



REPORT

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Renee Brown, Deputy Clerk - Administration

DATE: October 13, 2023

REPORT NO.: ADMIN-2023-031

SUBJECT: Town of Halton Hills 2023-2027 Multi-year Accessibility Plan (MYAP)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Report No. ADMIN-2023-031 dated October 13, 2023, regarding the Town of Halton Hills 2023-2027 Multi-year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council adopt the Town of Halton Hills 2023-2027 Multi-year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) (Appendix A).

KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- Ontario Regulation 191/11: Integrated Accessibility Standards was enacted in July 2011 and establishes accessibility standards for information and communications, employment, transportation, the design of public spaces and customer service.
- Ontario Regulation 191/11: Integrated Accessibility Standards requires that municipalities with 50 or more employees establish, implement, maintain, and document a multi-year accessibility plan, which outlines the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its requirements under this Regulation.
- The Town is dedicated to improving accessibility in our community and the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is one of the main tools to ensure we are making improvements and meeting Provincial Standards.
- Town staff and the Accessibility Advisory Committee provided input and approval of the draft Town of Halton Hills 2023-2027 Multi-year Accessibility Plan (MYAP).
- The Let's Talk Halton Hills Platform was used for public consultation. The plan was posted for 19 days (September 25, 2023- October 13, 2023) on Let's Tak

Halton Hills and promoted on the Town's website, social media and advertised on ActiVan.

- Passage of the Town of Halton Hills 2023-2027 Multi-year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) is important in ensuring that the Town of Halton Hills meets its legislative requirements and for the Town's compliance report due to the Province by December 31, 2023.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

In 2005, the Ontario Government passed the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) to benefit all Ontarians by developing, implementing, and enforcing accessibility standards. These standards work to achieve accessibility for persons with disabilities with respect to goods, services, facilities, accommodations, employment, buildings, structures, and premises on or before January 1, 2025.

The Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) was enacted in July 2011 and establishes accessibility standards for information and communications, employment, transportation, the design of public spaces and customer service. The requirements apply to the public, private and not for profit sectors and have compliance dates ranging from 2011 to 2021. People with disabilities represent a significant and growing part of our population. Enhancing the ability of people with disabilities to live independently and contribute to the community will have positive effects on the future prosperity in Ontario.

Ontario Regulation 191/11 requires that municipalities with 50 or more employees establish, implement, maintain, and document a multi-year accessibility plan, which outlines the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its requirements under this Regulation. This Multi-Year Accessibility Plan must be reviewed and updated at least once every five years. The Town of Halton Hill's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for 2023-2027 was prepared using the previous 2018-2022 plan as a starting point, reviewing, and incorporating best practices from other municipalities and incorporating details of Town of Halton Hills corporate and departmental initiatives.

Staff across the organization whose positions may have accessibility components were asked to provide input on initiatives that are currently in place as well as ones that are being pursued in the next five years to maintain and improve accessibility in the Town of Halton Hills. This information was incorporated in the draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for 2023-2027 and the updated draft plan was circulated back to those staff for final review and comment.

The draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan was then brought to the Town of Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee for final approval before being placed on the Let's Talk Halton Hills Platform for public consultation. The plan was posted for 19 days (September 25, 2023- October 13, 2023) on Let's Tak Halton Hills and promoted on the Town's website, social media and advertised on ActiVan.

There were 86 total visits to the Let's Talk Halton Hills page with 26 informed visitors and 60 aware visitors. None of the visitors left any comments.

The Town submitted a compliance report to the Province on December 20, 2021, in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the next report is due December 31, 2023, part of the requirements for compliance is having an up-to-date Multi-Year Accessibility Plan including procedures for preventative and emergency maintenance of the accessible elements in public spaces and for dealing with temporary disruptions when accessible elements are not in working order.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report aligns to the Town's Strategic plan recognizing the value to provide responsive, effective municipal government and strong leadership in the effective and efficient delivery of municipal services.

This report also identifies youth and senior initiatives as one of the Town's Strategic priorities.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public Engagement the public was invited to comment and provide input through the Let's Talk Halton Hills Platform. The online public consultation was promoted with a banner on the Town of Halton Hills Website, through social media and with advertising on ActiVan.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

Staff from Transportation and Public Works, Recreation and Parks, Communications, Human Resources, Library, Business, Economic Development and Culture and ActiVan were consulted in the preparation of the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. Once the plan was prepared it was circulated back to staff for final comment and then provided to the Town of Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee for review and comment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report is administrative in nature and does not have any financial implications.

Reviewed and approved by,

Valerie Petryniak, Town Clerk & Director of Legislative Services

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer