

Report to Community and Protective Services Committee

To: Chair and Members
Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Anna Lisa Barbon, CPA, CGA
Deputy City Manager, Finance Supports

Subject: Facility Accessibility Design Standards

Date: November 2, 2021

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Finance Supports, the updated 2021 Facility Accessibility Design Standards document **BE ADOPTED**; it being noted that the accessibility design standards apply to newly constructed and/or renovated facilities owned, leased or operated by the City of London.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community and Protective Services Committee and Council with a copy of the proposed new 2021 Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) for endorsement.

The City of London has been at the forefront in recognizing the need to identify, remove and prevent the construction of barriers since the development of the original City of London Facility Accessibility Design Standards document in 2001. The new 2021 Facility Accessibility Design Standards document will replace the latest edition (2007) to include and accommodate regulatory changes and best practices established in the subsequent years to date.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

Strengthening our Community

Londoners have access to supports they need to be successful and access to the services and supports that promote well-being, health, and safety in their neighbourhoods and across the city. Increase participation in recreation, sport and leisure activities by removing barriers to programs and services.

Leading in Public Service

Reduce barriers to access City services and information

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- 2006 Facility Accessibility Design Standards (April 3rd, 2006 meeting of the Community and Protective Services Committee)
- City of London Facility Accessibility Design Standards (November 14, 2001 meeting of Board of Control)

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Context

The City of London has been at the forefront when it comes to accessibility design.

In 2000, Council directed staff to develop an Accessibility Design Standard. In 2001, Civic Administration developed the Facilities Accessibility Design Standard (FADS) which was later adopted by Council.

In 2007, FADS was updated in accordance with the Ontario Building Code (OBC) changes as well as the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

In 2016, Civic Administration undertook another review of FADS upon request from the Accessibility Advisory Committee to review further changes associated to Ontario Building Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act when Public Spaces Standards and changes were introduced.

In September 2018, Facilities engaged SPH Planning and Consulting Limited to review and revise the FADS document to include the latest OBC, AODA, and CSA standards relating to accessibility.

Civic Administration have undertaken an extensive review, supported with insights and feedback from the Accessibility Advisory Committee in a collective effort to modernize the FADS 2021 documents, as well as align it with recent amendments to associated changes in regulatory requirements.

The revised 2021 FADS document continues to either meet or exceed current provisions of the OBC, AODA and CSA standard. The 2021 changes also include accessibility formatting for compliance to an accessible web based document. This includes alternative text and ease of use for those who use screen reader technology. The revisions include modifications to existing illustrations, tables, diagrams and text to provide clarity on accessible design in the built environment.

FADS is a living document and has been updated to reflect current best practices. Facilities will continue to complete periodic reviews of the FADS document and evaluate any change submissions for continuous improvement. These reviews will include ongoing consultation with the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

There are no financial impacts with the adoption of the 2021 Facility Accessibility Design Standards document.

Conclusion

The updated 2021 Facility Accessibility Design Standards document be adopted by City Council.

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Finance Supports

Submitted by: Tim Wellhauser C.I.M.
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Finance Supports

Recommended by: Anna Lisa Barbon CPA, CGA,
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c: Val Morgado, Senior Manager Facilities – Fleet & Facilities Division
Melanie Stone, Specialist, Accessibility – Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression
Division

Attachment: 2021 Facility Accessibility Design Standards Document