



**MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY ONLINE – ZOOM THURSDAY,
March 23, 2023, Meeting TIME: 9-00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Present: John Graham (Chairperson), Josh Watt, Dianna Scarth, Kris Cowley, Laurel Repski, Shawna Joynt, Scott Jocelyn, Darren Macdonald, Colleen Watters and Maria Ferraro (MAO), Sarah Lugtig (AMA Reviewer), 2 ASL Interpreters (ECCOE)

Regrets: Brad Robertson, Kelly Cook.

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgements

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the land acknowledgement.

Sarah Lugtig (AMA Reviewer) was present to discuss Council's perspective on what is going well and areas for improvement. Notes from the meeting with Sarah are included in a separate document.

After the meeting with Sarah, Council will receive updates on the Accessible Transportation Consultation, the Manitoba Accessibility Fund and other updates.

2. AMA 5 year Review Discussion with Sarah Lugtig

Discussion with Sarah Lugtig – Minister appointed AMA Reviewer

Conversation about the 5-year review and Council's feedback on the recommendations from the 2018 review, as well as areas of discussion outlined by Sarah.

Discussion with Sarah outlined in separate document.

3. Review previous meeting minutes

The minutes from the February 9, 2023 Accessibility Advisory Council meeting were approved as circulated.

4. Discussion about the Transportation Webinar

The Executive Director, Manitoba Accessibility Office felt the transportation webinar was generally successful, although it would have been good if more individuals had participated. There were approximately 60 attendees, with three attending from outside Winnipeg. The Independent Living Resource Centre, Barrier-Free Manitoba, CNIB and the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities are holding a transportation forum on Thursday, April 30 from 6:30-8:00 pm, so this may have influenced the degree of participation in the MAO session. The Executive Director, MAO and the Secretary to the Council will attend the forum at the Independent Living Resource Centre.

Action: The Secretary forwarded information about the forum to Council via email.

The Executive Director, MAO, noted forum participants raised jurisdictional issues with the transportation standard, which will need to be addressed. In addition, vehicles such as water taxis, rental cars and shuttle buses, are not included in the City of Winnipeg's Vehicles for Hire Act and thus fall outside the scope of the transportation standard.

Council noted the importance of increasing resources to individual riders to facilitate access to transportation in rural areas. Part of the webinar focussed on the City of Winnipeg's Vehicles for Hire Act. Over the next few years, it will cost Winnipeg Transit money to improve accessible signage on buses.

The chair noted that the webinar hosts should have introduced themselves, as well as the members of the Transportation Development Committee who attended.

There will be an opportunity for Council to weigh in on the recommendations from the consultation at some point.

Action: The chair will find out the nature of Council's role in approving the recommendations and bring the information back to the next meeting.

5. Chair / Secretary Updates

The Secretary provided an update on the Manitoba Accessibility Fund prior to the meeting.

It is estimated that there were about 40 applicants apply from communities outside Winnipeg (i.e., school divisions, libraries and municipalities).

There were 155 eligible applications and eight ineligible submissions.

37 organizations indicated they applied for MAF in 2022, 15 of which applied for a new project grant in 2023. 118 were brand new applicants to MAF which means we are raising awareness of the program and getting the word out across Manitoba. This is what we want to see and it is a positive result.

Second intake update:

- 172 applications received (9 were duplicates)
- 163 applications received (155 eligible projects, eight ineligible)
- Of the 155 applications:
 - 21 from businesses
 - 99 from NPOs and associations
 - 18 from municipalities
 - 16 from school divisions and post-secondary institutions
 - 1 from WRHA (public sector)
- 4 applications received in French (151 in English)
- 15 of the 2022-23 grant recipients re-applied for MAF in 2023.

Design of Outdoor Public Spaces

With respect to the Design of Outdoor Public Spaces Standard, the Standard Development Committee is taking another look at the legislation, and additional public consultations will follow.