



Accessibility Advisory Committee

**Wednesday, February 26, 2025
5:30 p.m.**

**Committee Room G, Basement & Zoom
New Westminster City Hall, 511 Royal Avenue**

Present: Councillor Jaimie McEvoy, Chair
Paul Backman
Karen Basran
Anne Belanger
Hilary Benoit
Hazel Fitzpatrick*
Vic Leach
Katie Marshall
Karen Morgan*
Gary Steeves*
Lleanor Vlug
Colleen Vogler

**Attendance by electronic means*

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. It was acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. It was recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. INTRODUCTIONS & ICEBREAKERS

2.1 Advisory Committee Introduction and Member Affirmations

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Legislative Services staff provided an introduction to the City's advisory committees and highlighted key responsibilities for members. All members then completed their Affirmations of Conduct.

3. AGENDA ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on February 26, 2025 be approved, with the addition of (i) Bylaw Enforcement for Accessible Parking, (ii) Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Safety, (iii) Transportation, Roads, and Crosswalks, and (iv) Election of an Alternate Chair, under “New Business”.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 January 22, 2025

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on January 22, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

5.1 Burrard Peninsula Area Transport Plan Phase 2

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Drew Ferrari, Senior Advisor, Stakeholder and Community Relations, TransLink, and Adam Lougheed, Planner, TransLink, presented on the Phase 2 Burrard Peninsula Area Transport Plan (BPATP).

A. Lougheed advised that Area Transport Plans (ATPs) are planning processes meant to break TransLink’s larger geographic area into subregional pieces to identify issues, opportunities, and priorities, with a scope that includes transit, cycling, walking, and roads.

A. Lougheed noted that first phase ATP learnings explored areas in the Burrard Peninsula where there is an opportunity for more convenient transit access and areas where further integrated bus service could be beneficial. As part of this process, the need for safe, reliable, and accessible transit service to reduce overcrowding and travel times, and extended hours of service were prioritized.

A. Lougheed further informed that the BPATP will focus on improving wayfinding by increasing signage, making the current network more legible, improving the accessibility of real time information, and translating signage and materials into other languages. It was noted that TransLink anticipates providing new amenities, improved seating and lighting, and further training for frontline staff.

In response to questions from the Committee, A. Lougheed noted that:

- TransLink’s design jurisdiction is limited to bus exchanges and SkyTrain stations;
- the TransLink facilities team will be informed of Committee feedback regarding the necessity for increased amenities for service animals;

- Queensborough has been identified as a future area of study for TransLink; and
- new SkyTrains will allow more room for accessible maneuverability.

Discussion ensued and the following comments of the Committee were noted:

- concerns were raised regarding the need for increased education for youths on road safety and awareness, with focus on safe usage of e-bikes and e-scooters;
- the Canada Line SkyTrain has extensive audio alerts and there is potential to implement the same audio alerts on the Expo Line and all future lines, and that more audible announcements could increase safety;
- increased transit coverage to shopping centres was suggested, as well as increased maintenance of signage and precautionary yellow lines; and
- a shuttle or other efficient transit option could lend itself to connecting Uptown and Downtown New Westminster to Queensborough.

Anne Belanger left the meeting and did not return (7:00 p.m.).

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Bylaw Enforcement for Accessible Parking

Chair McEvoy advised that parking enforcement staff were informed of the issue of accessible parking spaces being used by vehicles without proper signage displayed.

6.2 Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Safety

Chair McEvoy informed that the matter of pedestrian safety inside of bike lanes requires further consideration, and noted that he will contact City staff for information and report back to the Committee.

6.3 Transportation, Roads, and Crosswalks

Chair McEvoy advised that Council is investigating the prospect of renewing the City's Master Transportation Plan (MTP), and will potentially involve the Accessibility Advisory Committee in reviewing the MTP. The Chair also noted that the City's website has a section called "See-Click-Fix" to report infrastructure issues.

6.4 Election of a Vice Chair

Discussion took place regarding the need to nominate a Vice Chair for the Committee, however no nominees were identified. Chair McEvoy then advised that he would talk with Anne Belanger to assess her interest in serving as Vice Chair.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn (7:23 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on February 26, 2025.

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
CHAIR

Kristin Unger
COMMITTEE CLERK