

Accessibility Advisory Committee 2022 Work Plan

**Our city is enriched by the contributions of persons with disabilities.
Our community is strengthened when everyone is included.**

Background information: The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) provides advice and recommendations to City Council about facilities and other infrastructure, programs, services, activities and policies. This aims to improve the City's livability, inclusiveness and accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

The Committee may:

- Identify and engage stakeholder groups and seek their input into the Committee's work.
- Conduct research and prepare reports on effective mitigation or modification strategies (for matters within the Committee's mandate) that would help individuals with disabilities to more fully participate in the community.
- Examine City information regarding current City facilities and infrastructure, programs, public services, activities and policies, to identify where they could create issues or barriers for individuals with disabilities. At the City Manager's request and where confidentiality issues permit, proposals can be examined as well.
- Work with the City Manager to develop and maintain a dialogue about matters of concern to individuals with disabilities.
- Assist Council and the City Manager to develop strategies, programs and policies to attract, recruit and retain individuals with disabilities as employees and to serve on Council's committees or initiatives.
- Participate in and support community events that raise awareness of inclusion and accessibility issues.

Vision

Accessibility benefits everyone. We work fiercely towards an equitable city so everyone can belong.

Mission Statement: We commit to purposeful leadership to design a city that works

for everyone. We encourage the collective efforts of the City of Edmonton, stakeholders, community members and ourselves, to make accessibility an integral part of the city-building process. We challenge the status quo and those who would defend it, and champion accessibility of all kinds as we create a more equitable Edmonton.

AAC Value Statements:

Creating Connections: We believe in building reciprocal relationships with the City of Edmonton and the community at large — through mutual trust, accountability and transparency.

Equity and Inclusion: We strive to go beyond accessibility to work towards equity, culminating in belonging and meaningful inclusion for everyone.

Removing Barriers: We believe that barriers are multi-faceted, and that they may be attitudinal, systemic, physical, communication or technological in nature. True accessibility means removing all barriers for all people.

Disability Definition for AAC purposes - [AAC Disability Definition](#)

There has been four pillars or areas of work that the AAC has organized its activities under:

1. **Advise** City Council and City Administration on policies, potential policies or changes to existing policies that affect access and inclusion for persons with disabilities.
2. **Participate in and support events** and opportunities that enhance overall awareness of inclusion and accessibility in Edmonton.
3. **Engage** with broader communities of persons with disabilities in a meaningful way, and ensure that the AAC has the necessary information to undertake its advisory role.
4. **Educate City Council, City Administration and the public** on issues and best practices around inclusion and accessibility.

Priorities for 2022

The City Plan is an invitation to join in building a version of our city that respects and preserves the things we value today while also creating a city to attract and inspire its next million residents. The Accessibility Advisory Committee sees its work throughout the plan. 'Big City Moves', 'Shaping the City' and 'Planning for People' have particularly good alignment with AAC upcoming priorities.

Increase Awareness of the Need for Accessible and Affordable Housing in Edmonton

- Connect with and work with City of Edmonton Housing and Homelessness Section
- Leverage the Leger Report on Accessible and Affordable Housing to raise awareness about the need for accessible and affordable housing with stakeholders
- Create short educational infographic material to support the Leger Report Findings
- Connect with Affordable Housing Providers (Shovel Ready Group)
- Speak to City Council as appropriate around advances in the Housing and Homelessness Section
- Connect with community and organizations to advance accessible housing awareness

Snow and Ice Removal Policy

- Actively participate with Parks and Road Operations in the Snow and Ice Control Implementation Review and Council driven Motion Report.
- Continuously scan the community for issues and concerns around Snow and Ice control.
- Speak to City of Council in Spring 2022 regarding Snow and Ice Report

Vehicle for Hire - Accessible Taxis (WAVE Safety)

- Following the completion of the Pivotal Research Report, work with Vehicle For Hire to ensure implementation of the report recommendations
- Speak to City Council regarding the Vehicle for Hire Annual Report - March 7th, 2022
- Work with the community and other equity seeking advisory committees to garner additional support for changes with the Vehicle for Hire Section to meet accessibility and safety concerns of riders.
- Write to City Council to elevate the concerns of the AAC regarding Vehicle for Hire

Applying an Intersectional Lens

- Work with other City of Edmonton equity seeking advisory committees to elevate issues
- Seek out ways to connect and understand the intersection of disability and poverty

- Intentional work on Reconciliation

Increase Awareness through Community Engagement

- Social media strategy and implementation
- Regularly connecting with disability organizations and stakeholders on AAC work and issues being raised - leveraging connections in community
- Connecting with other large community organizations - eg: Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues
- Support Initiatives that recognise and celebrate People with Disabilities
 - National AccessAbility Awareness Week(NAAW)
 - Protocol Office and Awards of Excellence
 - International Day for Persons with Disabilities
 - Seek out and support events hosted by other organizations
 - Pacific Rim Conference
 - Training opportunities for AAC Members (GBA+, Indigenous Awareness)
- Submit an Annual Report to City Council (Spring)

Policy Reviews and Impacts

- Receive regular reports on the advancement of Policy C602 with Integrated Infrastructure Services
- Approve an AAC Policy on Group Norms and Expectations
- Identify (existing and planned) policy areas that the AAC could impact given its position and connection in the community.
 - Sidewalk Maintenance and Repair Strategy
 - Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw 13145
- Complete necessary research and engagement to prepare the AAC position on key policy areas identified.

Accessible Transportation

- Follow the feedback and report on the Bus Network Redesign
- Follow changes with E-Scooter industry
- Continue a relationship with the Edmonton Transit Advisory Board (ETAB) as well as with DATS Advisory Group (DAG)
- Follow advances in Light Rail Transit Development