

## Accessibility: Looking Ahead 2023-2024

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and the Access Design Subcommittee identified areas for improvement in their 2022 report. The following provides an overview of actions to date and direction for the following year.

### Administrative Supports – Actions to date

**Advisory Committee on Accessibility resources** - In 2022, Administration hired an Issue Strategist and a Strategy Liaison to support the Advisory Committee on Accessibility's ongoing work and the accessibility portfolio. These positions will participate in additional training, gaining specific knowledge to effectively support the committee.

The Issue Strategist's expertise is in social policy, the intersectional impacts of identity and how that relates to accessibility. The primary responsibility is to support the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in establishing and executing workplans and supporting collaboration across the corporation towards these objectives. The Strategy Liaison supports the tactical activities between administration and the committees.

**Access Design Standard stewardship resources** - The realignment provided an opportunity to integrate the responsibility for Access Design Standards (The Standards) stewardship within project delivery teams. Stewardship includes the Standards' maintenance and updates, application and project manager support, communications, and advocacy. This is supported with a subject matter expert who has been reviewing and advising on many City-led projects from across The Corporation for alignment with the Standards and refers projects to the Access Design Subcommittee as required.

### Administrative Supports – Direction for the following year

**Advisory Committee on Accessibility 2023-2024 workplan** - The Issue Strategist and Strategy Liaison will work with the Advisory Committee on Accessibility to meet objectives in education, community outreach, and partnerships, supporting current working groups and members with:

- A review of Accessibility Awards communication through The City of Calgary website and promotion.
- Hosting Access Tours.
- A review of existing cross-corporate training on accessibility, implementing an online training program.
- An assessment of the external and internal training approaches and materials, bringing the recommendations to the Advisory Committee on Accessibility for review.
- Creating guidelines to advance accessibility at city festivals and events.

**Cross-corporate work on accessibility** – Community Strategies is working with the Cross-Corporate Public Accessibility Advocacy Team to identify and map accessibility work across The Corporation to better integrate the work and transfer of information between Administration and the Advisory Committee on Accessibility.

**Inclusive Meeting Accommodations – Actions to date**

In July 2023 Administration collaborated with the Advisory Committee on Accessibility to identify specific challenges with Microsoft Teams as the application was not accessible to all. It was determined that more time was required to overcome the challenges in creating a fully accessible, virtual meeting platform. The Advisory Committee on Accessibility meetings are now hosted on Zoom.

**Inclusive Meeting Accommodations – Direction for following year**

Administration will continue to create City standard software that meets the virtual meeting platform needs of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility.

**Awareness of the Access Design Standards – Actions to date**

**Access Design Standards awareness** - Orientation sessions are being held with Administration's capital project teams to raise awareness and clarify the process for accessibility review of City-led projects.

**Awareness of the Access Design Standards – Direction for following year**

**Updating Access Design Standards** - A resource request has been prepared to support the full workplan, communication, and sustainment of the Access Design Standards for consideration as part of 2024 budget adjustments. This request will move forward to update the Standards, develop processes and initiate supports to improve understanding and application of the standards, and develop and implement technical training on the updated Standards.

**Safety Codes Council representation** – Administration will maintain its role in providing comments on amendments to the Standards to ensure alignment with the building code.