



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: CLK2022-004

Meeting Date: March 8, 2022

Title: 2021-22 Municipal Accessibility Master Plan Progress Report

Description: Annual Progress Report

Author and Title: Barbara Condie, Accessibility Officer

Recommendation(s):

That Report CLK2022-004, **2021-22 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 on March 22, 2022.

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. The Municipal Accessibility Master Plan commits to providing an annual progress report addressing accomplishments that are reached throughout each year.

Rationale:

It has been two years this month since the on-set of COVID-19. Each year, or for that matter, each month, and each week seemed so different from the year/month/week before, especially with the unprecedented impact of the Omicron variant. New practices and measures are continuously evolving, this requires the constant re-evaluation and change in protocol and directives to adhere with the Provincial and Health guidelines of the time. Throughout the course of time and continuous change, the collective focus was always the health and safety of each person, our colleagues and the community, while continuing to maintain essential service deliverables. City Leaders and the Pandemic Response Team has lead us through this incredible/unforgettable journey, once again rallying to succeed through the challenges.

Council moved to adopt a budget in 2021 to align with financial burden associated with COVID-19 health and safety measures. This resulted in a deferment of many capital projects for consideration to the 2022 budget line, dependant on the COVID-19 recovery process.

This Report reflects the many accomplishments that were reached given the circumstances before us. The **2021 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 continued to be paramount.

During 2021, focus moved to the work of the Community Pandemic Recovery Task Force and to the development of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. The Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee was consulted during the development stages of both initiatives and participated to provide resources, to assist with the dissemination of information and to provide feedback. Congratulations to the valued members of both Council appointed groups on the extraordinary outcomes by two very dedicated, devoted and caring teams of community professionals.

Offering our citizens', the benefit of improved public areas continues to be of great importance, especially during the course of the pandemic. This has been accomplished during 2021 with the inclusion of:

- Upgrades to the downtown areas, specifically to the Lindsay and Fenelon Falls streetscapes, and those projects continue to be on-going today,
- Kinmount Library entrance replacement,
- Fenelon Falls Museum entrance, and the
- Completion of projects that began in 2020 to make Kawartha Lakes buildings/washrooms, pathways, playgrounds, etc. more accessible.

Looking forward to the projects ahead as identified in the 2022 budget. Projects such as the:

- completion of work in the downtown streetscapes of Lindsay and Fenelon Falls,
- continued work on the redevelopment of the Bobcaygeon Beach Park,
- the Bobcaygeon Library relocation and renovation,
- upgrades suggested for the Manvers Community Centre, and
- welcomed addition of the Summit Wellness Centre in Coboconk,
- etc.

The development of the Customer Service Dashboard in 2021 not only emphasizes and serves the importance placed on improved service levels but also provides an avenue for monitoring, tracking and facilitating planning for improved accessibility.

The Community Improvement Program (CIP) continues to accept funding applications 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 continues to be a welcomed increase in participation 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.

Exploring and developing a Corporate Culture of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) began in 2021. The EDI Project Planning Task Force formed and the work began with the Council adoption of the Truth and Reconciliation Policy and the training of Council, Boards/Committees and Staff on the subject matter. Work will be on going during 2022 and beyond to include continued training on the Truth and Reconciliation Policy and other elements associated with EDI.

During 2021, the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) developed a draft site plan backgrounder with resources, information and pre-design guidelines, and that draft is currently in circulation for feedback. Once moved from a draft state, with this information made available at the pre-consultation stage, the Committee feels that the document will ease the comments necessary at the Site Plan review stage. The backgrounder reminds project developers of the importance of providing accessible, adaptable, and visitable areas both in Commercial and Residential sites. The resource includes the introduction of why, in that according to Statistics Canada within 12 years, approximately 53% of the Kawartha Lakes population will be 50 years of age or older and the recent studies from the Government of Canada proclaiming that up to 22% of our Canadians are persons with disabilities. The AAC strongly believes that providing inclusive spaces 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. The Committee 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**, the City, as a requirement of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), reported their compliance with the requirements of the AODA to the Province of Ontario prior to the deadline of December 31, 2021. The compliancy Report has been included as per **Appendix B**.

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 - 2021 Review and Progress Report - Accessibility Masterplan 2018-2023



2021 Municipal
Accessibility Master

Appendix B –Ontario Provincial 2021 Accessibility Compliance Report



2021 Accessibility
Compliance Report

Department Head email: critchie@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Cathie Ritchie, City Clerk

Department File: Kawartha Lakes AAC