



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

OFFICE OF THE CAO

Mission Statement: As stewards of the Town of Amherstburg, we strive to improve the quality of life of all residents through the delivery of effective, efficient, and affordable services.

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To: Amherstburg Accessibility Advisory Committee

Subject: 2026 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

1. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The report entitled 2026 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, **BE RECEIVED** for information.
2. The Town of Amherstburg's 2026 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan **BE ENDORSED**.

2. BACKGROUND:

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) establishes standards which guide municipalities in identifying and removing barriers to accessibility. These standards are outlined in Ontario Regulation 191/11: Integrated Accessibility Standards (IASR).

As a general requirement of the IASR, municipalities must develop a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan to outline the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility. The Plan must be reviewed and updated every five years, in consultation with their Accessibility Advisory Committee and persons with disabilities.

3. DISCUSSION:

In January 2026, the Town began the review and consultation process to update the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The Amherstburg Accessibility Advisory Committee was consulted on the timeline for reviewing and updating the plan and discussed topics to

include on the public survey. The survey was launched on Talk the Burg, with paper copies available by request, on January 26, 2026, and was open until February 20, 2026.

A multi-media communication campaign also accompanied the consultation process with a news story and banner featured on the Town's website, advertising in the River Town Times, social media posts, as well as advertising on the Town's Digital Gateway signs. The Plan was informed by feedback gathered from consultation with the public, the AAAC, and Town Staff, and aligned with best practice research and strategic Town documents to develop the initiatives and activates outlined in the 2026 update.

The 2026–2031 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is organized to be consistent with the five key areas of the IASR:

1. Customer Service
2. Information and Communication
3. Employment
4. Design of Public Spaces
5. Transportation

The Town of Amherstburg's 2026 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan highlights the Town's strategic approach to continue to meet, and where possible, exceed the requirements under the AODA and the IASR. The updated plan reaffirms the Town's commitment to identifying, preventing, and removing barriers to accessibility as we continue to build a more accessible and inclusive community for everyone. The plan builds on previous accessibility efforts and outlines how the Town will continue to remove barriers and improve accessibility to the Town's services, programs, and facilities over the next five years.

In total, the Plan outlines 57 accessibility initiatives that will serve as strategic guidance. The Plan is intended to be a living document with the initiatives being revised and updated as consultations progress and municipal priorities evolve. Progress on these initiatives will be monitored and reported on an ongoing basis as the Town continues to build an inclusive community for residents and visitors of all abilities.

4. RISK ANALYSIS:

A Multi-Year Accessibility Plan communicates the Town's commitment to accessibility and the reduction or removal of barriers and increases access to goods and services provided by the Town. Its adoption provides for a detailed plan of how the Town will continue to meet its obligations in law. The Town is obligated to undertake a review at least once every five years, and to consult with the committee and public on the plan in that timeframe.

The Town of Amherstburg goes beyond these requirements, conducting annual consultations and the required annual reporting on progress to achieve on those objectives. Adding to the plan as required as a living document. While there is a risk that the Town would be non-compliant if it failed to adopt a plan within a five-year review period, these activities are designed for a higher than legislative standard, as is typical of the Town of Amherstburg's focus on being an accessible and inclusive community.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

There are no financial impacts associated with the recommendations in this report. Any financial component of the initiatives outlined in this report will be addressed during the annual budget process and/or have been considered as part of the Town’s Capital Budget planning.

6. ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPACTS:

There are no asset management impacts associated with the recommendations in this report. Any asset management impact of the initiatives outlined in this report will be addressed through the annual budget process and/or as the initiatives are planned.

7. CONSULTATIONS:

Amherstburg Accessibility Advisory Committee
Senior Management Team

Public engagement with stakeholder groups

8. CORPORATE STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:


Vision: Preserving our past while forging our future.

AMHERSTBURG COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2022 - 2026	
<p style="text-align: center;">PILLAR 1 Deliver Trusted & Accountable Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Improve trust between council and staff, and residents, by strengthening governance and internal accountability structures.<input type="checkbox"/> Deliver transparent and efficient financial management.<input type="checkbox"/> Increase effective communication and engagement with residents.<input type="checkbox"/> Develop our staff team, resources, and workplace culture.<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue to deliver strong core municipal services.<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure Amherstburg is an inclusive accessible and welcoming community committed to reconciliation.	<p style="text-align: center;">PILLAR 3 Encourage Local Economic Prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Encourage development of commercial and industrial lands.<input type="checkbox"/> Continue to promote local tourism industry, especially overnight accommodation.<input type="checkbox"/> Continue to facilitate downtown development for residents and visitors.<input type="checkbox"/> Continue to leverage partnership opportunities with other provincial, federal, and local governments, agencies, and organizations.

<p align="center">PILLAR 2 Invest in Community Amenities and Infrastructure</p>	<p align="center">PILLAR 4 Shape Growth Aligned with Local Identity</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintain safe, reliable and accessible municipal infrastructure and facilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase access to recreation opportunities for all ages. <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize and execute plans for town-owned lands (e.g. Duffy’s site, Belle Vue) <input type="checkbox"/> Create public access to water and waterfront <input type="checkbox"/> Prioritize opportunities to reduce environmental impacts of Town operations and increase Town resilience to climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Define and communicate a vision for the Town’s future and identity. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote and plan for green and “climate change ready” development. <input type="checkbox"/> Review and implement policies that promote greater access to diverse housing. <input type="checkbox"/> Protect the Town’s historic sites and heritage. <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve the Town’s greenspaces, agricultural lands, and natural environment.

9. CONCLUSION:

The update to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is recommended to endorsed by the Committee and move forward for adoption by Council and for further recommendations and implementation elements to come forward throughout the term of its application to the Committee and Council.



Kevin Fox
Municipal Clerk / Risk Manager



Selena Scebba
Policy and Committee Coordinator