



Committee of the Whole

Meeting Date: April 14, 2020
Submitted by: Sam McFarlane, Accessibility Coordinator
SUBJECT: 2019 ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT

BACKGROUND:

The County of Middlesex is required to prepare an annual accessibility status report on the progress of measures taken to implement the strategies outlined in the multi-year accessibility plan.

ANALYSIS:

The County's second multi-year accessibility plan was adopted by Middlesex County Council in 2016 and will expire at the end of 2021. Over this five year period, on an annual basis, County staff are required to provide an update to County Council on the progress made towards obtaining the goals outlined in the Multi-year Accessibility Plan. This report will outline the measures taken to ensure compliance with the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (O. Reg 191/11)

Highlights of the status report include:

- Fully compliant Accessibility Compliance Report filed with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility at both the County and Local levels
- Assisted local municipal partners in meeting their consultation requirements under the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) as it relates to accessible taxicabs across the County
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding opportunity support provided to local municipal partners through an accessibility lens
- Accessible entrance and accessible parking additions to Lucan Community Centre
- New website launched in both Middlesex Centre and Thames Centre, meeting Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 AA

requirements under the Information and Communications Standard of the IASR

- Accessible washroom installation in Delaware Community Centre with funding received under the Enabling Accessibility Fund (Federal accessibility grant)
- Field of Dreams – Outdoor Recreation Complex accessibility enhancements in Dorchester providing a number of inclusive features:
 - Fully accessible field house
 - Accessible playground equipment installed
 - Paved trail installed
- Kerwood Road sidewalk redevelopment project in Adelaide Metcalfe, meeting exterior paths of travel requirements under the IASR
- Rest areas installed along Parkhill Main Street featuring accessible benches on flat, level, concrete pads accommodating wheelchair users with clear space beside the benches

As outlined in the attached status report, the County will continue to remove barriers to people with disabilities. These efforts will be communicated to County Council through the development of a multi-year accessibility plan, and annual status reports.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Annual Accessibility Status Report be approved as presented and posted on the Middlesex County website.

Attachment



Annual Accessibility Status Report

A SUMMARY OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARDS INCLUSION IN 2019

Objectives and Purpose

This is the fourth Annual Accessibility Status Report update of Middlesex County's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. In 2016, Middlesex County released its second Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (Ontario Regulation 191/11). The plan outlined our strategy to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility, which included how we will meet phased-in requirements under the AODA.

This Status Report includes the accessibility initiatives that were completed in 2019 to implement the strategy outlined in our Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Compliance Reporting

Middlesex County filed its fifth Accessibility Compliance Report in 2019 with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

Middlesex County's Commitment Statement

Middlesex County's statement of commitment establishes the vision and goals for the County to meet the legislated accessibility requirements. The County's statement of commitment is publicly available on the County website.

Middlesex County is committed to being responsive to the needs of all its residents and employees. In order to meet the needs of people with disabilities the County will:

- Ensure policies, practices and procedures address dignity, independence, integration and provide for equal opportunity for people with disabilities.
- Allow people with disabilities to use their own personal assistive devices to obtain, use or benefit from the services offered by the County.
- Accommodate the accessibility needs of people with disabilities to ensure they can obtain, use or benefit from the County's goods, services, programs and facilities.
- Communicate with people with disabilities in a manner that takes into account the person's disability.

The County will promote accessibility by ensuring that compliance is met for all regulations made under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. Timelines for compliance vary. In order to ensure that timelines are met, the County will establish, implement and maintain a multi-year accessibility plan. The plan will outline the County's strategy to prevent and remove barriers to people with disabilities.

Continuous Achievements in Accessibility

- The County focuses on removing barriers which may exist in our buildings and facilities, while ensuring that new buildings, leases, and renovations do not create any new barriers.
- Middlesex County's Accessibility Policy was updated in 2016, outlining what the County has done to comply with the 2016 Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations and what our customer and employees can expect as we move forward.
- Middlesex County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee continues to meet and review accessibility initiatives.
- The County continues to comply with the requirements of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation including continuing to train staff, volunteers and third parties who interact on behalf of the County on an ongoing basis.
- All library branches continue to provide accessible materials and communication supports upon request. In addition, the library has several accessible materials and resources available including but not limited to: large print books, audio books, Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) Library loan access, and accessible computer workstations at the Strathroy, Lucan, Dorchester and Parkhill Library Branches. (Accessible Workstation includes: ZoomText with high-contrast, large print keyboard; Dragon Naturally Speaking and joystick mouse.)
- Notifying the public of accommodations for applicants with disabilities in its recruitment process.
- Continue to review customer feedback and take appropriate action.

Highlights of 2019

- Fully compliant Accessibility Compliance Report filed with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility at both the County and Local levels
- Assisted local municipal partners in meeting their consultation requirements under the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) as it relates to accessible taxicabs across the County
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding opportunity support provided to local municipal partners through an accessibility lens
- Library volunteer training module uploaded onto Moodle training platform
- Accessible entrance and accessible parking additions to Lucan Community Centre
- Accessible portable washroom installed at Market Street Park during spring and summer seasons in Lucan
- Sidewalk redevelopment along Denfield Road in Clondeboye, meeting exterior paths of travel requirements under the IASR
- New website launches in both Middlesex Centre and Thames Centre, meeting Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 AA requirements under the Information and Communications Standard of the IASR
- Accessible washroom installation in Delaware Community Centre with funding received under the Enabling Accessibility Fund (Federal accessibility grant)
- Poplar Hill & Heritage park play structure equipment accessibility improvements in Middlesex Centre
- Accessible service counter installed at Thames Centre municipal office
- Field of Dreams – Outdoor Recreation Complex accessibility enhancements in Dorchester, providing a number of inclusive features:
 - Fully accessible field house
 - Accessible playground equipment installed
 - Paved trail installed
- Kerwood Road sidewalk redevelopment project in Adelaide Metcalfe, meeting exterior paths of travel requirements under the IASR
- Accessible washroom installed at Dorchester Community Park
- Rest areas installed along Parkhill Main Street featuring accessible benches on flat, level, concrete pads accommodating wheelchair users with clear space beside the benches
- Audio system replacement in North Middlesex Arena to improve audio quality to those that may be hearing impaired

- Automatic door operator installed at Parkhill leisure club, providing secondary accessible entrance connected to newly paved parking surface
- Information and Communications Standards review completed under the IASR with comments being filed with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility
- New Council orientation provided to local municipal partners
- Accessibility Coordinator continues to work with local municipalities to ensure compliance with all regulations

Availability of the Plan and Status Report

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and Annual Accessibility Status Reports can be accessed through Middlesex County's [website](#) or <http://www.middlesex.ca/living-here/accessibility>

Contact Information

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Accessible formats and communication supports available upon request.