

Accessibility Framework and Policy Update

Presentation to the Committee of the Whole

October 1, 2020



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Purpose

To follow up on the August 6, 2020 direction from Council regarding the Accessibility Framework and associated documents.



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Council Direction #1 (Attachment A)

That Council endorse the Accessibility Framework and forward the Framework and the following suite of recommendations to a meeting in September for adoption to allow the AWG more time to consider the framework and comment on this motion.

- Accessibility Framework contained in Attachment A with no changes since August 6 version



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Council Direction #2 (Attachment C)

That Council request staff report back with terms of reference for a new accessibility advisory committee, allowing for some continuity of membership, to provide ongoing advice to the City of Victoria as the Accessibility Framework is implemented.

Mandate:

- Communicate City activities/updates to “parent” organizations
- Feedback on planning/program change priorities based on new legislation
- Participation in the 2022 Pilot on Responsive [Equity] Budgeting Process
- Share information on best practices and innovations on accessibility
- Respond to staff requests for input on new projects

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Members, Council liaisons, staff

Other:

- Term, meeting frequency, communication



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Council Direction #3 (Attachment E)

That Council approve the Accessibility Policy as an interim policy and direct staff to report back with a strengthened policy including more specificity and guidelines to help determine appropriate courses of action and definitions

Key Changes:

- Refinement of wording for clarity
- Revised name of the policy to be 'Accessibility and Inclusion Policy'
- Inclusion of scheduled policy review timelines to every three years
- Addition of key definitions used in the Policy
- Procedures and guidelines for staff implementation for planning, design and reporting of accessibility related initiatives



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Council Direction #4 (Attachment G)

That Council direct staff to modify the Short-term Action Plan to include measurable outcomes including the year each issue is to be addressed and accomplished.

Key Changes:

- Includes anticipated year of completion
- All actions are subject to available resources
- Shifts in timelines to be addressed through annual report on Accessibility Framework
- Outputs versus outcomes



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Council Direction #5

That Council direct staff to report back in September with information on adding the AWG's recommended additions to the Short-Term Action Plan.

AWG Areas of Concern:

1. Floating Bus Stops
2. City Hall and Bay Centre bus ramps
3. Participation in recreation programs for people with allergies
4. Accessibility to city facilities for people with pet allergies
5. City plant selection impacting people with health considerations
6. Curb and ramp specifications*
7. Audible pedestrian signals*

** Added to the action plan along with an additional action to share information with disability organizations on new technologies that are installed in the built environment and/or public facilities*



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Council Direction #6

Direct staff to report back on the accessibility lens as it relates to the future equity lens and on potential tools to assist with balancing competing rights and interests.

Decision Making Enhancement:

- Updated Accessibility Impact Statement guidelines to staff to address trade-offs and alignment
- Staff support in review from Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (pending staff recruitment)
- Equity decision making tool for Council consideration in 2021



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Recommendations

That Council approve the:

1. Accessibility Framework
2. Terms of Reference for a new Accessibility Advisory Committee
3. Accessibility and Inclusion Policy
4. Short-Term Action Plan

