



IMPLICATIONS OF ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (AODA) LEGISLATION

August 14, 2018

- 1996 – CoH Urban Braille System
 - Purpose: System of “clearways” defined by textured shorelines of pigmented concrete and tactile information nodes.
- 2001 – Ontarians with Disabilities Act
 - Purpose: Improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the Province.
- 2005 – Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
 - Purpose: Improve on ODA. Required both public and private sectors to eliminate and prevent new barriers from being introduced to the built environment.
- 2006 – CoH Barrier-Free Design Guidelines
 - Purpose: Guideline to address accessibility levels in Hamilton through planning, design, construction and maintenance of physical facilities, parks & open spaces not already achieved within the Ontario Building Code.
- 2015 – Ontario Building Code Update
 - Purpose: Amended to accommodate accessibility related standards.

AODA on Public Sector

- Review of facilities, sidewalks and super mailboxes to bring assets up to the latest standards of accessibility.
 - Energy, Fleet & Facilities Management was consulted for facilities under their care
 - Engineering Services Division was consulted for sidewalks
 - Growth Planning Division was consulted for super mailboxes
- Note: All assets are in compliance with the Act so long as they were built to the latest standard when constructed or undergone major renovation.
- All financial costs have been determined through an audit which consisted of capturing an inventory of the asset, determining cost estimate to upgrade an individual asset and extrapolating for the full inventory.

- Audit completed in 2017 of 16 facilities spanning a diverse range
 - Completed by external consultant DesignABLE
- Identified approximately \$157M funding gap, inclusive of design & construction, for all facilities which EFFM is responsible.
 - Facility excluded: Culture and Heritage, Water, City Housing Hamilton, Police and Lodge Facilities.
 - Scope excluded: new facility construction and large structural changes.
- Funding gap calculated by extrapolating cost per square foot, depending on the era it was built, from the individual cost estimates of the facilities audited.
- Current Facilities Capital Block does not have sufficient funds to complete the accessible upgrades in addition to the infrastructure renewal project
 - Infrastructure renewal projects are the primary focus of the capital block funding in order to sustain the condition of the City's facility infrastructure over time.

- If funding is attained it would provide the following minimum requirements for accessibility:
 - Where parking is provided, accessible parking is available;
 - Where passenger loading zones are provided, they are accessible;
 - At least one of each type of entrance (public, staff) is accessible;
 - Accessible entrances are located on an accessible route;
 - All common-use rooms/spaces/elements used by staff and/or the public are accessible (exception: where common-use rooms/spaces/elements are duplicated within suites or floor areas, at least 1 shall be accessible);
 - At least 1 of each type of individual-use space, such as offices and workstations, are accessible, or are capable of being made accessible on a job-accommodation basis;
 - Where multi-stall washroom facilities are provided on a floor area, at least one male and one female washroom is accessible (exception: where an accessible unisex/universal washroom is provided within 45 metres);
 - At least one universal washroom is provided within the facility;
 - Where an alarm system is provided, it is accessible.

Sidewalks, Super Mailboxes

Sidewalks

- CoH designs and constructs sidewalks with augmentations to AODA by including Urban Braille requirements and suggestions from Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities Committee (ACPD), Built Environment subcommittee.
- No Audit has been completed to determine cost for upgrading sidewalks to latest standards immediately.
- New construction and redevelopment for lifecycle renewal for sidewalks are currently programmed within the annual capital budget which would bring sidewalks up to code as addressed.

Super Mailboxes

- Implementation of AODA legislation with respect to the mailbox itself are the discretion of Canada Post.
- City staff ensure super mailboxes are located on a concrete pad connected to a municipal sidewalk through Site Plan Approval and the cost are at the Owner/Developer's expense.

AODA on Private Sector

The City of Hamilton has no obligation with respect to accessibility within the Private Sector. However the City employs many individuals which help promote, advise and monitor new builds such that the latest AODA standards are considered.

Urban Design and the Building Department groups liaise with private sector to help promote, advise and monitor new builds for:

- City Policies & Guidelines
- Provincial Legislation, including AODA

All new renovation and builds must comply with the Ontario Building Code which now has accommodated accessibility related standards. The Building Department would be aware of the requirements and able to ensure compliance through review of the building permit and building inspections.

No work has been completed at this time to determine the financial implications of AODA Legislation on the private sector.