



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 Wisser, The Ability Hub YXE, Vice Chair
 - June Gawdun, 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 Gellea
 - 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