

Report to Council

Report Title:	2021-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan		
Prepared By:	Fiona Hamilton, Clerk, Sarah Johnson, Jr. Deputy Clerk and Julie Farrell, Human Resources Generalist		
Department:	Clerk's		
Date:	December 14, 2021		
Report Number:	CLK2021-41	File Number:	C11CL, A22
Attachments:	Draft 2021-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CLK2021-41 – 2021-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, prepared by Fiona Hamilton, Clerk, Sarah Johnson, Jr. Deputy Clerk, and Julie Farrell, Human Resources Generalist and in doing so approves a By-Law coming forward to adopt the 2021-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the Municipality of Brockton.

Report:

Background:

Under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 11 (AODA)*, all municipalities have a legal obligation to prepare multi-year accessibility plan. The Municipality of Brockton has adopted Multi-Year Accessibility plans in 2012, and 2014, which included requirements under *Ontario Regulation 191/11: Integrated Accessibility Standards* and *Ontario Regulation 413/12: Integrated Accessibility Standards*.

Additionally, the plan outlines how the Municipality will continue to remove barriers and improve accessibility for persons with disabilities, building upon accomplishments of previous accessibility plans and continues to implement Provincial requirements to create an accessible Ontario by 2025.

Analysis:

The 2021-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan includes actions and processes by which Brockton has identified, removed, or prevented barriers, the monitoring process for the Plan, and how these initiatives will be communicated to the public. The 2021-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan incorporates initiatives included in the Strategic Action Plan, priorities included in the annual budget and guiding planning documents, as well as capital projects. The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is divided into headings showcasing the Municipalities accomplishments in the areas of Customer Service, Information and Communication, Employment,

Procurement, Training, Design of Public Spaces, and Transit. The Plan further describes initiatives and next steps that the Municipality will conduct over the next five (5) years in the same areas.

The AODA requires that each municipality with a population of 10,000 people or more establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee. The legislated mandate of the Accessibility Advisory Committee is to provide advice about the implementation of the accessibility standards and review Site Plans for accessibility concerns. The legislation requires that the majority of the members on the Accessibility Advisory Committee be people with disabilities. As Brockton's population is nearing 10,000 people, staff recommended establishing an Accessibility Advisory Committee as part of the Committees of Council Review. The Municipality will bring forward a Terms of Reference for the Committee and recruit individuals to form the Accessibility Advisory Committee in 2022.

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Accessibility Advisory Committee and staff, providing annual status updates.

Staff consulted with the Bruce County Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Walkerton Action Committee (Community Living) on the draft 2021-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The Walkerton Action Committee shared their priority focuses of winter sidewalk maintenance, including sidewalks on streets that currently do not have sidewalks installed, and investigating opportunities for evening transportation.

Community members could also share their feedback on how to improve Brockton's accessibility on our community engagement website, [Build Your Brockton](#). Residents could complete a survey recording their experiences with Municipal services, programs, and facilities; add ideas of how to improve accessibility in Brockton; or pin an accessible place on a map of Brockton. The accessible places map included Brockton's accessible parking spaces, accessible sidewalks, and accessible design spaces such as the Walkerton Optimist Park, Cargill Community Centre, and accessible elevators in our facilities. The Accessibility Plan project was launched on Build Your Brockton on November 30, 2021 and received a total of 21 views, including 16 aware visitors, 10 informed visitors, and 3 engaged visitors who participated in the mapping tool, and submitted one (1) survey. The draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan was downloaded once.

The survey noted staff's friendly customer service, and excellent communications on the Municipal website and social media, and ease of use with online banking. The survey recommended implementing online forms and payments through the website, increasing affordable housing, increasing accessibility in public spaces entry and exits, and investigating shuttle transportation from hamlet communities during special events or poor weather.

The final 2021-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan will be circulated on our website, and hardcopies will be available at the Municipal Office, Walkerton and Cargill Libraries.

Staff recommend approving the 2021-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, and have prepared a By-Law to formally adopt the updated plan.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

\$3,500 has been included in the 2022 Budget for accessibility.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer


Respectfully Submitted by:



Fiona Hamilton, Clerk



Sarah Johnson, Jr. Deputy Clerk



Julie Farrell, Human Resources Generalist

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer