

MINUTES

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026

Location: Committee Room #415 & Microsoft Teams

Time: 9:00 a.m.

9:01 a.m. The meeting convened with M. Sylvester, Chair presiding.

Attendance:

Members

Michelle Sylvester, Chair

Catherine Topping, Vice Chair

Councillor Rose Gibson

Sheila Rodaway

John Allen

Ed Vandermaarel (Depart 9:55 a.m.)

City Officials

Matt Smale, Legislative Services Coordinator

Absent

Sarah Savoie

Guests

Meagan Lichti, Southwestern Public Health

Daniel Koppert, Manager of Capital Works

Nancy Mayberry

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

WELCOME – NEW MEMBER

The members welcomed new member Nancy Mayberry and exchanged introductions

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Motion by Councillor Gibson – John Allen:

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on February 26, 2026, be confirmed.

Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Committee Mandate

The Chair advised that the draft mandate had been prepared and would be forwarded to the members for discussion at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Age Friendly Community Information

Meagan Lichti, Co-Chair, Age-Friendly Elgin-St. Thomas and Oxford provided an overview of the work of the Age Friendly Community Committee and noted the partners in the project.

Ms. Lichti advised that the St. Thomas-Elgin-Oxford population had a higher percentage of seniors, as well as increased numbers of falls resulting in Emergency Department visits and hospitalizations higher than the Provincial average.

The members discussed access to housing and healthcare for seniors and people with disabilities including home care supports and cost implications.

Ms. Lichti advised that accessibility was a guiding principle of the Committee, that a needs assessment had been completed showing that discrimination through agism was a concern in the area and that the development of an Elder Abuse Situation Table was under consideration.

The members discussed barriers to accessing services including transportation services.

Ms. Lichti advised that coordinating ride services could assist in alleviating some transportation barriers and the Committee was seeking to strengthen connections with municipalities.

The members discussed the improvements that had been made to accessibility in areas such as signage and building improvements and the importance of checking in regularly with seniors and those who live alone.

The members thanked Ms. Lichti for her presentation.

2. Capital Projects Overview

Daniel Koppert, Manager of Capital Works provided a presentation relating to 2026 capital projects, the Complete Streets program and the City's upcoming transportation master plan refresh.

The members discussed the Alma Street reconstruction project currently underway.

The Manager of Capital Works advised that the City attempted to install sidewalks with a width of 1.8 metres and tactile surfaces at intersections whenever possible which was typically accomplished when a road was reconstructed. He added that the City was actively trying to connect the sidewalk and pathway network in the City through the installation of new links.

The members inquired about the placement of curb cuts and tactile surfaces at intersections.

The Manager of Capital Works advised that both were included where possible and were placed at locations promoting the safest place to cross at.

The Manager of Capital Works provided information on accessibility improvements and measures that had been taken during projects on Woodworth, Vanbuskirk and McCully and advised that the traffic signal would be removed at the intersection of Kains Street and Alma Street with new curb bump outs installed.

The Manager of Capital Works advised that proposed 2027 projects would include the first phase of South Edgeware Road reconstruction and Old Talbot Street reconstruction.

The members thanked the Manager of Capital Works for his presentation.

3. AccessAbility Week Proclamation and Flag Raising

The Chair advised that the proclamation and flag raising for AccessAbility Week had been approved and that the flag raising would be scheduled on June 1, 2026.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Committee updates were deferred to the next meeting.

4. Budget

5. Special Events

6. Site Plan Control

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room #415 and via Microsoft Teams.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Signed, Chair, Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

Date