



## **Accessibility Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes**

January 23, 2024, 4:00 p.m.  
White Rock Community Centre

**PRESENT:** Danielle Burns, Community Member  
Ernie Klassen, Community Member  
Ryan Lachance, Community Member  
Satish Mistry, Community Member  
Louise Taylor, Community Member

**ABSENT:** Mohlin Pillay, Community Member  
Colleen Turnley, Community Member

**STAFF:** Anne Berry, Director of Planning and Development Services  
(Chairperson)  
Jim Gordon, Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations  
Kari Laing, Director of Human Resources  
Corrine Haer, Manager of Engineering (left at 4:48 p.m.)  
Janessa Auer, Committee Clerk

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#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Director of Planning and Development Services assumed the role of Chairperson and called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

#### **2. REVIEW OF MINUTES**

The Committee had no feedback or suggested changes for the draft minutes of the October 23, 2023 meeting.

### 3. **ENGINEERING UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS**

#### 3.1 **JOHNSTON ROAD PHASE 2 PROJECT PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

The Manager of Engineering provided an overview of the Johnston Road Phase 2 Project, including answers to frequently asked questions, which were also highlighted in an on-table supporting document she presented to members.

This project will improve the east side of Johnston Road and sidewalk, between Russell Avenue and Thrift Avenue, elevating the experience for both pedestrians and motorists while boosting accessibility and safety. The project is expected to take approximately six (6) months if both lanes of the road are closed throughout, or up to twelve (12) months if work is completed with just one lane closed.

City staff will be accepting and considering feedback from members of the public regarding this project, which can be sent via email to [capitalprojects@whiterockcity.ca](mailto:capitalprojects@whiterockcity.ca) or by visiting the Talk White Rock website at [www.talkwhiterock.ca/johnstonroad](http://www.talkwhiterock.ca/johnstonroad).

**ACTION ITEM:** Committee Clerk to send members the above noted City email address, in case they would like to submit any additional feedback regarding the Johnston Road Phase 2 Project following this meeting.

#### 3.2 **WINTER STREET AND THRIFT AVENUE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS DESIGN REVIEW**

The Manager of Engineering provided an overview of her team's plans for improving the accessibility of the curb ramps at this intersection, supported by an on-table design plan document. The ramps are currently very steep and pose challenges to the public, especially wheelchair users. The upgrades will improve the accessibility for pedestrians at this intersection.

A member suggested that it would be beneficial for staff to reach out to the Rick Hansen Foundation for their review of the design of this project.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to contact the Rick Hansen Foundation to inquire about having them review the designs for the Winter Street and Thrift Avenue intersection improvements.

### 3.3 PROMENADE WALK & ROLL MEMO UPDATE

The Manager of Engineering provided an overview of her on-table memo update, summarizing accessibility comments and staff responses/plans, following a walk & roll tour of the White Rock Pier and promenade, attended by Committee member, R. Lachance, another community member, and staff from the City's Engineering department.

Committee members provided feedback during this overview, during which time the following points were noted:

- A member inquired as to whether the three (3) yellow safety posts located at the end of the promenade ramp at Finlay Street and Marine Drive can be removed, as they pose challenges to wheelchair users. Staff noted that they can investigate the possibility of removing the middle post for better accessibility.
- Some businesses along Marine Drive have challenging accessibility issues (such as tables/chairs being placed outside and blocking entrance ramps). Staff noted that this is not something the City can enforce private property owners to make improvements upon; however, if the property undergoes any type of redevelopment in the future, the City does have the ability to review certain accessibility concerns during this process.

A member suggested it might be beneficial to educate businesses about these accessibility challenges.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to inquire with the White Rock Business Improvement Association (BIA) about the possibility of assisting in informing local businesses of suggested accessibility improvements. Committee member, E. Klassen, to also raise this topic during the next BIA board meeting.

- When discussing the lack of tactile, high-contrast wayfinding signs along the promenade, it was noted that the ideal style/colour of signage could be very opposite depending on the needs of different groups (such as visitors who do not comprehend written English versus visitors who have visual impairments). Staff also advised that the City has certain parameters around branding and design for City signage, so they can review these and bring further information to the Committee for any future discussions about this topic.

- A member inquired about the benefits of including braille at more City locations. It was noted that placing braille in open, public spaces can be challenging, as it is difficult for people with visual impairments to know where the braille is located; however, inclusion of braille on signage in more structured community spaces, such as community centres and other similar facilities, would likely be more accessible for those who can benefit from it. It was also noted that this suggestion can be included in staff's future considerations of City signage improvements.

### **3.4 TACTILE WALKING SURVEY INDICATOR TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

The Manager of Engineering provided an overview of the Engineering Technical Review document included in the agenda package, which outlines benefits of installing tactile pads as a crucial accessibility feature in various environments. Although removed from City designs in the past, staff recommend and support the use of tactile pads when and where possible. It was noted that, while there is no legal obligation for the City to do so, the installation of tactile pads is recommended through the British Columbia Active Transportation Design Guide.

The Manager of Engineering left the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

### **4. CLOSED CAPTIONING FOR WEBSITE MEETING LIVESTREAM AND VIDEO RECORDINGS**

The Committee discussed the possibility of incorporating closed captioning capabilities within the City's meeting livestream feeds and video recordings. Following support expressed by the Committee, staff plan to research this topic further and bring potential options forward to Council for their consideration.

### **5. REVIEW OF ACCESSIBILITY WEBPAGE FEEDBACK SUBMISSIONS**

The Chairperson provided an overview of the City website's Accessibility webpage feedback form submissions received from community members. Three (3) submissions were reviewed, and the following points were noted:

- Feedback regarding accessibility issues on City website:

The Information Technology department is aware of this feedback and is looking into the concern. Staff does monitor the City website on a regular basis and strives to make improvements consistently.

- Feedback regarding accessible parking spots by the White Rock Museum not being van accessible, as well as the Pier being dangerous for those using mobility devices:

Staff noted that information on this topic was provided during review of the on-table Walk & Roll Memo Update, provided earlier in the meeting.

- Feedback regarding the curbs at the north corners of Finlay Street and Columbia Avenue having no ramps:

Staff noted that this is a good location for ramp installation to be easily achievable.

## **6. ACCESSIBILITY ACTION PLAN REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

The Chairperson invited members to share any new feedback regarding the City's Accessibility Action Plan.

A member inquired about whether there is currently any coordination amongst municipalities with regard to accessible signage design, as standardization could be helpful in maintaining consistency for the public when visiting different communities. Staff advised that they can look into this and keep the idea in mind for future signage projects.

## **7. INFORMATION**

### **7.1 COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKING**

The Chairperson provided an update regarding the status of action items from previous minutes. Staff will update the action tracking document accordingly and include it in the next meeting's agenda package, for information purposes.

**8. ROUNDTABLE**

The Chairperson invited members to share any additional feedback/suggestions they wished to add, during which time the following was noted:

- It might be beneficial to look into the potential for funding opportunities through the Rick Hansen Foundation for any future City initiatives around accessibility. Staff advised they could explore this topic further when they connect with the Rick Hansen Foundation regarding review/approval for the intersection improvements at Winter Street and Thrift Avenue.

**ACTION ITEM:** Committee member, L. Taylor, to share any applicable grant opportunities with staff as well, if/when she is made aware of them through her job.

**9. 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Committee is scheduled to meet on the following dates in 2024:

- April 23, 2024;
- July 23, 2024; and,
- October 29, 2024.

All meetings are scheduled to take place from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the White Rock Community Centre.

**10. CONCLUSION OF THE JANUARY 23, 2024 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff to invite a representative from the Rick Hansen Foundation to attend a future meeting.

The meeting was concluded at 5:10 p.m.



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Anne Berry, Director of Planning and Development Services, Chairperson



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Janessa Auer, Committee Clerk