

Accessibility Audit Strategy

Through the Notice of Motion 2015-16, Administration was tasked with “accessing the accessibility of the remainder of The City of Calgary civic facilities”. Using the Municipal Complex audit report as a guide, and with the expertise of partners at the table, the project team developed an accessibility audit strategy for City of Calgary civic facilities.

Guiding principles were established to determine facilities of key importance for an audit. Facilities are considered to be of key importance if:

- There are publicly accessible portions of buildings (areas that are not secured by card reader or locks).
- There is a higher than usual probability that visitors with disabilities will frequent these buildings.
- The intended purpose of the facility is to provide a service to the public.

Priorities within a facility include:

- getting in and out of the facility;
- getting between levels or floors within a facility; and,
- using a washroom within the facility.

Priorities based on complexity level to be considered in the following order:

- minimal cost and big impact;
- significant cost and big impact; and,
- significant cost and minimal impact.

Avenues to address the inaccessible conditions to include:

- quick wins addressed through existing operational efforts/funding;
- life-cycle upgrades addressed through Facility Condition Assessments; and,
- budgeted items funded within the next funding cycle.

A facility may become a priority if there have been user complaints or accessibility impacts operational requirements. Accessibility enhancements will also be prioritized if they can be undertaken in conjunction with planned lifecycle work or renovations.

Based on the principles above, business units will use the following strategy to audit civic facilities:

- As a business unit, use the guiding principles above to prioritize facilities to be audited.
- For each facility, engage appropriate Corporate partners and impacted facility users to undertake the audit.
- Use the City of Calgary’s Universal Design Checklist, ADS 2016 and ABC 2014 to conduct a visual review of the facility from the curb through to interior public areas.

- Use the template developed for the Municipal Complex audit to compile results (see Attachment 3).
- Where there are multiple or complex accessibility barriers, engage an expert consultant to define required upgrades and provide Class 'D' (Level 5) cost estimates. Engaging a professional consultant ensures that well intentioned adaptations do not lead to unintended consequences for other facility users.
- Work with the facility steward to develop a work plan for addressing accessibility upgrades.