

Examples of City of Calgary Initiatives Related to Accessibility

Facility Management (Accessibility Review of the Municipal Complex, and an Accessibility Audit Strategy for the Remainder of Civic Facilities)

As part of Administration's response to the Motion, Facility Management has conducted an accessibility audit on the Municipal Building. This was done in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA), multiple business units with responsibility for infrastructure in and around the Municipal Complex, and a procured consultant team of accessibility experts. In addition, an accessibility audit strategy has been developed to prioritize the assessment of the remainder of City of Calgary civic facilities. This work will be presented at a September Land Asset and Strategy Committee.

Planning & Development - Updates to the Access Design Standards

Building Services presented updates to the Access Design Standards at the 2016 July 22, which will be proceeding to 2016 September 12 Council. Currently, The City sets a higher standard for the accessibility of its own buildings by applying the standards outlined in the "Access Design Standards" for civic buildings. Updates to the Access Design Standards are being proposed to respond to recent 2015 updates to the Alberta Building Code and to remain current with advancements in universal design.

Planning & Development - Accessibility Plan Reviews

Calgary Building Services offers accessibility plan reviews for civic development projects. Plan reviews focus on implementing the Access Design Standards and other principles of universal design. City departments can also circulate and present civic development projects to the Advisory Committee on Accessibility for input.

Transportation - Pedestrian Strategy

Council approved Calgary's first Pedestrian Strategy, Step Forward, in May 2016. The strategy includes 49 actions to encourage walking while also making it safer and more comfortable. The project is currently developing a Tactical Urbanism Program, which is an opportunity for communities to learn about street improvement options. The intent is to have community members see their street in a different way and to learn about street design principles. Accessibility within Calgary's streets is an important aspect of inclusivity and safety for Calgary's citizens.

Transportation - Roads Initiatives

Roads has incorporated accessibility improvements to standard design guidelines where possible to improve walkability and safety. Roads makes significant investments annually to incorporate accessibility as part of its programs these practices are embedded in day-to-day activities. Below are some highlights of recent Roads accessibility initiatives:

- Currently, there are over 150 accessible pedestrian signals throughout Calgary and several new signals are installed every year. Starting in 2016, Roads will be piloting new accessible pedestrian signal technology at six different intersections across the city.
- The Kensington Improvements Project has incorporated innovative accessibility improvements.
- In 2015, Roads spend approximately \$1 million dollars on the installation of wheel chair ramps in various communities. Ongoing refinements of wheel chair ramp designs and concepts to improve accessibility are completed regularly. These reviews also confirm safe visibility of wheel chair ramps and pedestrian crossings.
- Disabled/Accessible parking stall requests (Requests to Date: 250, Installations to date: 80)
- During new signal construction, missing wheel chair ramps are installed at new traffic signals where they did not exist previously.

Community Services – Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA)

Calgary Neighbourhoods supports the ACA and its mission to provide access recommendations and to advise City Council of the rights and service needs of Calgarians with disabilities.

Community Services - Seniors Strategy

The Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy and Implementation Plan 2015-2018 was approved by Calgary City Council in June 2015. This strategy seeks to create a more age friendly, and thus accessible, City in alignment with World Health Organization's Global Age-Friendly Cities initiative. Priorities identified within this document that directly relate to accessibility includes housing, participation and inclusion, and transportation and mobility. Work being conducted by Planning and Development's response to the Council motion, contributes to the implementation of this strategy.

Calgary Recreation

Calgary Recreation attends and participates in the Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) by representing Recreation as one of the Administration positions on the committee. As a stakeholder in the review and development of Access Design Standards, Recreation enhanced the standards for the Recreation facilities section in ADS 2016. The *Recreation Facility Development & Enhancement Study (FDES)* identified some deficiencies in the physical accessibility of our facilities, prompting a *Recreation Accessibility Study* in 2015 to assess the current state and needs of our facilities. The accessibility study has resulted in a long-term accessibility strategy that provides direction for improving the accessibility of our facilities (with a proposed timeline of short-term, medium-term and long-term challenges in major facility renewal). Improvements will be addressed systematically as budget is made available through ongoing lifecycle funding or the identification of additional funding sources. During project planning processes, Calgary Recreation implements an access review and works with ACA to support accessibility improvements as required in ADS.

Calgary Transit

Calgary Transit has active representation at the both the Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) and the subcommittee on Access Design. Transit was part of the review team for the new City of Calgary Access Design Standards and made several contributions to the Transit section of the document. In 2010, Calgary Transit conducted an extensive accessibility audit of

the LRT System as well as audits of the recently completed Martindale/Saddletowne, Tuscany and West LRT extensions. As a result of the audits, Calgary Transit has implemented a deficiency repair program to bring the deficient items found from the audit to current standards. Calgary Transit strives to improve accessibility for all users of the system. As of 2014, Transit's entire bus fleet was transitioned to low-floor buses that allow a ramp to be lowered to make it easier for customers with mobility issues to board the bus. Transit's LRT fleet is also becoming more accessible with the order of 63 new S200 CTrain cars that are accessible at every door entrance.