

## **Tecumseh Accessibility Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes**

Date: Thursday, April 17, 2025  
Time: 1:00 pm  
Location: Electronic meeting live streamed at:  
<https://video.isilive.ca/tecumseh/live.html>

#### **Present:**

Member, Patrick Strong  
Member, Ron Matysek  
Member, Tracey Crow  
Chair, Alicia Higgison  
Member, Kristina Fernandez

#### **Absent:**

Member, Melissa Bloomfield

#### **Also Present:**

Manager Legislative Services & Deputy Clerk, Jennifer Alexander

#### **Others:**

Manager Planning Services, Chad Jeffery

#### **A. Roll Call**

#### **B. Call to Order**

The Chairperson calls the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

#### **C. Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that we are on land and surrounded by water, originally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples who have travelled this area since time immemorial. This territory is within the lands honoured by the Wampum Treaties; agreements between the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lenni Lenape and allied Nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the Three Fires Confederacy Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi and Huron/Wendat Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

#### **D. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There is no pecuniary interest declared by a Member of the Committee.

## **E. Delegations**

### **1. 2025-2028 Transit Accessibility Plan - Feedback**

Re: Manager Planning Services & Local Economic Development, Chad Jeffery

The Manager Planning Services reviews the draft 2025-2028 Transit Accessibility Plan (Plan) as appended on the Agenda. This Plan identifies potential barriers with recommendation to accommodate. He explains the current transit routes, and on demand services provided by the Town. He explains levels of ridership, routes and background on the developments of transit in the Town. He advised that the Town has recently acquired three electric busses.

He highlights the regulations and accomplishments with transit accessibility such as no charge for support persons, priority seating and procedures for equipment failures or disruption on service. Barrier to access is outlined and he requested feedback on this section from the Committee.

The Chair opens the floor to questions from the Members.

A Member inquired on the statistics collected by the Town on how many persons with disabilities are using this service. The Manager states that the Town do not collect this information and will add to the transit data collection.

A Member requested if there is a way that the Town could clear sidewalks of snow in an effort for person with disabilities to get to the bus stop. The Manager Planning states he will discuss with the Public Works Department for follow up.

The Manager highlights on a potential situation where two wheelchairs using transit at the same time. This has only occurred once in 15 years. The approaches are discussed such as the bus driver calling a taxi or calling for the extra bus to pick up. The Committee agrees with the approaches of calling an accessible taxicab or alternate transit bus if the situation arises.

Transit shelters and stops are raised and how bus drivers accommodate with the ramp to get down from the shelter/bus stop. Is there is timeline through infrastructure works for ramps to be at Transit stops. The Manger explains that he is not aware of any situation where this has occurred at a bus stop and indicates that the transit drivers know the riders very well and will accommodate to assist safely to enter or depart off the bus.

**Motion: TAAC - 03/25**

Moved By Patrick Strong

Seconded By Kristina Fernandez

**That** the 2025-2028 Transit Accessibility Plan **be received**.

Carried

**F. Communications**

**1. February 27, 2025 TAAC Minutes**

**Motion: TAAC - 04/25**

Moved By Ron Matysek

Seconded By Kristina Fernandez

**That** the minutes of the February 27, 2025, meeting of the Tecumseh Accessibility Advisory Committee as were delivered to the Committee members, **be adopted**.

Carried

**G. Reports**

There are no Reports presented to the Committee.

**H. Unfinished Business**

**1. National AccessAbility Week**

The Manager Legislative Services and Deputy Clerk reviewed past activities in honour of National AccessAbility week. The Members discuss ideas for this upcoming week including featuring the new electric busses with the accessibility features. Member Patrick Strong will inquire if his daughter would be interested in being featured in a video highlighting the accessible features on the bus. Administration will coordinate on possible dates to film.

**Motion: TAAC - 05/25**

Moved By Ron Matysek

Seconded By Patrick Strong

**That** Council give consideration to support the following initiatives in honour National AccessAbility Week (May 25th to May 31st) to include:

- A flag raising ceremony at the Tecumseh Town Hall on Monday May 26, 2025, at 10 am and that the flag be raised for the duration of the week (May 26 to May 31);

- Administration in collaboration with TAAC members to develop a social media campaign to raise public awareness on accessibility in the community;
- Illuminate Town Hall the colour red.

Carried

## **2. Feedback on Accessible Customer Service Policy**

The Manager Legislative Services & Deputy Clerk provide an overview of the policy and requests the Committee for comments and feedback on the policy.

The chair opens the floor for question from the members.

A member inquires on the definition of service animal and the types of animals this definition would include emotional support animals. It is requested that Administration review best practices with other municipalities to see if the definition is to be revised to include emotional support animals.

The Manager advised that the Committee that staff will begin the revisions over the summer and provide a revised policy for review.

## **I. New Business**

Accessibility Festival in September

The Manager Legislative Services and Deputy Clerk advised that the Accessibility festival hosted by the County of Essex is scheduled for September 12, 2025. More information will be provided.

The Committee agreed that they would like to participate in some way with all the recent improvements made in Tecumseh with the Arena, Lacasse Stadium, and the electric busses. The Committee requested Administration to bring more information on the event when it becomes available to prepare.

## **J. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be at the call of the Chair.

**K. Adjournment**

**Motion: TAAC - 06/25**

Moved By Patrick Strong

Seconded By Ron Matysek

**That** there being no further business, the Thursday, April 17, 2025, Tecumseh Accessibility Advisory Committee **be adjourned** at 2:04 pm.

Carried

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Alicia Higgison, Chairperson

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Robert Auger, Clerk