

Report to Council

Report Title:	Update on Recent Initiatives		
Prepared By:	Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)		
Department:	Clerk's		
Date:	February 28, 2025		
Report Number:	Accessibility Report 2025-01	File Number:	C11
Attachments:	2024 Brockton Accomplishments Downtown Sidewalk Clearing		

Recommendation:

That the Brockton Accessibility Advisory Committee hereby accepts Accessibility Report 2025-01 – Update on Recent Initiatives, prepared by Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with updates on projects and initiatives occurring in Brockton to help promote greater accessibility and provide other general information of interest to the Committee.

Analysis:

2024 Accomplishments

Council of the Municipality of Brockton reviewed and accepted a summary of key highlights from the previous year, including the Accessibility Event with Julie Sawchuk and the purchase of the mobi-mats. Staff and Council express thanks to the Committee in their efforts to make Brockton an accessible, welcoming community.

2025 Snowclearing

As the Committee is aware, Brockton received an unusually large amount of snow this year, which caused many challenges for pedestrians and vehicles. Brockton crews worked diligently to try to clear snow away from roads and sidewalks as often as possible. I have attached a report from the Operations Department that was presented during the budget discussions with more information about the steps and costs involved in clearing the downtown sidewalks. Council decided to maintain the current level of services regarding snowclearing.

2025 Budget

Council of the Municipality of Brockton has approved the 2025 Operating and Capital Budget. The Accessibility Advisory Committee has received a budget of \$2500.00, which could be used to plan a MapMission day to provide information on the Access Now site, or to plan for another event to occur.

The 2025 Budget also included some key capital projects, including installing new sidewalks on Old Durham Road up to connect with new sidewalks and streetlights along Eastridge Road. Council approved municipal contributions to the project lead by the County of Bruce to redesign the intersection at Durham and McNabb streets. From a recreation perspective, Council authorized improvements at Centennial Pool for an epoxy floor.

Housing Accelerator Fund

The Municipality of Brockton was successful in its application for federal funding to incentivize housing units in Brockton. Brockton will be receiving \$3.4 million in federal funding to fund initiatives and capital projects to support housing growth. A key element of this project and funding commitment will be promoting the construction of affordable, accessible and connected housing options for all of Brockton's residents.

Official Plan and Zoning By-Law review

The Municipality will be launching the start of the process to adopt a new Official Plan and Zoning By-law. This major planning project will start with a public kick-off meeting on March 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. An updated Official Plan and Zoning By-law can promote accessibility improvements by ensuring that new developments and renovations adhere to modern accessibility standards, incorporate inclusive design principles, and create barrier-free environments that enhance mobility for all individuals, including those with disabilities. This process is an opportunity for the Committee to review and submit formal comments about policy direction relating to accessibility.

Business Networking event at Larsen and Shaw

As part of the efforts to begin adopting the strategies identified by the Committee for inclusion in the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (education, collaboration, ambassadorship, accessibility event, Access Now and Stop Gap), municipal staff will be attending the next Brockton Business Networking Event on March 27, 2025 at the unveiling of Larsen and Shaw's expanded office space. Brockton staff will present to the business owners in attendance opportunities to consider accessibility and Larsen and Shaw will highlight and promote the accessibility components they included in the expansion.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

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

- Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development Yes

- Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance

Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes
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Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Hamilton', written in a cursive style.

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)