

REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Kelly Withers, Accessibility Coordinator

DATE: March 16, 2018

REPORT NO.: ADMIN-2018-0012

RE: 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. ADMIN-2018-0012 dated March 16, 2018 regarding the 2018-2022 Multi-year Accessibility Plan be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council endorse the 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the Town of Halton Hills (Appendix A).

BACKGROUND:

In June 2005, the Ontario government passed the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*. Under this legislation, the Minister of Community and Social Services was responsible for identifying sectors of society for which accessibility standards were to be developed. The five areas that were chosen were:

- Customer Service
- Employment
- Transportation
- Information and Communication
- Built Environment

The Customer Service Standard (Ontario Regulation 429/07) was the first standard to become law. The next three areas – Employment, Transportation, and Information and Communication were blended together into the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) (Ontario Regulation 191/11) and enacted into law July 1, 2011. One of the requirements of the IASR is to implement and maintain a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

The Accessibility Plan describes the measures that the Town of Halton Hills will take in the next five years to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities

who utilize the facilities and services of the Town of Halton Hills. While the Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation requires that a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be developed to outline how the Town will remove and prevent barriers within the areas of Employment, Information and Communication, and Transportation and Built Environment, the Town's 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan goes farther in outlining action items to reduce and prevent barriers within all five areas outlined in the AODA.

Annually, a status report will be completed to outline the progress of measures taken to implement the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. Additionally a review of the plan will be conducted on an annual basis, with the plan being updated as required to include any new identified priority action items and as new legislation is brought forward.

In addition to the development and publication of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and Annual Status Report, the town has other reporting obligations to the province. As required by subsection 14 (1) of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the town shall file an accessibility compliance report with the province every two years.

The town filed its most recent accessibility compliance report to the province in December 2017 and was compliant in all areas. The next accessibility compliance reports to the province will be December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2021 which have all been incorporated into the 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

COMMENTS:

In accordance with Section Four (4) of the Integrated Accessibility Standards, and to meet the legislative requirements of the AODA the Town is required to establish, implement, maintain and document a Multi-year Accessibility Plan.

Staff worked with the Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee to develop the multi-year plan.

The draft Accessibility Plan is available on the Town's website. Additionally, an advertisement was placed in the Independent & Free Press and The Tanner on Thursday, April 12, 2018 noting the availability of the draft plan, and provisions for providing feedback through delegation to Council or through written submission to the Clerk's office.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

The Town of Halton Hills' Strategic Plan notes the following Goal;

Foster a Healthy Community

To maintain and enhance a healthy community that provides a clean environment and a range of economic and social opportunities to ensure a

superior quality of life in our community;

through the Strategic Objective;

(A.4) To provide accessibility throughout the community.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Expenditures needed to meet the action items outlined in the Multi-Year Plan will be funded through the Accessibility Capital Budget program.

COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT:

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, upon adoption by Council, will be made available on the Town's website, and will be communicated to Town staff.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life. The relationship between this report and the Strategy is summarized below:

Do the report's recommendations advance the Strategy's implementation?
Yes

Which pillar(s) of sustainability does this report support?

This report is keeping with the objective of incorporating sustainability into the Town's operation. Implementation of the actions outlined in Town's the Multi-Year Accessibility Plans provide for greater opportunity to sustain community livability for residents of all abilities.

In Summary, the Sustainability Implications of this report are as follows:

Overall, the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is:
Very Good

CONSULTATION:

The Clerk & Director of Legislative Services was consulted on the development of the 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Report.

CONCLUSION:

Reviewed and approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanne Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing 'S' and 'J'.

Suzanne Jones, Clerk and Director of Legislative Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brent Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing 'B' and 'M'.

Brent Marshall, CAO