

# St. Thomas Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

## MINUTES February 3, 2022

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**Location:** Teams Video Meeting

**Time:** 9:00am

**Present:** C. Topping, Councillor S. Peters, S. Rodaway, T. Tiersma, K. Lizotte, A. Williams, L. McClure; B. Ryan, R. Patrick

9:10 a.m. The meeting convened with C. Topping, Chair, presiding.

### **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

NIL

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Motion by: A. Williams – Sheila Rodaway

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on November 18, 2021 be confirmed.

Carried.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Motion by: C. Topping– K. Lizotte to elect Brenda Ryan for Chair for 2022  
All in favour - CARRIED.

Motion by: C. Topping – L. McClure to elect C. Peters for Vice-Chair for 2022,

All in favour - CARRIED.

B. Ryan assumed the Chair position for the remainder of the meeting.

### **REPORTS of COMMITTEES**

1. **Budget:** Nothing to report on expenditures.
2. **On Special Events committee meetings:** Nothing to report
3. **Site Plan Control:** Some adjustment to the development on First/Talbot., but car and van space for accessible spots will be maintained.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. AODA & Parallel Transit– Welcome to R. Patrick, Transportation Technician who will help answer the questions that the committee provided prior to the meeting:
  - a. **Attendant Definition** – This would be the definition from the AODA support person. AODA will be working on the definition of an attendant this fall and the implementation of a card system. Voyago is directed that support persons

- do not pay. R. Patrick directed that issues should be communicated with Localmotion first before calling the customer service line.
- b. **Mobility Device policy** – Folded, collapsed and secured. There is a 2 bag limit. Suggestion that if this is a restriction, that an attendant could assist. R. Patrick will ask Voyago if there is any flexibility in the no-bundle buggy policy.
  - c. **Specialized Transit Bus** – Weekdays there is one bus on before 7:15, three from 7:15-5:45 and then two until 9:45pm. On Saturday one during the day, 2 in the evening; Sunday – one all day long. Shift changes are staggered to accommodate requirements. Concerns on issues should be brought to management at Localmotion.
  - d. **Level of Service** - There is a lot of capacity in this service. Members discussed that there is a ½ hour time frame, where there used to be a 5 minute time frame. Waiting outside (due to Covid restrictions) is challenging. R. Patrick stated that this is the case with respect to Conventional system as well but will check on the priority of rides but noted that the software system is not set up to override priority –which ensures equitable access to everyone.
  - e. **Safety features** – Fully accessible and AODA compliant. Possible trip hazard on the wheelchair lockdown and from using the door opener as a grab bar. R. Patrick will check on the 2 City buses. There was notation that as you walk across tie downs there is also a trip hazard. TPI through Metrolinx have high accessibility standards with respect to new bus purchases. R. Patrick can invite members with respect to any electric bus purchases that happen in the future. Councillor Peters asked that before the new tenders go out, can the specifications be shared with the committee for their review?
  - f. **Reasonable Wait Time** – Door to Door, first come- first serve all based on equitable service for ALL riders. This app generates stats to be able to track performance -and shows that Localmotion has an 85-90% on-time rating. You can watch the bus approach in a browser (phone/tablet). S. Rodaway stated there were deviations in times that cause inconvenience. (arrive by; depart by options should be used and booking well in advance has worked for other users)
  - g. **Annual Public Meeting** - Any complaints can be sent through customer service. Annual open house is the opportunity for the public to share their opinions.
  - h. **Call buttons** – At a traffic signal, poles and electrical chambers cannot be relocated under maintenance. This would be under a Capital works project. Signals are on a 30 year re-built cycle. When road rehab takes place, they incorporate AODA into the build. Currently there is a 15% FULL AODA compliance in the City. R. Patrick explained that crossing signals timing also affects traffic flow and there is challenge in balancing both. On any new construction, the placement of the buttons follows the AODA standards. In some locations, ramp is only 4 feet which requires a person with a walker/wheelchair to back-up. This information will be shared with the Roads & Transportation and Capital Works departments.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

At the next meeting, the committee will discuss how to celebrate National AccessAbility Week and the Future Open House.

## NEXT MEETING

Chair called meeting for February 24, 2022 at 9am via teams.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by: K. Lizotte – L. McClure

THAT: The committee adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Carried.

  
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Signed, Chair, Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

  
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Date

