatives are considered. This report is a requirement of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation as enacted under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and Council By-law 2018-093.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

Kawartha Lakes is committed to accessible, timely, knowledgeable, courteous and fair services as described in the guiding principles associated with the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. The Municipal Accessibility Masterplan supports and strengthens the commitment of Goal 1 in the Strategic Plan that reads: Improve the health and well-being of residents that further states that Kawartha will make this happen by Enhancing accessibility and encouraging and supporting “age-friendly” programs and initiatives.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

N/A

Consultations:

Appropriate City Staff Managers
Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee
City Clerk

Attachments:

Appendix A - 2020 Review and Progress Report - Accessibility Masterplan 2018-2023



2020 Review of the
Accessibility Masterp

Appendix B –Ontario Provincial Compliance Checklist for first Notice – Dec. 1, 2020



Ontario Provincial
Compliance Checklis

Department Head email: critchie@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Cathie Ritchie, City Clerk

Department File: Kawartha Lakes AAC