

To: Susan Cassel
City Clerk

From: Timothy Higgins
Accessibility Coordinator

Copy: Chief Administrative Officer
Directors

Subject: Accessibility Advisory Committee
2021 Year End Report and 2022 Proposed Work Plan

File: A-1410-007-22

May 13, 2022

The Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is pleased to present its 2021 Year End Report and 2022 Proposed Work Plan.

2021 Year End Report

The Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee's activities and achievements in 2021 are described below.

Meetings & Membership

- **Members** - Three new members of the Committee were appointed through Council resolution on March 22, 2021 replacing retiring members. The Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee maintained its full authorized complement of 10, highly-qualified, diverse members throughout 2021. As well, the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade provided a highly-qualified and engaged representative as a non-voting member of the Committee.
- **Training** - By way of orientation for the new AAC members and as a review for the other members, the staff representative to the AAC provided the Committee an overview of Ontario's legal framework for accessibility, including highlights of: the Ontario Human Rights Code; the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA); and, the Ontario Building Code.
- **Meetings** - In 2021, the AAC held ten regular virtual meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Guests of the Committee frequently included Pickering community members, representatives of community partner organizations, and staff representatives of the City.
- **Reporting** - The 2020 Year End Report and the 2021 Proposed Work Plan were endorsed by the AAC and submitted to the Clerk's Office for approval at the May 25, 2021 Council Meeting.
- **John McLellan**, Ajax Pickering Board of Trade's AAC representative was recognized in 2021 with a City of Pickering Civic Award for community leadership in accessibility.

Awareness Activities

- The AAC has continued to monitor local, provincial, national and international emerging accessibility legislation, regulations, policies, best practices, products and services and considered adaptations for use in Pickering. For example:
 - The AAC has continued to liaise, collaborate and consult with regional and provincial accessibility professionals and advocates, such as the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals (ONAP) on an ongoing basis and over a broad range of accessibility topics to stay abreast of emerging accessibility issues and successful practices.
 - AAC members have selectively participated in/attended virtual Regional, Provincial, Federal and U.S. learning and networking opportunities related to accessibility.
 - T. Knibbe, Director, Research, Abilities Centre, delivered a PowerPoint presentation regarding the National Disability Survey to the AAC. She discussed the results of the survey with respect to demographics, main stressors, unmet needs, social isolation, physical activity, general health and the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - A representative of the Pickering Football Club (PFC) attended the AAC to discuss their new research project, funded by an Ontario Trillium Grant, which aimed to investigate barriers associated with recreational and sport opportunities in Pickering and Durham Region. The PFC has identified a number of community groups that encounter barriers and remain isolated from recreational opportunities. These groups include people with disabilities, newcomers, seniors, the LGBTQ community, and indigenous populations.
- The AAC fostered/promoted/supported submissions for municipal, regional, and provincial awards and grants to profile Pickering's accessibility investments and achievements. For example, AAC members identified several potential nominees for Pickering's Civic Accessibility Award for Disability Issues and for the Regional Accessibility Award.

Policies, Standards & Implementation

- Reporting - Following consultation with the AAC and the Accessibility Core Staff Team and other City staff, the City of Pickering filed its required 2021 Accessibility Compliance report with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility indicating full AODA compliance.
- Planning - Pickering's Five Year Accessibility Plan 2021-2025 was endorsed by the AAC and approved at the December 13, 2021 Pickering City Council meeting. The Plan featured a summary of the Accessibility Capital Budget for 2021 to 2025 and was informed by an environmental scan referencing:
 - the 2019 report and recommendations of David C. Onley to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility on the future of the AODA;
 - the recent Abilities Centre research study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people with disabilities;
 - results of Pickering's Service and Supports Animals Initiative (SSAI);
 - Pickering's Housing Strategy;
 - the Pickering Football Club's recent study of inclusive recreation programs;

- recent federal and provincial accessibility legislation, regulations, policies and successful practices;
 - input from the Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Pickering Accessibility Core Staff Team; and
 - a scan of plans, issues and successful practices from sources such as ONAP and other Durham Region municipalities.
- Service and Support Animals - Based on extensive stakeholder consultations, the SSAI developed a comprehensive research paper (called a Monograph), documenting the project's rigorous process, its recommendations and issues for further study. The Monograph aims to facilitate outreach to businesses, municipalities and other organizations, and the sharing of best practices for the inclusion of service and support animal users. The Monograph was launched by webcast to the Ontario accessibility community, and beyond, on December 15th 2021. The SSAI partners included:
 - the City of Pickering;
 - the Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility;
 - Aequum Global Access Inc.;
 - the Inclusive Design Research Centre (IDRC) of OCAD University; and,
 - a network of professionals in accessibility, business, and governance.

The SSAI determined that people in businesses, services, government, and the public do not know enough and are confused about:

- many service and support animal uses and types;
- too many laws, regulations, bylaws, policies and practices;
- rights of animal users;
- inclusive behaviors around service and support animals; and.
- competing human rights.

As a consequence, people with disabilities who seek to utilize service or support animals as accommodations often encounter public responses that are ableist and discriminatory. Ableism limits the opportunities of animal users and reduces their inclusion in society.

- Information and Communication - The AAC has monitored the City's steps to ensure website accessibility amid heightened AODA Information and Communication standards. By January 1st, 2021, all public websites and web content were required to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA, meaning that public facing websites must be navigable and their content accessible. The AAC has been kept informed of the City's progress and the significant support from Pickering's Senior Management Team and staff to ensure website compliance. As well, the AAC maintained an ongoing awareness of the City's collaborations with ONAP, Durham Region, and Durham tier-two municipalities to identify website best practices.
- Capital Projects & Infrastructure - Accessibility Core Staff Team member S. Booker, Manager, Capital Projects & Infrastructure attended the Committee and:

- presented the approved Accessibility Capital Budget to the Committee and provided highlights of planned capital projects; and,
 - discussed concerns of the AAC members regarding increasing vandalism of accessibility and other infrastructure in community parks, on local trails and in the Altona Forest.
- Capital Projects - The AAC received several presentations from City staff, and provided advice regarding Pickering's accessibility-related capital projects. The AAC has monitored and provided accessibility advice regarding walkway reconstructions, sidewalk retrofits, multi-use paths, installation of tactile plates at intersections, curb cuts, traffic light timing, snow clearing, parks, playgrounds, special event accessible parking, etc. For example,
 - Accessibility Core Staff Team (ACST) member V. Plouffe, Manager, Facilities Capital Projects, appeared before the Committee with other senior City staff to provide an update and consult the AAC on the City Centre Project.
 - Amid the stress-laden pandemic, and increasing mental health issues in the community, the AAC discussed the tranquility value of the City's parks and trails.
- Employment – J. Campbell of the Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN) spoke to the AAC on improving business performance through innovative labor solutions. ODEN is a network of employment service providers aiming to increase employment opportunities for people living with disabilities. Committee members noted the reluctance of employers to hire individuals with disabilities, and discussed opportunities to encourage businesses to diversify their hiring.
- Training - The AAC maintained an awareness of the City's staff and volunteer training process related to accessibility.

Consultation & Collaboration

- Accessible/Affordable Housing - As an ongoing concern, the AAC has held various discussions and hosted various guest presentations to explore issues and identify potential solutions with respect to residential accessibility and housing affordability in Pickering and Durham Region. Noting a general reluctance by developers to fully embrace the building of accessible housing and communities, the AAC has continuously sought to identify strategies and opportunities to create additional accessible/affordable residential housing options and inventory. For example,
 - M. Kish, Principal Planner, Policy, provided an overview of the Pickering Housing Strategy study. Ms. Kish discussed the background, purpose, objectives and next steps of the study, and provided an overview of the project's three phases. Ms. Kish also discussed the Federal, Provincial, and Regional government roles in housing, and highlighted a number of key findings to date from the Study.
 - In a subsequent presentation, M. Kish, provided an update on Phase 2 of the City's Housing Strategy study. Ms. Kish provided information on the housing gaps that were identified in the first phase and noted that the tools identified in the draft housing strategy and action plan included planning policy, financial incentives, partnership,

education, advocacy, and other actions. She concluded her delegation by outlining the next steps of the strategy. AAC input to the study included:

- Findings of David Onley's independent review of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act were shared.
 - Deficiencies of the Ontario Building Code pertaining to accessibility of residential accommodations were highlighted.
 - Standards regarding accessible residential design outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and by the Human Rights Tribunal were shared.
 - Many site plans that are considered by the Committee demonstrate limited consideration of accessibility. Stacked housing is not accessible.
 - It is important to ensure that a mix of housing is available for the ageing population and people with disabilities in Pickering.
 - The study should set goals for both affordable housing and accessible housing.
 - The senior population is moving away from Pickering due to the lack of affordable and accessible housing.
 - The Strategy should consider factors such as proximity to jobs, transportation, hospitals, and other essential services;
 - AAC member D. Hughes provided periodic updates to the AAC with respect to Axess Condos Pickering to be developed at Pickering Parkway and Valley Farm Road.
 - AAC member P. Bashaw outlined the issues and opportunities surrounding modular housing and the opportunity to bring down the cost of housing. Discussion encompassed best practices from the City of Toronto and zoning issues.
- Transit - The AAC has frequently expressed its interest in improving transit accessibility and customer service for people with disabilities and has sought to collaborate with Durham Region, Durham Region Transit (DRT) and Metrolinx. For example,
 - M. Parkhill of the IBI Group attended the AAC to consult the Committee regarding accessibility of the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Project.
 - AAC member D. Hughes continued his appointment to the Metrolinx Accessibility Advisory Committee representing Durham Region.
 - AAC member P. Bashaw discussed the accessible transit and transportation through Community Care Durham and its impact on the community. He suggested a potential partnership between the Committee and Community Care.
- Taxis - In a presentation to the AAC Councillor M. Brenner provided a brief background of issuing taxicab licenses in the City and noted that after the COVID-19 Pandemic, the three accessible taxicab plates were no longer in operation. He added that there still remained taxis who had self-declared themselves accessible, noting that such taxis may not recognize the specific needs pertaining to accessibility. Councillor Brenner noted that in consultation with the City's Supervisor, Licensing & Enforcement, the City may explore the accessibility needs in Pickering in relation to taxis and shared rides. It was time to conduct a review of the accessibility needs in the taxi industry. He discussed the challenges faced by Pickering residents in accessing accessible transit. He noted that he was part of the City's Taxicab Advisory Committee and that the proposed review would be a joint effort. Further discussion was proposed to explore ways to collaborate with the City's Taxicab Advisory Committee on this matter. Councillor Brenner raised questions regarding the status of accessible taxi

services, the number of accessible taxis currently in service, and the number of taxis with accessible plates issued by the City. Councillor Brenner asked whether the Committee could undertake a review of the current and future needs for accessible taxi services in Pickering and compliance with related AODA standards. The AAC is considering this request.

- Outdoor Spaces - The AAC continued to consult with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Parks Canada, and Altona Forest representatives to consider innovative methods of providing access to outdoor spaces in and neighboring Pickering. For example:
 - AAC member P. Bashaw consulted with the Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) regarding its Welcome Centre, and the AAC was added to the RNUP stakeholder list.
 - O. McDadi of Parks Canada Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) and Larry Noonan of the Altona Forest Stewardship Committee attended the AAC to consult on the Rouge Beach Improvements Project to improve RNUP accessibility and inclusion. Following on from this presentation, the AAC provided a letter to Parks Canada indicating the AAC's support for the Rouge Beach Improvement Project.
 - A Creed, Parks Canada, presented the Rouge National Urban Park- Beach front project. Ms. Creed outlined current issues and design challenges, project goals, project scope, and inclusive design opportunities and challenges.
- Mobile Device Charging Stations – In a presentation to the AAC, J. Whynot, Accessibility Coordinator, Municipality of Clarington discussed the design, site locations, and, signage in local parks and along paths and trails in Clarington to provide the opportunity for individuals to charge their mobility devices while visiting Clarington's parks and other public spaces.
 - P. Feldmann, Assets and Projects Manager, Parks Canada, presented questions regarding Clarington's initiative.
 - L. Noonan of Altona Forest and Rouge National Park, discussed charging stations on park trails including concerns regarding possible vandalism.
 - A. Mostert, Manager, Landscape & Parks Development, noted that the City would be installing Mobile Device Charging Stations and would be conducting further research on the matter as part of the Beachfront Park Study.
- Playgrounds – Pickering resident S. Haley presented a request to the AAC for a fully accessible playground in Pickering and outlined the importance of having accessible playgrounds as well as the need to comply with the Ontario Human Rights Code and Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation. Discussion ensued including:
 - website tools to identify accessible playgrounds; and,
 - the importance for parents and guardians to be able to access playgrounds.

A. Mostert, Manager, Landscape & Parks Development made a presentation to the Committee regarding children's play spaces that are accessible to persons with disabilities. He spoke on the difference between accessible versus inclusive playgrounds, design and accessibility standards for playgrounds, play component types, accessible routes, and accessible components. A. Mostert noted that the City would aim to involve local residents when replacing existing play structures.

Following a presentation by T. Ryce, Supervisor, Cultural Services the AAC endorsed the Esplanade Park Mindfulness, Music, and Wellness Space Project and provided a letter in support of the City's Community Foundations Grant application.

- Museum – In a presentation to the AAC K. Pyke, Coordinator, Museum Operations, announced the Pickering Museum Village's recent recognition as the best small museum in Ontario through Attractions Ontario and added that the proposed museum Travelling Exhibit is part of a current grant application to the Federal Government regarding the Access to Heritage funding program for travelling exhibits. K. Pyke described how the travelling exhibit was focused on corn and its impact on the community, Canada, and the world, and will be travelling in a specially-designed trailer to reach a broader audience. K. Pyke asked for and received the committee advice regarding accessibility considerations for the travelling exhibit. As a consequence of the presentation, the AAC provided a letter supporting the grant application by the Pickering Museum Village.

E. Tayles, Museum Conservator presented tentative plans for the Greenwood Blacksmith Shop Project.

- DRPS Children's Games - The AAC supported, promoted and attended the drive-through 2021 Durham Regional Police Children's Games for disabled youth between the ages of 5 and 18 held on October 23. The City of Pickering has actively partnered with Durham Regional Police Services, Grandview Children's Centre, and other community partners since 1985 to host this annual inclusive event.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – In a presentation to the AAC, J. SanAntonio, the Senior Advisor of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, explained her role at the City of Pickering as well as her professional background. Discussion ensued regarding common accessibility, diversity, equity and inclusion challenges being experienced by individuals, as well as the importance of collaboration between the AAC and diversity staff and the accessibility working group, especially in relation to the development of Pickering's Five Year Accessibility Plan (2021-2025) and its Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.
- Business - Through its Ajax Pickering Board of Trade representative, J. McLellan, the AAC regularly exchanged accessibility information and collaborated with Durham businesses.
- Age-Friendly Initiative - Through its staff representative, the AAC liaised and collaborated with the City's Age Friendly initiative.

During 2021, the AAC continued to:

- Promote awareness of, and advise on, information and resources for people with disabilities needing help during pandemic including:
 - emergency supports;
 - virtual management of anxiety and mental health; and
 - human rights of people with disabilities.

- Promote awareness of, and advise on City/Regional COVID-19 initiatives such as Pickering's partnership with Grandview Kids to provide respite programs.
- Monitor the Rick Hansen Foundation's accessibility programs, the Durham Region Accessibility Awareness Group, the CNIB as well as other accessibility advocates.

Site Plan Application Reviews

- The AAC continued to work in collaboration with City planning staff through an ongoing site plan application review process to encourage the proactive integration of accessibility considerations into City developments. In 2021, the AAC reviewed and provided accessibility advice with respect to the following site plans:
 - The Jerry Coughlan Health & Wellness Centre, 2580 Brock Road
 - This facility will be a treatment and learning center for children with disabilities, generously sponsored by recently deceased Pickering builder, Jerry Coughlan. AAC advice has aimed to help the Coughlan Centre achieve recognition as a center of excellence in terms of accessibility design befitting its sponsor's legacy.
 - S01/20 - TriBro Studios at Pickering Casino Resort
 - S04/20 - Shell Canada at Kingston Rd. and Whites Rd.
 - S11/18 - Metropia
 - S12/02 - 1400 Squires Beach Rd.
 - S02/19 - 9004807 Canada Inc. - Stonepay Phase II
 - S03/21 - R & K Pahal, Carousel Drive
 - S03/87 - Joriki Holdings Inc. 885 Sandy Beach Rd.
 - S04/21 - Highmark (Pickering) Inc. at Kingston Rd. and Guild Rd.
 - S03/78 - DWK Holdings Inc. 1735 Orangebrook Court
 - S10/83 - DDSB - Bayview Heights Public School, 1400 Garvolin Ave.
 - S06/21- Amberlea Creek Developments Inc., 760 Kingston Rd.
 - Pickering Heritage Community Centre at the Pickering Museum Village
 - Pickering City Centre Project – Review of Plans - City staff (S. Douglas-Murray, Director, Community Services, J. Flowers, CEO / Director Public Libraries, and V. Plouffe, Manager, Facilities Capital Projects) walked the committee through the floor plans and artistic renderings for all 3 buildings comprising the City Centre Project including the Seniors and Youth Centre, Performing Arts Centre and Library branch. S. Douglas-Murray mentioned that the Seniors and Youth Centre will replace the East Shore Community Centre's current programs. Staff committed to returning in autumn 2022 with an update to the committee on the final tendered design and to provide a status update. The AAC provided a letter of support to the City of Pickering regarding the City Centre Project and its design considerations with respect to accessibility.

2022 Proposed Work Plan

The AAC's 2022 plans, as well as its accomplishments to April 2022, are noted below:

Meetings & Membership

- Members - The AAC aims to maintain its full authorized complement of 10, highly-qualified, diverse members throughout 2022, as well as its Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade representative. Council appointments to the Committee will expire in October 2022 at the time of the municipal election. A refreshed slate of members will be appointed by the new Council in early 2023.
- Meetings - So far in 2022, the AAC has held three virtual meetings, on the third Wednesday of each month. A further four meetings are scheduled.
- Guests - Throughout 2022, guests of the Committee will frequently include Pickering community members, representatives of community partner organizations, and representatives of the staff of the City of Pickering.

Awareness Activities

- Canada Day - The AAC is planning a "Tranquility Tent" area at Pickering's 2022 Canada Day celebrations, to offer a cool, shaded, relaxing space for people to unwind. The AAC knows the pandemic has had severe impact on mental health, anxiety, social isolation and so much more. The idea is to have a calm, quiet place for people to visit, participate in mindfulness, yoga, meditation, aromatherapy, music therapy and similar activities. Autism Ontario, Resources for Exceptional Children Durham and Pickering's Mental Wellness Committee have expressed interest in collaborating with the AAC on programming for this event and AMICA, the Pickering Town Centre and the Pickering Football Club have expressed interest to provide support and resources for the day.

In 2022, the AAC will continue to:

- promote awareness of, and advise on, information and resources for people with disabilities needing help during the pandemic including:
 - emergency supports;
 - virtual management of anxiety and mental health; and
 - human rights of people with disabilities.
- monitor local, regional, provincial, federal and U.S. accessibility networking opportunities;
- monitor local, provincial, national and international emerging accessibility legislation, regulations, policies, best practices, products and services and consider relevant adaptations for use in Pickering;
- foster/promote/support submissions for municipal, regional, and provincial awards and grants to profile Pickering's accessibility investments and achievements; and
- play an active role in Pickering's community events and celebrations such as Canada Day.

Policies, Standards & Implementation

- Compliance - T. Higgins provided updates to the AAC on the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) Desk Audit that examined selected City policies and procedures for AODA compliance, and examined policies and procedures pertained to training, feedback, and individual accommodation plans. In response to MSAA recommendations, policy amendments were approved by Council in April 2022.

In 2022, the AAC will continue to:

- monitor the City's steps to ensure website accessibility commensurate with heightened (WCAG 2.0 Level AA) AODA Information and Communication Standards;
- monitor and provide accessibility advice regarding walkway reconstructions, sidewalk retrofits, new multi-use paths, installation of tactile plates at intersections, curb cuts, traffic light timing, parks, playgrounds, special event accessible parking, etc.;
- foster/promote/support submissions for local, regional, provincial and federal awards and grants to profile Pickering's accessibility achievements and commitment.
- monitor the City's staff and volunteer training process related to accessibility.

Consultation & Collaboration

- Playgrounds - A. Mostert, Manager Landscape & Parks Development, provided a presentation to the AAC regarding the City's efforts to refurbish City playgrounds and enhance their accessibility. Discussion ensued regarding:
 - opportunities to connect these efforts to the Mural Project as a part of Main Street Grant Application Community Activator Project;
 - playground locations that have been selected for redevelopment;
 - funding for these efforts through grants and City funds;
 - feedback on the new park in Seaton;
 - COVID-19 delays in receiving equipment for parks that are being constructed;
 - resident expectations around project timelines; and,
 - the need to effectively communicate re: development process to the community.
- Waterfront Park & Trail - A. Mostert, Manager Landscape & Parks Development, provided a presentation to the AAC regarding the Rotary Frenchman's Bay West Park and Beachfront Park projects and received the Committee's input.
- LEAD Canada - Abilities Centre representatives M. Walker and Y. Brown presented information to the AAC regarding the LEAD Canada Program funded by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA). LEAD (Leading Equitable and Accessible Delivery) is a methodology to help governments, public and private sector organizations collaboratively define and embed inclusion and accessibility into strategic planning, daily operations, program environments, and organizational culture. The LEAD process helps organizations to identify opportunities to improve and enhance inclusion and accessibility at all organizational levels. A collaboration of the City of Pickering and LEAD is under consideration.

- Culture - J. St. Amant, Coordinator, Cultural Services presented information to the AAC regarding the Main Street Grant Application Community Activator Project. The AAC provided accessibility input and a letter of support for the Main Street Grant Application Community Activator Project.
- West Shore Skate Spot Community Survey – AAC member D. Wysocki provided the AAC with information regarding an opportunity to provide feedback on a new skate park being proposed at West Shore Community Centre. Members discussed a program that exists in Toronto that provides skateboarding opportunities for children living with disabilities, and how best practices of the Toronto program could inform the West Shore Skate Spot project.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - J. San Antonio, Senior Advisor, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion spoke to the AAC about the history of Black History Month, what resources the City is making available to acknowledge and recognize Black History, and discussed the concept of diverse identities and intersectionality. AAC member A. Lue spoke to his lived experience as a Black para-athlete, and the barriers he has experienced and overcome.

During 2022, the AAC will continue to:

- collaborate and consult with Regional and Provincial accessibility professionals and advocates, such as the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals (ONAP), to stay abreast of emerging accessibility issues and successful practices;
- monitor the Accessibility Standards Canada, Rick Hansen Foundation’s accessibility programs, the Durham Region Accessibility Awareness Group, the CNIB, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Parks Canada as well as other accessibility advocates;
- collaborate with Durham Region Transit (DRT) and Metrolinx to improve customer service;
- provide support and attend the 2022 Annual Durham Regional Police Children’s Games; and,
- collaborate with Pickering’s Accessibility Core Staff Team, the Ajax Pickering Board of Trade, the City’s Age Friendly initiative and others.

Site Plan Application Reviews

- The AAC will continue to work in collaboration with City planning staff through an ongoing site plan application review process to encourage the proactive integration of accessibility considerations into City development projects. In 2022 to date, the AAC has reviewed and provided accessibility advice with respect to the following site plans:
 - S01/22 - Tribute at Liverpool
 - S07/21 - Sandy Beach Rd.
 - S03/22 - 2540 Brock Rd.
 - S04/22 - 1635 Palmer's Sawmill Rd.
- Connectivity – following on from the site plan review of the Tribute development at Liverpool, AAC member D. Wysocki provided a presentation to the AAC on the concept of urban connectivity. Members discussed:
 - destinations members travel to in the community and their transportation modes;

- barriers encountered as a pedestrian (e.g. lack of sidewalks, unsafe surfaces etc.);
- how communities have been designed in a disconnected and car-centric fashion;
- experiences using public transit; and,
- how points of interest and neighborhoods in Pickering can be better connected.

Priorities for 2022

- Election - AAC member appointments will expire in October 2022 at the time of the municipal election. A refreshed slate of Committee members will be appointed by the newly elected Council in early 2023. With a view to maintaining momentum, the AAC aims to continue its full authorized complement of 10 members (plus an Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade representative) throughout 2022 and again into 2023 following Council's new appointments.
- Monitoring - On an ongoing basis, the AAC will monitor progress with respect to Pickering's Five Year Accessibility Plan for 2021-2025. For example:
 - In a presentation to the AAC T. Higgins provided highlights of the Five Year Accessibility Plan (2021-2025) in relation to the findings of the National Disability Survey Report, highlighting the impacts of COVID-19 including worsening mental health, greater social isolation, deteriorated peer relationships, and decreased physical activity among people with disabilities.
- Accessibility Core Staff Team -The AAC will monitor planned enhancements of the Accessibility Core Staff Team to heighten its effectiveness and efficiency.

Submitted on behalf of the Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee members:

- Peter Bashaw
- Saima Fatima
- Daniel Hughes
- Glenn Lang
- Tammy Lyle-Gravlev
- Anthony Lue
- John McLellan, Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade Representative
- Phyllis Milton
- Anna Taverna
- Megan Thorpe Ross
- David Wysocki

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