

Appendix A – Summary of Recommendations from Accessibility Working Group

1. Accessibility Considerations of Street Furnishings (2015)

That accessibility be considered in selection of the colour of street furnishings in the city, in the context of the Visual Victoria initiative and Downtown Public Realm Plan, including potential safety hazards associated with all-black street furniture which provide insufficient contrast with pavement.

2. Annual Funding for Accessibility (December 2015)

That \$250,000 be allocated annually for accessibility in the Financial Plan.

3. Truncated Dome Mats on Curb Cuts (December 2015)

That truncated dome mats be installed on all new curb cuts, and that the City retrofit all existing 'no-lip' curb cuts on an immediate basis.

4. Accessibility of Johnson Street Bridge Project (December 2015)

That the City ensure that all access points and routes through the Johnson Street Bridge project be accessible to all.

5. Accessibility of Harbour Pathway (January 2016)

That accessibility best practices be incorporated into the project design for the Harbour Pathway.

6. Endorsement of Resolution for Barrier-Free BC (February 2016)

That the City of Victoria support the Barrier Free BC proposal calling on the Government of BC to enact a BC Persons with Disabilities Act.

7. Accessibility Survey (April 2016)

That the City of Victoria conduct an online survey to determine the challenges people with disabilities face when accessing facilities, infrastructure, services and amenities within the City of Victoria.

8. Definition of Accessibility (April 2016)

That the following definition of disability be adopted:

"A physical, sensory, developmental or mental condition or a health problem that significantly restricts the performance of one or more of a person's daily life activities for a period longer than six months on a permanent, recurring or intermittent basis."

9. Partnership for Improving Access to Heritage Buildings (April 2016)

That the letter to DVBA proposed a partnership for improving access to heritage buildings be approved.

10. Accessible Pedestrian Signals (April 2016)

That Council review the position statement of the Accessible Pedestrian Signals and provide direct to staff for implementation.

11. Accessibility Framework (August 2016)

That an individual be contracted with a mandate to assist the AWG in identifying barriers for persons with disabilities with research and a survey, examining existing City accessibility policies and procedures, and to develop an accessibility framework with which future City initiatives are analyzed for accessibility

And that the AWG participate in the selection of a suitable candidate and work closely with the successful applicant as they carry out their mandate.

12. Truncated Domes (August 2016)

That fund be allocated to immediately retrofit all no-lip curb cuts with truncated domes.

13. Accessibility Framework (December 2016)

An individual be contracted / hired to work with the AWG in identifying barriers for persons with disabilities, examine existing City accessibility policies and procedures, make policy recommendations, develop an accessibility framework, and provide on-going staff training and support.

14. Disability Accommodation Process for City Facilities (December 2016)

That Recreation Services research, develop, codify and publicize a robust disability accommodation process for recreation facilities and programs.

15. Scent Reduction / Pet Restriction Policies for City Hall (December 2016)

That scent reduction and pet restriction policies be developed and implemented for City Hall.

16. Various Recommendations (December 2016)

That AWG endorse the following recommendations to Council:

1. An individual be contracted / hired to work with the AWG in identifying barriers for persons with disabilities, examine existing City accessibility policies and procedures, make policy recommendations, develop an accessibility framework, and provide on- going staff training and support.
2. That Council instruct Recreation Services to research, develop, codify and publicize a robust disability accommodation process for recreation facilities and programs.
3. That scent reduction and pet restriction policies be developed and implemented for City Hall.

4. The Accessibility Working Group become a standing committee of City Council.
5. That Accessibility funding be allocated annually. [Note from the AWG: The recommendation was not restricted to infrastructure funding]

17. Accessibility Repairs and Upgrades at 380 Cook Street (January 2017)

That the AWG gives its support for a barrier buster application for the community centre repairs and upgrades at the Cook Street Village Centre.

18. Accessible Facilities Checklist (March 2017)

That the Accessible Facilities Checklist be adopted as the final working document.

19. Statement of Commitment to Create a Barrier-Free Victoria (March 2017)

That the following Proposed Statement of Commitment to create a Barrier-Free Victoria be adopted as the final working document:

Recommendation: That the City of Victoria endorse the following statement of commitment adopted by the Victoria Accessibility Working Group on March 6, 2017:

The City of Victoria values the contributions made by all its citizens and believes that diversity strengthens the community.

The City of Victoria recognizes the wealth of knowledge and lived experience of people with disabilities and their essential role in creating a barrier-free Victoria and thus, will include the viewpoint and needs of persons with disabilities in its decisions.

The City of Victoria is committed to building an inclusive society and providing an accessible environment in which all individuals have access to the City's services and programs in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. The City of Victoria's policies, practices and procedures will ensure barrier free access for persons with disabilities to City facilities and participation in programs and processes including accessible customer service, information and communication, employment, the built environment and transportation.

The City of Victoria will ensure that all city employees are aware of their role in facilitating accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The City of Victoria will continue to prevent barriers by supporting positive attitudes that address "ableism" - attitudes which devalue and limit the potential of persons with disabilities.

In working towards its goals under this Statement, the City of Victoria is committed to creating a barrier-free city by meeting the requirements of existing and future legislation and by its own policies and goals related to the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to people with disabilities. To this end, all elected City officials and City employees have a role to play in meeting these goals.

20. Prioritization for Issues List (July 2017)

That Identified Barriers on the Issues List be prioritized using this numeric scale:

1. Urgent safety and health issues
2. Time Sensitive opportunities [such as consultation requests]
3. Non-urgent accessibility
4. Other

21. Accessibility of Committee Policies and Procedures (July 2017)

That the city's policy and procedures governing committee meetings and committee business be accessible in forum, information and procedures, to make participation in this aspect of civic life accessible to all.

22. Audible Crossing Signals (July 2017)

That all audible signal installation requests made up to the end of 2016 should be included in the 2018 budget, that the current list of requested audible signals take priority over currently planned audible signal installations.

23. Accessible Transit Stop at Pandora Entrance to City Hall (September 2017)

That the sidewalk in front of Centennial Square be improved for wheelchair access to BC Transit.

24. Statement of Commitment to Create a Barrier-Free Victoria (October 2017)

That the City adopt the Statement of Commitment to Create a Barrier-Free Victoria.

25. Accommodation of People with Disabilities in Recreation Programs (October 2017)

That recreation staff and the RIV come to a future AWG meeting to discuss accommodation of people with disabilities, including allergies, in City recreation programs.

26. Accessibility Improvements to Pandora Bike Lane (November 2017)

That signage be painted on the Pandora bike lane surface on either side of the marked crosswalks to the bus stops reminding cyclists they need to stop.

27. Inclusion of Accessibility Impacts in Staff Reports to Council (November 2017)

Develop a policy and guidance material, in consultation with AWG, for including Accessibility Impacts in all reports to Council.

28. Vacancies on AWG (November 2017)

That Council fill all vacant positions on the AWG.

29. Inclusion of Accessibility Impacts in Staff Reports to Council (December 2017)

Develop a policy and guidance material, in consultation with AWG, for including Accessibility Impacts in all reports to Council.

30. Accessible Venue for AWG Meetings (January 2018)

Find a meeting venue that is accessible for all members

31. Accessible Transit Stop on Douglas Street at Bay Centre (January 2018)

That the sidewalk on the west side of Douglas adjacent to the Bay Centre be improved for wheelchair access to BC Transit.

32. Accessible Venue for AWG Meetings (February 2018)

Find an accessible venue/meeting space that is accessible for all members

33. Accessible Transit Stops on Douglas Street (February 2018)

Upgrade following bus stops, in the following order of priority:

1. City Hall (Douglas)
2. Bay Centre (Douglas)

34. Accessible Parkade and Street Parking (April 2018)

Prepare a 2019 budget submission for a one-time expense for a consultant to undertake a comprehensive study of accessible parkade and street parking in the City of Victoria to develop recommendations for bringing spaces up to CSA Standard B651 or another equivalent standard and ensuring that their numbers and locations are adequate to meet existing need