



**Town of Aurora
Accessibility Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2025
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Councillor Wendy Gaertner*
Lois Davies*
Alison Hughes (Chair)*
John Lenchak* (departed 8:07 p.m.)
Elaine Martini*
Jo-anne Spitzer*
Marilyn Williams*

Other Attendees: Gregory Peri, Accessibility Advisor
Phillip Rose, Manager, Cultural Services*
Michelle Johnson, Collections and Exhibitions Coordinator*
Garry Anggawinata, Municipal Engineer*
Glen McArthur, Municipal Engineer*
Julia Shipcott, Council/Committee Coordinator

*Attended electronically

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Committee consented to extend the hour past 9:10 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the

Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gaertner

Seconded by John Lenchak

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

5. Receipt of the Minutes

5.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2025

Moved by Marilyn Williams

Seconded by John Lenchak

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 12, 2025, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Exhibitions and Collections Coordinator; Re: Community Reflection Space Concept Plan

Staff provided a brief update of the project's history and introduced Adam Nordfors, Landscape Architect with Fotenn Planning and Design to

present 30% designs of the proposed Community Reflection Space located in the south-west quadrant of the Town Office main entrance.

Adam Nordfors outlined the symbolic and spiritual concepts incorporated into the proposed fully accessible 'River Plaza' and 'Sky Ribbon Forest' as a combined social gathering and contemplative/offerings space, integrating natural elements, a wind phone, barrier-free surfaces, speaking platform and seating with a 'Sky Ribbon' water feature flowing into a private grieving space. Also noted was the plan to relocate barrier-free parking to the north side of the main entrance adjacent to existing EV parking.

The Committee provided feedback on the importance of suitable element heights and ground surface materials for barrier-free access to the wind phone and water feature, barrier-free seating requirements to include seating both with and without arms, proper lighting and visual indicators for safe navigation around the space.

Moved by Jo-anne Spitzer

Seconded by Marilyn Williams

1. That the memorandum regarding the Community Reflection Space Concept Plan be received; and
2. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee comments regarding the Community Reflection Space Concept Plan be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

7.2 Memorandum from Municipal Engineer; Re: Yonge Streetscape Promenade Presentation

Staff briefly outlined the status of the Yonge Streetscape Promenade project and introduced Ron Albright, Associate Partner/Director and Jenna Rowland, Project Coordinator, CIMA+ to present 30% designs of the project.

Jenna Rowland outlined the project's objectives including incorporating Aurora Town Square design elements into the downtown business core, enhancing pedestrian features, plantings, seating and accessibility, rehabilitating underground infrastructure and improving lighting and

wayfinding/signage. Also noted was a project schedule overview, with 90% design submission planned for a July 2026 Public Information Centre.

Ron Albright spoke to the accessible features of the design including two meter wide unobstructed sidewalks on both sides of Yonge Street, audio pedestrian signals, and high contrast pavings with dropped curbs and tactile plates at crosswalks. Additional improvements will extend to minor barrier eliminations at business exterior grade levels, with existing ramp entries remaining. It was noted that on-street accessible parking will incorporate the results of the Town-Wide Parking Study currently underway.

The Committee discussed the importance of accessibility seating requirements including seatbacks to provide stability, and providing seating both with and without arms, in addition to signal timing improvements and high-contrast treatments for crosswalk safety. Further noted was the significance of selecting large slab surface materials over small pavers for wheelchair safety, and high-contrast, legible wayfinding signage to direct users to public buildings and barrier-free parking.

Moved by Lois Davies

Seconded by Marilyn Williams

1. That the memorandum regarding Yonge Streetscape Promenade Presentation be received; and
2. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee comments regarding Yonge Streetscape Promenade Presentation be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

7.3 Round Table Discussion; Re: Town of Aurora Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2022 to 2026

Staff provided an update from Accessibility Standards Canada which is currently reviewing Emergency Egress standards to develop best practices in accessibility for the evacuation of people with disabilities.

Requirements of this standard will apply to the design and construction of all new federal buildings, and renovations and alterations of existing buildings.

Moved by Lois Davies

Seconded by Marilyn Williams

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee comments regarding the Town of Aurora Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2022 to 2026 be received and referred to staff for consideration and action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

None.

9. New Business

Staff advised that due to scheduling limitations in relation to the upcoming holidays, January's meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be cancelled.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Gaertner

Seconded by Lois Davies

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Carried