



City of Kingston
Report to Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Report Number MAAC-26-002

To: Chair and Members of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Jenna Morley, City Solicitor

Resource Staff: Derek Ochej, Deputy City Clerk

Date of Meeting: January 29, 2026

Subject: 2026 Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Corporate business

Goal: See above

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the 2026 Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAC) work plan (Work Plan). Pursuant to subsection 29 (1) of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (the AODA), the City of Kingston is required to establish an accessibility advisory committee, of whom the majority of members shall be persons with disabilities. MAAC is mandated to provide advice to Council and staff on a variety of areas of accessibility with respect to municipal services. Further details on this consultation can be found within this report and the Work Plan.

Recommendation:

That the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends to Council:

That the 2026 Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan, attached as Exhibit A to Report Number MAAC-26-002, be approved.

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Options/Discussion:**Background**

The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAC) is legislated, among other duties, to provide advice to Council on topics such as the preparation, implementation, and effectiveness of the [City of Kingston 2026 – 2028 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan](#). City staff are also required to consult with MAAC on a variety of topics detailed in the AODA and Ontario Regulation 191/11, Integrated Accessibility Standards regulations (IASR) as well as the City of Kingston Accessible Consultation Process Policy.

Analysis

To assist MAAC in its work, Accessibility Office staff prepare a work plan at the start of each year recommending activities that MAAC undertake. The work plan is developed in consultation with departmental service areas in advance of presentation to MAAC.

The Accessibility portfolio is currently managed within the Clerk's Department. The Department oversees City compliance with legislative requirements and supports accessibility initiatives across the municipality. In 2026, the portfolio will transition and expand to the Community Development, Wellbeing & Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (CDWB-IIDEA) Department, as directed by Council in the 2023–2026 Council Strategic Plan and envisioned with the creation of the CDWB-IIDEA Department in 2024. This move will enable a more integrated approach to accessibility, aligning it with broader inclusion and equity strategies, fostering collaboration, and strengthening community engagement.

Staff from the Clerk's Department and CDWB-IIDEA Department will work collaboratively on this transition and keep MAAC informed on next steps.

In addition, the following items are proposed by staff for inclusion in the 2026 Work Plan:

- Annual updates from select City departments. Many of these departments have obligations to consult with MAAC annually under the AODA, the IASR and the City of Kingston Accessible Consultation Process Policy.
- Quarterly reports from the City of Kingston Accessibility Office. These reports provide statistics and analysis regarding accessibility-related inquiries to the City and updates on the activities of Accessibility Office staff, led by the Deputy City Clerk and transitioned to the new Accessibility staff later in 2026.
- In March, receive and recommend for Council approval the 2025 status update on the 2023 – 2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The IASR requires municipalities to prepare an annual status report on the progress of multi-year accessibility plans and to post that update on the municipality's website.

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- Creation of a public education campaign for National AccessAbility Week, which takes place May 24 to 30, 2026. Staff will work with members of the Awareness and Education Project Team to develop the campaign.
- In June, Kingston Access Bus Services (KABS) will provide its annual update and receive feedback from MAAC. KABS provides specialized transportation services, as defined by the AODA, to persons with a disability that prevent that person from using conventional fixed-route transit services offered by the City of Kingston through Kingston Transit.
- In June, staff from the City's Election Office will share information and receive feedback on plans for ensuring the accessibility of the 2026 municipal election for both electors and candidates. Areas of consideration include communications, candidate information, voting places and the use of accessible voting equipment, alternate voting options, transportation, and election staff training. Section 12.1 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* requires the staff responsible for conducting municipal election to prepare a plan for the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and make that plan available to the public before Voting Day. Voting Day is Monday October 26, 2026.
- In June, receive and recommend for Council approval the Built Environment Accessible Design Standards (BEADS) document. City staff began work in 2025 with a consultant to update the existing Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) document. FADS is an internal document that addresses accessibility requirements and the needs of persons with disabilities in the design and construction of new facilities, as well as the retrofit, alteration or addition to existing facilities, owned, leased or operated by the City. Once approved the BEADS document will replace the current FADS.
- In November, City staff will present an update on the Accessible Taxi Program (ATP). The ATP was previously administered by the Kingston & Area Taxi Licensing Commission via a service level agreement with the City. The IASR requires all municipalities that licence taxicabs to consult with its accessible advisory committee to determine the proportion of on-demand accessible taxicabs required in the community and the progress made toward meeting that need.
- Selection of the 2026 Celebrating Accessibility Awards recipients. The [Celebrating Accessibility Awards](#) recognize Kingston residents, businesses and community organizations that go above and beyond legislated requirements to make Kingston a more accessible community. Award recipients are selected by the Awareness and Education Project Team, with City staff coordinating the receipt of nominations and hosting of an awards ceremony. The awards ceremony is held in late November/early December to coincide with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3.

MAAC typically meets on the first Thursday of every second month at 1 p.m., with no meetings held in July or August. Proposed meeting dates for MAAC in 2026 are January 29, March 5,

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May 7, June 4, September 3 and November 5. The January meeting date has been moved to later in the month to accommodate winter holidays. A separate orientation meeting for new members will be held in advance of the first full MAAC meeting in 2026.

Committee Feedback Sought

Staff are seeking feedback from MAAC members on the following:

- The appropriateness of items contained in the draft 2026 Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan; and
- Other areas or topics to consider for inclusion in the Work Plan.

Indigenization, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility (IIDEA) Considerations

The City demonstrates its commitment to accessibility and inclusion through the creation of a work plan for MAAC. The work plan ensures that all legislated requirements for consultation are met, and that appropriate notice is provided to MAAC members so that they may participate fully in their duties as committee members. Beyond legislated requirements, staff work to identify opportunities for feedback and advice regarding City goods, services, and facilities to work towards a higher level of inclusion, to the benefit of all Kingston residents and visitors.

Existing Policy/By-Law

[Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005](#)

[Ontario Regulation 191/11, Integrated Accessibility Standards](#)

[City of Kingston 2026 – 2028 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan](#)

Financial Considerations

None

Contacts:

Derek Ochej, Deputy City Clerk, 613-546-4291 extension 1252

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Speros Kanellos, Director, Facilities Management & Construction Services

Danika Lochhead, Director, Arts & Culture Services

Ruth Noordegraaf, Director, Community Development, Wellbeing & IIDEA

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Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A – 2026 Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan

Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAC) Work Plan 2026

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- Accessibility Office Report – Q4 2025 City Clerk's Department
- 2026 MAAC Work Plan City Clerk's Department

March 5, 2026

- Multi-Year Accessibility Plan – 2025 update City Clerk's Department/CDWB-IIDEA
- Recreation & Leisure Services Update

May 7, 2026

- Accessibility Office Report – Q1 2026 City Clerk's Department/CDWB-IIDEA
- Arts & Culture Services Update
- Accessible Transit Kingston Access Bus Services

May 24 – 30, 2026

- National AccessAbility Week Campaign City Clerk's Department/CDWB-IIDEA

Exhibit A to Report Number MAAC-26-002

June 4, 2026

- Built Environment Accessible Design Standards City Clerk's Department/CDWB-IIDEA
- Facilities Management and Construction Services Update
- Municipal Election Accessibility City Clerk's Department

September 3, 2026

- Accessibility Office Report – Q2 2026 City Clerk's Department/CDWB-IIDEA
- Community Development, Wellbeing, Indigenization, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IIDEA) Update
- Kingston Access Bus Services

October 2026

- Disabilities Mentoring Day City Clerk's Department/CDWB-IIDEA

November 5, 2026

- Transportation & Infrastructure Services Update
- Accessible Taxi Program Update CAO's Office
- Accessibility Office Report – Q3 2026 City Clerk's Department/CDWB-IIDEA

December 2026

- Celebrating Accessibility Awards City Clerk's Department/CDWB-IIDEA