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Date December 1, 2020 **Report No.** 2020-527

To Chair and Members
Committee of The Whole – Operations and Administration

From Brian Hutchings
Chief Administrative Officer

1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item ☐
Item For Consideration ☒

2.0 Topic **Brantford Accessibility Plan – 2020 Status Update** **[Financial Impact – None]**

3.0 Recommendation

- A. THAT Report 2020-527 regarding the Brantford Accessibility Plan – 2020 Status Update BE RECEIVED.

4.0 Purpose and Overview

The purpose of this report is to formally present the Brantford Accessibility Plan - 2020 Status Update for review by City Council.

The document fulfills the City's requirement to provide an annual update to the multi-year accessibility plan, as outlined in the *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (Regulation 191/11)* of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*. This document highlights the City of Brantford's initiative and dedication to creating a more accessible and inclusive environment for all of its residents and visitors.

5.0 Background

In 2005, the AODA came into force and subsequently Standards were developed to remove and prevent barriers affecting persons with disabilities in five areas. The Standards for Customer Service, Information and Communication, Employment, Transportation and Design of Public Spaces contain requirements with deadlines spanning into 2025. These Standards were brought together under one regulation, the *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR)*.

Following the third review of the AODA, the Provincial Government revitalized their commitment to an accessible Ontario by 2025 and announced the [Advancing Accessibility in Ontario](#)¹ framework, which will focus on a cross-government approach to accessibility versus the past single Ministry approach. Under the new framework a number of initiatives will be launched to help with accessibility awareness and understanding compliance. Two campaigns were launched in 2020; one to increase understanding and incentive surrounding the built environment and another to improve understanding of accessibility, inclusion and hiring people with disabilities.

The City of Brantford also continued its commitment to accessibility. In accordance with the organization's obligations under the *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR)* (O. Reg. 191/11, S. 4 (1) (2)) a multi-year plan (the Brantford Accessibility Plan 2020-2025) was prepared and approved by Council in the winter of 2020. The Brantford Accessibility Plan 2020-2025 outlines the accessibility actions achieved to date and the continuing initiatives that will ensure the City's ongoing compliance with this legislation.

The Brantford Accessibility Plan - 2020 Status Update indicates progress made toward initiatives outlined in Brantford Accessibility Plan which will maintain AODA compliance. The 2020 Status Update also speaks to other accessibility improvements that occurred through the City's general operations since December 2019.

Further information about the AODA, the IASR and other standards can be found at:

<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/accessibility/index.aspx>

¹ Information on the Advancing Accessibility in Ontario framework can be found at <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/55522/ontario-establishes-a-new-framework-to-continue-progress-on-accessibility>

6.0 Corporate Policy Context

The Brantford Accessibility Plan furthers the City's Accessibility Policy, Corporate-034, by providing more detailed direction on how to achieve and maintain an accessible community.

The Brantford Accessibility Plan and related Status updates provide information on achievements and goals to support Council's priority outcome #1 that all neighbourhoods in the City are safe, vibrant, attractive and inclusive.

Accessibility initiatives can impact the way in which many populations access goods and services. Likewise, other initiatives can impact the manner in which persons with disabilities access goods and services. As such the Brantford Accessibility plan also supports Council's priority #2c) regarding the continued implementation of the Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy and other age-friendly initiatives.

Accessibility will continue to be a consideration in the City's operations and development of future master and strategic plans.

7.0 Input From Other Sources

The Municipal Accessibility Coordinator contacted the Management staff in City departments to discuss known projects and to inquire about any policy or procedural change that may have occurred, which would impact the level of accessibility of services offered. Responses were recorded and documented accordingly within the Brantford Accessibility Plan - 2020 Status Update.

The Brantford Accessibility Plan – 2020 Status Update was distributed to members of the Brantford Accessibility Advisory Committee (BAAC) for review and individual input in October 2020.

8.0 Analysis

The City of Brantford is committed to being a leader in making accessibility a reality, throughout the organization and in the municipality as a whole. City Council, Management and Staff have a role in creating an accessible and inclusive municipality, whether in employment or the use of goods and services provided to citizens and visitors.

Therefore, the Brantford Accessibility Plan ensures this commitment is met by engaging all departments within the organization to take leadership roles in

implementing the accessibility goals identified by each area as well as the overall corporate goals.

The Brantford Accessibility Plan - 2020 Status Update documents and promotes the organization's progress towards full compliance with legislative requirements set out in the *AODA* and the associated requirements and the *IASR*.

The City of Brantford will continue to implement processes to increase accessibility for its facilities and services. In 2021, focus will continue to be given to improving information and communication, with an emphasis on creating conversion ready documents and enhanced web services.

9.0 Financial Implications

The City's 10-year capital forecast includes an annual allotment of \$100,000 in capital funds to improve accessibility in City Facilities. In addition to this allocation, applications for grants and other funding are completed as applicable. A priority listing of capital initiatives is outlined in Appendix B of the Brantford Accessibility Plan – 2020 Status Update document. The priorities are subject to change, dependent on a number of factors such as: change in public access and accessibility modifications being incorporated into other renovation projects as well as available Facilities Management & Security and operational staff resources. The following is a list of funded projects to be completed:

1. City Works Department	10 Earl Avenue	Lobby and washroom	Proposed 2022
2. D'Aubigny Creek Park	5 Oakhill Drive	Parking and pathways	Proposed 21/22
3. Farmers' Market	79 Icomm Drive	Washrooms	Proposed 2021
4. Glenhyrst Gardens	20 Ava Road	Pathway and entrance	Proposed 2021
5. Glenhyrst Art Gallery	20 Ava Road	Parking, pathway and patio	Proposed 2021
6. George Campbell Park	5 Spalding Drive	Pathways	Proposed 2025
7. Mount Hope Cemetery	169 Charing Cross Street	Pathways, Mausoleum	Proposed 22/23
8. Steve Brown Park	20 Edge Street	Pathways and seating	Partially complete/proposed 2023/2024
9. Transit Terminal	64 Darling Street	Visual description Screen consider audio prompting	Proposed 2021

10. Transit Garage	400 Grand River Avenue	Interior door modifications, universal washroom	Proposed 2021
11. Woodman	491 Grey Street	Pool, change rooms, parking modifications	Proposed 2022

Furthermore, each Commission will continue to identify additional costs, both capital and operating, to achieve compliance with the *IASR*. These will be presented for consideration in the regular budget process.

In some cases the actual financial implication will depend on the demand for service, such as providing communication materials in alternative formats or providing free public transit access for support persons. Staff will advise City Council of these financial implications through regular status update reports.

10.0 Conclusion

The City of Brantford's Accessibility Policy is a "Statement of Commitment", which establishes the vision and goals for the City to meet the legislated accessibility requirements. Continued compliance to the *AODA*, participating in government initiatives and adhering to the Brantford Accessibility plan will ensure ongoing positive changes for persons with disabilities in their daily interactions with the City through the provision of goods and services in a fully accessible manner, as the City addresses both universal and individualized accessibility needs.

The Brantford Accessibility Plan and Status Updates continue to ensure that concepts and actions in delivering goods and services to persons with disabilities remain progressive. Municipal advancements related to accessibility will continue to be recorded in the Brantford Accessibility Plan (Standard Compliance Summaries) and in regular status update reports to City Council.

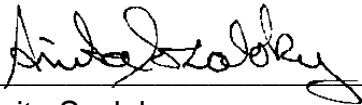
Creating an accessible environment is a process that involves continued learning and interaction with the community as a whole. The legislated requirements of the *AODA* will bring significant changes to the distribution of information, communications and services provided by the City. The City of Brantford continues to be committed to improving the lives of residents and visitors.



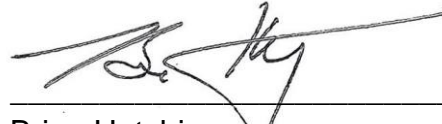
Jenny Sawicki
Coordinator; Municipal Accessibility Plan



Nadine Dunlop
Manager of Health, Safety and Wellness



Anita Szaloky
Director of Human Resource



Brian Hutchings
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments (if applicable)

Brantford Accessibility Plan – 2020 Status Update

Copy to:

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required ☐ yes ☒ no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk ☐ yes ☒ no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? ☐ yes ☒ no