

Accessibility Advisory Panel

Agenda

Friday, September 4, 2026

Tom Davies Square

In the Chair, Travis Morgan

10:00 a.m. Open Session, Electronic Participation

1. Call to Order: 10:02AM

2. Roll Call

Present: Travis Morgan, Alicia Chenier, Sylvie-Valerie Denis, Collete Julien Leclair, Lisa Michelutti-Mirabelli, Charles Tossell, Councillor Landry-Altmann, Councillor Benoit

3. Discussions

3.1 2026 Municipal & School Board Pre Elections Accessibility Plan

Christine Hogins, Legislative Compliance Coordinator presented the draft 2026 Municipal & School Board Pre-Election Accessibility Plan in preparation for the Municipal Election scheduled for October 26, 2026. The presentation was intended to obtain preliminary feedback from the Accessibility Advisory Panel (AAP) before the plan is circulated for public review and comment.
Online Voting.

The City will utilize the Votes online voting platform, which includes various accessibility features designed to support voters

with diverse accessibility needs, including:

- Compatibility with assistive technologies and devices
- Built-in accessibility tools
- English and French language options

Online voting will be available to all eligible voters beginning October 16, 2026.

In-Person Voting Locations

Hogins advised that all voting locations published on the City's website have undergone accessibility assessments, including reviews of:

- Accessible paths of travel
- Accessible washrooms
- Stairs, ramps, and elevators
- Access and egress routes
- Signage
- Parking availability
- Firm and stable surface conditions

A complete list of voting locations is available through the City of Greater Sudbury website. When selecting voting locations, consideration is given to proximity to major roadways and public transit routes to improve accessibility for residents. In accordance with legislative requirements, voting opportunities will also be provided at Long-Term Care and Retirement Residences. These locations are intended exclusively for residents and will not be

publicly advertised.

Panel Discussion

Members provided the following feedback and observations:

- Gravel parking surfaces at Beaver Lake may present barriers for wheelchair users and individuals utilizing mobility devices.
- Additional voting locations should be considered in the northern areas of Greater Sudbury to improve public access.
- Advance voting locations continue to be concentrated within the city core; however, members acknowledged the importance of maintaining a strong urban presence while exploring opportunities for broader geographic distribution.
- Clear markings and directional signage for accessible vehicles should be considered at the Caruso Club to assist navigation through the parking area.

The Panel thanked Ms. Hogins for the presentation and requested that their feedback be considered in the final version of the Accessibility Plan.

3.2 Role of the AAP

Members discussed and reaffirmed the role of the Accessibility Advisory Panel as an advisory body to Council.

The Panel's mandate is to:

- Provide advice and recommendations on accessibility matters affecting municipal services, programs, facilities, and infrastructure.

- Identify barriers experienced by persons with disabilities and caregivers.
- Promote accessibility, inclusion, and universal design throughout the community.
- Review municipal projects, policies, and initiatives through an accessibility lens.
- Advocate for continuous accessibility improvements that support residents of all abilities.

Members emphasized that the Panel's work is intended for the betterment of those experiencing accessibility barriers and their caregivers.

3.3 Year in Review

Members reviewed key accessibility improvements and initiatives completed or advanced over the past year, including:

- Accessibility consultation related to the **Event Centre** project.
- Improvements to lighting and the construction of a **switchback pathway at Bell Park**, enhancing accessibility and mobility throughout the park.
- Ongoing revitalization of community playgrounds with a focus on inclusive and accessible design.
- Improvements to sidewalk accessibility and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the city, supporting safer and more accessible travel routes for residents.

Members acknowledged the positive progress made and encouraged continued investments in accessible infrastructure.

3.4 Multi-Year Strategic Planning

The Panel discussed accessibility priorities for future strategic planning efforts.

Key priorities identified included:

Winter Accessibility

- Improve snow removal practices at City facilities to ensure accessible parking spaces, curb cuts, sidewalks, and pedestrian pathways remain accessible throughout the winter season.

Accessible Parking and Community Facilities

- Improve parking lot conditions at community centres and municipal facilities by reducing gravel surfaces and increasing firm, stable, and accessible parking areas.

Transit Improvements

- Continue to improve **GOVA Transit** and **GOVA Plus** services, including route accessibility, service locations, and transit connectivity for individuals with disabilities.

Access Pass Promotion

- Increase public awareness regarding the availability of Accessibility Access Pass programs that support individuals requiring accompaniment by a support person when participating

in recreation and community programs.

Mobility Device Awareness

- Explore opportunities to improve public education and communication related to mobility devices utilizing roadways, including scooters and other mobility aids.
- Promote awareness among motorists, pedestrians, and mobility device users to enhance safety and accessibility for all road users. Members agreed these priorities should help guide future accessibility initiatives and recommendations to Council.

3.5 Nominations

Members discussed future nominations and leadership opportunities within the Panel. Information regarding the nomination process and upcoming appointments was reviewed.

3.6 Panel Structure

The Panel discussed its current structure and the distinction between an advisory panel and a committee.

Members considered how the existing structure supports meaningful engagement, collaboration with Council and staff, and the advancement of accessibility initiatives across the municipality.

4. Question Period

Members shared information regarding upcoming community events.

Down Syndrome Awareness Walk

Members were advised of the upcoming Down Syndrome Awareness Walk scheduled for:

Date: Sunday, October 4

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Lockerby

Distance: 1 km to 3 km walk options available

Members were encouraged to participate and support awareness initiatives within the community.

5. Adjournment 11:34AM