

**PUBLIC AGENDA
SASKATOON ACCESSIBILITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Friday, June 13, 2025, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
via teleconference, hosted from Committee Room E**

Committee Members:

**Mark Kennedy, Public, Chair
Chelsea Wisser, The Ability Hub YXE, Vice Chair
June Gawdun, Saskatoon Council on Aging
Darren Gilchrist, Public
Christine Anaka, Public
Adeola Fadakinte, Public
Robert Gourley, Public
Kyra Mazer, Public
Karthik Babu Menon, Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc.
Steven Schneider, Public
Amanda Titman, Vision Loss Rehabilitation Saskatchewan (CNIB)**

Other Attendees:

**Councillor Bev Dubois
Robin Mowat - Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission
Building Standards Manager Roger Bradley
Director, Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Stryker Calvez
Senior Building Code Engineer Steven Gellea
Senior Transportation Engineer Chelsea Lanning
Organizational Development Consultant Thiago Prado
Recreation Services Manager Michelle Wolfe**

Submissions providing comments and/or requesting to speak will be accepted for public meetings using the online form at saskatoon.ca/writetocouncil. If your submission includes a request to speak, you will be contacted by a representative from the City Clerk's Office with further information. **Submissions will be accepted no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday the week of the meeting.**

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair will call the meeting to order on Treaty 6 Territory and the Traditional Homeland of the Métis People and confirm roll call.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Recommendation

That the agenda be confirmed as presented.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES [CK. 225-70-1]

4 - 9

Recommendation

That the minutes of regular meeting held on May 9, 2025, of the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

7. WORK PLAN CONSIDERATION

In accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference, it shall submit an annual report outlining the previous year's accomplishments and a work plan for the upcoming year.

7.1 WORK PLAN AND REFERRALS TO STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE [CK. 225-70]

This is a standing item on the agenda for the Committee, and/or any subcommittees, to provide updates regarding items on its work plan and any matters being referred to the Standing Policy Committee for consideration.

In 2025, Committee will focus on the following categories for their workplan:

- *Deafblind Services*
- *Access Transit / Conventional Transit*
- *Educational and Awareness*
- *Civic Accessibility and Safety*
- *Downtown and Bus Rapid Transit Accessibility*

Recommendation

That the information be received.

8. BUDGET - STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES [CK. 1704-5]

10 - 10

Attached is a current Statement of Expenditures for the Committee's information.

Recommendation

That the information be received.

9. VERBAL UPDATES

9.1 REPORT OF THE CHAIR [CK. 225-70]

This is opportunity for the Chair to provide a verbal update on his/her activities since the last meeting.

Recommendation

That the information be received.

9.2 COMMITTEE OR RESOURCE MEMBER UPDATE [CK. 225-70]

To provide an opportunity for a Committee or resource member to update on issues, trends, events, etc. that pertain to the Committee's mandate.

Recommendation

That the information be received.

9.3 SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE [CK. 225-70]

This is an opportunity for the subcommittees to update the Committee.

9.3.1 Education and Awareness Subcommittee

11 - 13

This subcommittee was established to educate Saskatoon on accessibility matters within the Committee's mandate.

A draft letter from the Education and Awareness Subcommittee is provided for the Committee's review and approval prior to submission to the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation.

9.3.2 Deafblind Subcommittee

This subcommittee was established to review and provide feedback on City of Saskatoon deafblind services.

A verbal update will be provided.

10. ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC MINUTES

SASKATOON ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 9, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

via teleconference, hosted from Committee Room E

- PRESENT:**
- Mark Kennedy, Public, Chair
 - Chelsea Wissler, The Ability Hub YXE, Vice Chair
 - June Gaudun, Saskatoon Council on Aging
 - Darren Gilchrist, Public
 - Christine Anaka, Public
 - Robert Gourley, Public
 - Kyra Mazer, Public
 - Karthik Babu Menon, Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc.
- ABSENT:**
- Adeola Fadakinte, Public
 - Steven Schneider, Public
 - Amanda Titman, Vision Loss Rehabilitation Saskatchewan (CNIB)
- ALSO PRESENT:**
- Councillor Bev Dubois
 - Director, Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Stryker Calvez
 - Senior Building Code Engineer Steven Gellera
 - Access Transit Manager Brittany Hadley
 - Senior Transportation Engineer Chelsea Lanning
 - Committee Assistant Holly Thompson
- ABSENT:**
- Robin Mowat - Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission
 - Building Standards Manager Roger Bradley
 - Organizational Development Consultant Thiago Prado
 - Recreation Services Manager Michelle Wolfe

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order on Treaty 6 Territory and the Traditional Homeland of the Métis People and confirmed roll call.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved By: D. Gilchrist

That the agenda be confirmed as presented.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES [CK. 225-70-1]

Moved By: C. Anaka

That the minutes of regular meeting held on February 14, 2025, of the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted.

CARRIED

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

**6.1 Request for Information Regarding Snow Removal Program
[ADV2025-0304]**

The Standing Policy Committee on Transportation, at its meeting held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, considered the above-noted matter and resolved in part that the Administration be directed to provide a verbal update on the snow removal program to the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee at its May meeting.

Roadways Manager Leclaire presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee and responded to questions.

During discussion, the Committee heard key statistics included 125 cm of snowfall over five months, 7 snow events, and 9 weather events. Snow removal operations prioritize city-owned sidewalks, pathways, and transit

stops, with bylaw enforcement ensuring compliance from private owners. Furthermore, the City uses a complaint-based approach for noncompliant properties. Accessibility at transit stops and snow dump management were discussed, and members voiced concerns about uncleared sidewalks at schools and back alley connector sidewalk.

The Committee was advised to call the customer care line 306-975-2476 to report snow and accessibility issues.

Moved By: K. Mazer

That the information be received.

CARRIED

7. WORK PLAN CONSIDERATION

In accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference, it shall submit an annual report outlining the previous year's accomplishments and a work plan for the upcoming year.

7.1 WORK PLAN AND REFERRALS TO STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE [CK. 225-70]

This is a standing item on the agenda for the Committee, and/or any subcommittees, to provide updates regarding items on its work plan and any matters being referred to the Standing Policy Committee for consideration.

In 2025, Committee will focus on the following categories for their workplan:

- *Deafblind Services*
- *Access Transit / Conventional Transit*
- *Educational and Awareness*
- *Civic Accessibility and Safety*
- *Downtown and Bus Rapid Transit Accessibility*

The Advisory Committee discussed the following:

Construction Site Accessibility

The members raised concerns about construction site accessibility and its impact on mobility, especially for wheelchair and cane users. The members were advised that full closures of sidewalks on both sides of a street are to be avoided unless necessary. It was noted that some construction has been extended beyond the initial deadline and some sites don't have an accessible route. The Education and Awareness Subcommittee was tasked with meeting prior to the next meeting on June 13th to draft a letter highlighting these concerns for the Committee's review.

Private E-scooter Regulation

The members discussed privately owned electric kick scooters (e-scooters) and the forthcoming bylaw. Members expressed concerns of the e-scooters and the hazard they pose when they are often left blocking sidewalks, curb cuts, and building entrances. Committee Assistant Thompson will circulate the Administrative report to the members for review.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS)

The members raised concerns of the volume level for the accessible pedestrian signals being low at two downtown intersections. The Administration will review these locations and remediate where required.

Members were encouraged to report concerns to the Customer Care Centre by calling 306-975-2476 to ensure these locations are reviewed in a timely manner.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

The members inquired as to an update on the bus rapid transit in relation to accessibility. Committee Assistant Thompson to invite BRT Planning Team to next meeting for accessibility update.

Moved By: D. Gilchrist

That the Educational and Awareness Subcommittee meet to discuss construction site accessibility and pedestrian detours and provide a submission for consideration at the next meeting.

CARRIED

8. BUDGET - STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES [CK. 1704-5]

A current Statement of Expenditures was provided for the Committee's information.

Moved By: K. Mazer

That the information be received.

CARRIED

9. VERBAL UPDATES

9.1 REPORT OF THE CHAIR [CK. 225-70]

This is opportunity for the Chair to provide a verbal update on his/her activities since the last meeting.

No update was provided.

9.2 COMMITTEE OR RESOURCE MEMBER UPDATE [CK. 225-70]

To provide an opportunity for a Committee or resource member to update on issues, trends, events, etc. that pertain to the Committee's mandate.

No update was provided.

9.3 SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE [CK. 225-70]

This is an opportunity for the subcommittees to update the Committee.

No update was provided.

9.3.1 Education and Awareness Subcommittee

This subcommittee was established to educate Saskatoon on accessibility matters within the Committee's mandate.

9.3.2 Deafblind Subcommittee

This subcommittee was established to review and provide feedback on City of Saskatoon deafblind services.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

M. Kennedy, Chair

Committee Assistant H. Thompson

2025 Budget for the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee

DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE	TOTAL SPENT	BUDGET REMAINING
	Beginning Balance			\$3,000		\$3,000
					0	\$3,000
					0	\$3,000
					0	\$3,000
	Remaining Balance					\$3,000

June 4, 2025

Deputy City Clerk, SPC on Standing Policy Committee on Transportation

Dear Committee Members:

Re: Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee – Construction Site Accessibility and Safety
you

The Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee, at its meeting held on May 9, 2025, discussed the construction site accessibility and safety.

The Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Education and Awareness Sub-Committee met on May 20, 2025 to discuss what issues have arisen from member experiences with different construction sites within established neighborhoods.

The Sub-Committee feels that some education and awareness presented to the City of Saskatoon could help construction sites be more accessible for everyone in the community. The reason the sub-committee met on this topic was because of member experience and would like to express several significant concerns regarding accessibility and communication practices during construction projects in the City of Saskatoon. These issues disproportionately impact residents with disabilities, older adults, and families with young children, and I urge the Committee to consider improvements that prioritize inclusivity and safety.

1. Lack of Access to Curb Cuts

Construction zones often block access to curb cuts, leaving individuals to use driveway ramps, which are not always safe or accessible, especially for those using mobility aids.

2. Inaccessible Signage

Construction signage must include audible cues for individuals who cannot read braille or printed text. Clear, accessible information is essential in detour and construction areas.

3. Fencing Obstructing Sidewalks

Temporary fencing installed along sidewalks poses a serious hazard. In particular, when fencing is angled or zig-zagged to prevent tipping, it can entirely block the sidewalk. This restricts access for wheelchair users, people using walkers, and parents with strollers.

4. Gravel Covering Temporary Water Lines

While gravel may be an effective solution to protect temporary water pipes from vehicle damage, it creates a severe barrier for those with mobility challenges. Loose gravel is difficult to walk on, nearly impossible for wheelchair users to navigate, and unsafe for others with limited mobility.

5. **Adherence to Construction Schedules and Proactive Updates**
Delays are understandable, but affected individuals must be informed proactively. Deviations from the schedule should be clearly communicated across accessible platforms.
6. **Clear and Accessible Communication About Schedule Changes**
Information about schedule changes must be shared in a timely and accessible way, ensuring people can adapt their routes safely and effectively.
7. **Overly Complicated Detours**
Construction detours must be easy to follow, with consistent, clear signage that helps users understand where they can safely return to the regular path or sidewalk.
8. **Winter-Specific Challenges**
During winter, snow is often not cleared from alternate routes, compounding accessibility issues. Combined with extreme cold, this can pose significant health and safety risks.
9. **Accessible Notification Systems**
The City should offer notification methods that are usable by blind and visually impaired individuals, such as audio alerts or screen-reader-compatible emails.
10. **Property Manager Notifications**
Notifying property managers allows them to inform tenants directly—whether by printed notice, verbal communication, or email—enhancing awareness among those affected.
11. **Construction Site Cleanup Before Winter**
Construction sites must be cleaned and cleared before winter begins to ensure accessible travel throughout the colder months.
12. **Cluttered City Website**
Information about construction is hard to find on the City's website. A simplified and accessible page would improve communication for all residents.

Construction planning must take into account the lived realities of all community members, especially those with mobility and accessibility needs. I hope the Committee will take these concerns into serious consideration and work toward ensuring a more inclusive and navigable city for all.

The Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee respectfully requests that the recommendation be considered by the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to accessibility.

Yours truly,

Mark Kennedy, Chair
Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee

xx:xx

cc: General Manager, Transportation and Construction Division

DRAFT