

Multi-Year Municipal Accessibility Plan 2020 Annual Status Update Report

Overview

The City of Brampton's 2019 - 2025 Multi-Year Municipal Accessibility Plan (MAP) outlines how the City will continue to remove barriers and improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities. It builds upon the accomplishments of the previous accessibility plans and continues to implement Provincial requirements to help create an accessible Ontario by 2025.

The City of Brampton has taken, and continues to take, a very progressive approach to addressing barriers to accessibility. Not only has this commitment improved the quality of life for residents of Brampton, it has also provided a sound base upon which the City will continue to build an inclusive community that meets the needs of people of all ages and abilities.

COVID-19 and Accessibility

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented new challenges and has changed the way the City operates and responds to the community. During these unprecedented times, accessibility has remained a priority. The Accessibility team has adapted to working remotely and continues their dedication to keep accessibility at the forefront.

The City of Brampton has created a [COVID-19 resource page](#) to share important information with the public. A Community Resources [library](#), including a section on [Accessibility Supports and Resources](#), is also available to help the public access services and information outside of the City. The team also advised on accessibility-relevant matters of four COVID-19 Task Forces set up by the City to support seniors, youth, businesses and vulnerable populations.

The Accessibility team is utilizing virtual meetings to meet with staff, business partners, consultants and the Accessibility Advisory Committee. In addition, a virtual Accessibility Awareness speaker series event was held on December 3, 2020 with Maayan Ziv, accessibility activist and founder of the AccessNow app.

Brampton Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

The AAC provides guidance and advises City Council on the following:

- The preparation of the Municipal Accessibility Plan
- Requirements and implementation of accessibility standards
- Preparation of accessibility reports and other matters in which Council may seek AAC guidance
- Timely review of site plans and drawings
- All other initiatives, projects and matters relevant to Accessibility

The City of Brampton has continued to engage and consult with the AAC via virtual meetings and email correspondence.

In 2020, The AAC has provided guidance, consultation and comments on the following projects/initiatives

- Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification
- Dynamic Symbol of Access
- The Perfect Mind- New Recreation Software
- Balmoral Recreation Centre Expansion
- SCOOTY (Scooty Mobility)
- Fire Station 214 and Peel Regional Paramedic Services (PRPS) Satellite Station
- Accessibility Training Module
- Accessibility Awareness Week: November 30, 2020 to December 4, 2020
- Fire Station 201
- Sesquicentennial Park Activity Hub Upgrade
- Accessibility Awards Program
- 2020 MAP Status Update

General Requirements/Governance

The City continues to collaborate with key business partners to ensure that accessibility is incorporated in all relevant projects, initiatives and matters. A new accessibility training module has been developed and will be rolled out to all employees, volunteers, all persons who participate in developing the organization's policies and others who provide goods or services on behalf of the City.

MAP 2019-2025 Goals

- Preparation and submission of 2019 Accessibility Compliance Report

- Development and implementation of accessibility review and input process for new City parks
- Development of a “user-friendly” Accessibility Technical Standard summary manual for applications pertaining to parks playground equipment and components
- Collaboration on the development and implementation with Microsoft Canada and the Soundscape application that will help to add more insight and information to help people of all abilities gain confidence and get more from their experiences in Brampton
- Transit launch and implementation of Magnusmode application to provide an inclusive environment for people with disabilities to perform everyday tasks
- Development and implementation of accessibility awareness training event for City staff
- Continuation of annual Accessibility Awards program

2019-2020 Progress + MAP Update

Preparation and submission of 2019 Accessibility Compliance Report

- **Update:** This was prepared and submitted in 2019. The next compliance report is due on December 31, 2021.

Development and implementation of accessibility review and input process for new City parks

- **Update:** An Inclusive Play Space procedure is being developed in consultation with Parks Planning & Development.

Development of a “user-friendly” Accessibility Technical Standard summary manual for applications pertaining to parks playground equipment and components

- **Update:** A summary checklist is being created in consultation with Parks Planning & Development

Collaboration on the development and implementation with Microsoft Canada and the Soundscape application that will help to add more insight and information to help people of all abilities gain confidence and get more from their experiences in Brampton

- **Update:** Soundscape is an iOS app that uses 3D audio technology to enable individuals with vision loss or visual impairment to gain more awareness of their surroundings. The project reached a final review with Microsoft and is still underway, however due to COVID-19 there have been delays. An update will be provided once it is available

Transit launch and implementation of the MagnusCards by Magnusmode application to provide an inclusive environment for people with disabilities to perform everyday tasks

- **Update:** The MagnusCards app provides step-by-step guidance on performing everyday tasks through free downloadable card decks. Brampton Transit successfully rolled out the card decks in September 2019, which assists individuals in understanding how to take the bus in Brampton

Development and implementation of accessibility awareness training event for City staff

- **Update:** The Accessibility team hosted a hands-on interactive awareness event for City staff in December 2019. In June 2020, a short video was developed for internal training purposes as an overview on Accessibility at the City of Brampton. In December 2020, a weeklong virtual awareness event was held for City staff with various learning resources and activities including a public facing component featuring a conversation with Maayan Ziv, Accessibility activist and founder of the AccessNow app

Continuation of annual Accessibility Awards program

- **Update:** The 2020 Accessibility Awards program was postponed due to the pandemic but has resumed in 2021. The nominations have opened and are available on the City's website. The program has resumed with the changes that were discussed at the December 2020 AAC meeting.

Work towards WCAG 2.0 Level AA compliance by 2021

- **Update:** The Digital Innovation and Information Technology (DI&IT) Team has implemented various software programs, tools and resources to help the City meet this mandate and the goal is to develop training for website content creators to create accessible content

Continue to implement the City of Brampton (COB) Accessibility Standards and ensure compliance with all Provincial technical standards

- **Update:** The Accessibility Team continues to implement and apply the COB Accessibility Technical Standards to all capital projects that are reviewed

Next Steps and Initiatives

The Accessibility Team is working on some new initiatives and an update will be presented to the AAC in 2021 to request an update to the Municipal Accessibility Plan.

Continuing Progress

The City of Brampton continues to take a progressive approach to identify, reduce and remove barriers to accessibility. Our approach has improved the quality of life for

residents and has provided a foundation that the City will continue to build on, aligned with our Council Term of Priorities.

The City of Brampton and the Accessibility Advisory Committee are committed to ensuring that individuals of all abilities have equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of the community.