

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, March 1, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 7:02 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Steve Kim, Chair  
Robert Bottos  
Kiyo Breiting  
Alex Kwan  
Heather Lawson  
Barbara Oliver  
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services (arrived at 7:07 p.m.)  
Georgette Reyes  
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society  
Susan Williams, Tri-Cities Seniors Action Society (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)

REGRETS: Councillor Teri Towner, Vice Chair  
Iris Thompson, Canadian Council for the Blind – BC-Yukon Division

GUESTS: Chris Chan, Manager Travel Training – Public Relations, TransLink

STAFF: Canisius Chan, Transportation Planning Manager  
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

## CALL TO ORDER

The Chair acknowledged that the City operates on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the kwikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem First Nation) and the Coast Salish peoples.

### 1. Welcome and Roundtable of Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Committee and staff participated in a roundtable of introductions.

## ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### 2. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 were approved.

<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>
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**3. TransLink Presentation**

The Transportation Planning Manager introduced the Manager Travel Training and he provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Transit Update
- Land Acknowledgement
- Doing Our Part to Stop the Spread of COVID-19
- Masks are Mandatory
- Safety on Transit
- What is New on HandyDART
- Free WiFi Rollout Begins on TransLink Vehicles
- Braille Signage on Bus Stops
- Major Initiatives
- Major Projects Coming Up
- Thank You

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- That TransLink personnel are available to assist customers (including vulnerable youth) should they be confronted by others on buses and SkyTrains
- That Transit Police and Security have the authority to enforce mask mandates and maintain safety on TransLink properties
- The various ways that TransLink has provided for customers to connect with TransLink personnel for help, including the availability of emergency phones in SkyTrain stations, silent alarms on SkyTrain windows, and speakerphones beside SkyTrain doors
- An expression of appreciation and congratulations to TransLink for implementation of raised tactile signage at every bus stop by December 2022
- Concern that braille is often not helpful for visually impaired seniors because many have lost their sight later in life and, therefore, have not learned to read braille
- The observation that some full-size buses operating on routes through Coquitlam neighbourhoods appear to have few riders and, with a view to reducing emissions (greenhouse gases), whether TransLink had considered switching from full size buses to mini-buses in some areas
- The recognition that full size buses may afford greater accessibility than mini-buses
- That the Coast Mountain Bus Company continually monitors ridership on individual routes, evaluates needs, and makes adjustments to schedules and fleets as necessary
- That TransLink enacted some innovative ideas during the pandemic, including using Transit vehicles as mobile vaccine clinics and vaccine shuttles

In response to a question from the Chair relative to the Compass Card and HandyDART usage and statistics, the Manager Travel Training spoke to inquiries made by customers to TransLink's Access Transit and Customer Care, and undertook to provide further data for the Committee by email to the staff lead.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- That the Committee had previously discussed the June 2021 heat dome and considered how the City could best adapt to climate change events

- Whether TransLink had communicated with municipalities regarding planning for extreme weather events and the possibility of deploying some of its fleet to help shuttle people to emergency cooling centres during extreme heat events
- The sessions, partnerships, social media channels, and press releases utilized by TransLink, including its Travel Training Program, to remind customers about bus safety issues

The Manager Travel Training spoke to the central air conditioning installed in new buses and the types of past assistance that TransLink had provided in times of community need, including transporting seniors away from wildfire dangers to temporary homes/refuge facilities. He noted that TransLink continued to be open to conversations and partnerships with municipalities and other agencies to serve communities in times of need. He also noted the availability of TransLink's Travel Training Program to stakeholders and groups in the community and shared that interested parties were welcome to reach out to him directly or to contact the Committee's staff lead for more information.

#### **4. Committee Orientation**

The Committee Clerk provided the Committee with an orientation of its structure, mandate, and responsibilities, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- 2022 Advisory Committee Orientation Session
- 2022 Advisory and Statutory Committees
- Coquitlam City Council
- City's Planning Processes and You
- Committee Mandate
- Role of the Committee
- Role of the Committee Cont'd
- Role of the Chair and Vice Chair
- Role of the Staff Lead(s)
- Role of the Committee Clerk
- Term of Appointment and Code of Conduct
- Conflict of Interest
- COVID-19 Measures
- Connect With Us
- Questions?

The Chair invited questions from the Committee and there were none.

#### **5. Review and Approve 2022 Work Plan**

The Transportation Planning Manager provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Review and Approve 2022 Work Plan
- Work Plan Items
- 2022 Work Plan

A work plan item titled “Economic Development Strategy” was noted as an addition to the draft work plan previously circulated to the Committee as part of the agenda package.

The Chair invited comments from the Committee and there were none.

The Committee endorsed the 2022 Work Plan and a copy is attached hereto, and forms a part of, these minutes.

The Committee recommended:

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the 2022 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan.

### **6. 2022-23 Event Planning Discussion / Potential Establishment of UAAC Working Groups – volunteer opportunity**

The Transportation Planning Manager shared the “2022 Advisory Committee Fact Sheet – Sub-Committees and Working Groups” document on-screen and spoke to the events that the Committee could begin planning for, i.e. 2022 Access Awareness Day, 2023 Biennial Education Event, and 2022 Welcome to Coquitlam. He noted the following:

- Access Awareness Day was typically held in June
- The City’s intention to host an in-person Welcome to Coquitlam, the timing of the event was yet to be decided, and the Committee’s participation in the event would be dependent upon the degree to which an in-person event was possible
- That if the establishment of a working group (event planning) would likely require the commitment of significant City resources and/or staff time, Council would want to consider a Committee recommendation and/or a staff report (scope and process) prior to any significant work being undertaken by a working group
- That as the City’s budget process would begin in May, should the Committee decide to establish working groups, there would be approximately 2 months’ time to brainstorm ideas and provide him with a general sense of the magnitude of the proposed events and the resources and/or staff time that could be required to support the events
- That detailed event logistics could be finalized at a later date
- That the membership of any working groups established would need to be composed of a limited number of principal Committee members
- That he could provide a further explanation of each event or, if the Committee wished to establish working groups, members could feel free to volunteer.

The Committee established three working groups and members volunteered as follows:

Access Awareness Day Working Group: Alex Kwan, Kiyoo Breiting, and Georgette Reyes

Biennial Education Event Working Group: Kiyō Breiting, Heather Lawson, Ross Renaud, and Pete Stone

Welcome to Coquitlam Working Group: Rob Bottos, Barb Oliver, Georgette Reyes, and Susan Williamson.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- That, typically, BC Access Awareness Day is observed in June, however, depending on timing as a result of the pandemic, the belief that the City's Canada Day celebration could offer the Committee some opportunities to promote accessibility
- Should the Committee decide to observe BC Access Awareness Day in June, whether the Working Group would promote access awareness during the Coquitlam Farmers Market, as it had in the past
- Clarification regarding the responsibility of the Access Awareness Day Working Group to propose (to the principal Committee) an appropriate venue and in-person or hybrid opportunities to conduct outreach and amplify access awareness messaging

The Chair noted that he looked forward to future Committee discussions with the working groups, including considering whether events should be held in-person, virtually, or via a hybrid model. He further noted the excellence of the previous virtual Biennial Education Event, including speakers, topics, and engagement, and thanked the Committee members for volunteering to serve on the Working Groups.

The Committee Clerk undertook to follow-up with the Working Group members by email regarding sharing their contact information with one another.

## **7. Transportation, TransLink and Other Departmental Updates (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Transportation Planning Manager provided the Committee with an update, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Transportation, TransLink, Other Departments Update – March 1, 2022
- COVID-19 Mobility Trends
- November Follow-up
- Equipment Update

Further to questions asked by the Committee during the November 9, 2021 meeting, the Transportation Planning Manager spoke to the following:

- The potential for public and group screenings of upcoming events to be held at civic venues
- An on-screen map of public WiFi locations in Coquitlam and the ongoing expansion of internet hotspots in the City
- That statistics relative to in-person versus remote public meeting attendance were not available at the present time
- That staff had not received direction from Council regarding the consumption of alcohol in City parks.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- That some users of City tennis facilities wished to enjoy a beer in the park after a game
- The understanding that if the City planned to use canvas lifts for swimming pools (as depicted in the presentation slide titled “Equipment Update”), the lifts would need to be washed and cleaned between each user
- Injury statistics related to the increased number of commuters using vehicles during the pandemic, including whether there had been a greater number of accidents involving pedestrians

The Transportation Planning Manager spoke to the work being undertaken in his Division relative to the City’s Road Safety Network Screening Study and the gathering of statistics to address potential accident and injury data gaps that may not be reflected in the available statistics from the Insurance Corporation of BC.

## **8. Accessible Communities Emerging Issues and Updates (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Chair invited the Committee members to share information regarding happenings and events occurring in their communities, including as related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following information was shared:

- That the White Cane group (at Dogwood Pavilion) was pleased to announce that in-person meetings had begun again in January, the coffee shop was open, and they hoped to find an activity to replace table tennis until such time as it restarted
- Public concerns regarding the cost to purchase goods and very high rents in the community
- That members were excited to see the 2022 Work Plan items and looked forward to future Committee discussions
- That the Tri-Cities Seniors Action Network would hold an in-person forum on June 8<sup>th</sup> titled “Pathways for Better Health for Seniors”, and the desire that the Seniors Services Strategy Update work plan item would include details about increased programming for seniors with disabilities
- The observation that youth and seniors with social barriers and those with intellectual disabilities in Coquitlam communities had been struggling with isolation and seclusion during the pandemic, and the desire that the City would embrace creating social opportunities for youth, seniors, and disabled people as facilities reopen to the public.

In response to questions from a Committee member regarding the makeup of the Committee, the Chair and the Committee Clerk spoke to the operational nature of the annual advisory committee recruitment process, noting that it is managed by the City Clerk’s Office. The Committee Clerk shared that the establishment of, and appointments to, advisory committees are the purview of Council, rather than that of advisory committees. In response to a further question regarding advisory committee vacancies, she noted that the member was welcome to contact the City Clerk’s Office.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The belief that there was currently a wealth of experienced members serving on the Committee
- The suggestion that the Rick Hansen Foundation could be made aware of the

- Committee and invited to speak to, and serve as a member of, the Committee
- The belief that LGBTQ issues were not addressed within the City’s advisory committee mandates, other than universal accessibility issues affecting residents under the mandate of the Committee

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Chair noted that staff would follow-up regarding LGBTQ representation on advisory committees, if available.

In response to a question from the Chair, a Committee member noted his belief in the importance of having a physically disabled (wheelchair) representative sit on the Committee. The Chair invited him to follow-up with the City Clerk’s Office.

The Chair thanked the Committee members for their volunteerism.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – May 10, 2022**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT



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Jeri Hohn  
Committee Clerk

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CHAIR

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## 2022 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan

### Committee Mandate:

The mandate of the Committee is to provide a local and universal accessibility perspective and advice to Council with respect to achieving the City of Coquitlam’s strategic goals and accompanying strategic directions toward universal accessibility:

- To continue to make the City more inclusive for existing and future residents with disabilities by addressing the physical, social and attitudinal barriers which impede their full participation in all aspects of City life;
- To provide advice to Council about the development of City policies and programs to educate and inform on matters affecting residents with disabilities and/or physical or mental challenges and universal accessibility;
- To review design plans for civic buildings and public spaces and provide advice to Council to ensure the needs of persons with disabilities are considered with the goal of universal access;
- To provide advice to Council about the development of City policies and programs to ensure the needs of existing and future residents living with disabilities are considered (e.g., transportation, housing, capital programs, leisure and parks services, environment).

WORK PLAN ITEMS	DEPARTMENT AND/OR PRESENTER	COMMENTS (i.e. Initiated by, Priority Assignment A, B, C)
Review and Approval of the 2022 Work Plan	Chair / E&PW	Staff
Transportation, TransLink and Other Departmental Updates (Standing Agenda Item)	E&PW / TransLink / Various departments	Staff/TransLink
UAAC Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues & COVID-19 Updates (Standing Agenda Item)	Roundtable	Committee
2022 Event Planning – Re-establish Working Groups and provide updates, as needed, for: - BC Access Awareness Day/Canada Day - Brainstorming and advance planning for the 2023 Biennial Education Event - Welcome to Coquitlam – UAAC participation	E&PW/Committee E&PW/Committee P&D/E&PW/Committee	Staff / Committee
Transportation initiatives – Opportunity for Committee input, as needed, including: - Strategic Transportation Plan Update - Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (including E-Mobility)	E&PW	Staff  Priority C Priority B

## 2022 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan

WORK PLAN ITEMS	DEPARTMENT AND/OR PRESENTER	COMMENTS (i.e. Initiated by, Priority Assignment A, B, C)
Corporate Services initiatives – Opportunity for Committee input, including: - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) update - Advancing meaningful employment in Coquitlam for those with disabilities	CS	Staff  Priority A Committee
Planning initiatives – Opportunity for Committee input, as needed, including: - Welcome to Coquitlam presentation - Hazel-Coy presentation/update - Housing partnerships to provide for people with disabilities, including those on the autism-spectrum	P&D/Community Planning	Staff  Committee Priority B Committee
City Manager/Deputy City Manager – Committee input, as needed, including: - Economic Development Strategy	CM/DCM	Staff  Priority B
Parks Planning and Facilities initiatives – Opportunity for Committee input, as needed, including: - Update on the 2018-2028 Seniors Services Strategy	PRCF	Staff  Committee
2022 Year-end Review/Identify potential items for the 2023 Work Plan – Committee feedback/ input	E&PW (Staff Lead)/ Committee	Staff