

**ACPD's Built Environment Working Group Meeting
Notes**

June 4th, 2024

Virtual Teams Meeting

4:00PM – 6:00PM

Members in Attendance: James Kemp, Lance Dingman, Levi Janosi, Cara Hernould, Paula Kilburn, Hargun Kaur

Also in Attendance: Jessica Bowen, Rebecca Banky

Members Absent: Michael Opuku-Forfieh, Anthony Frisina

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of June 4th Agenda: Agenda was approved.

3. Discussion w/Jessica Bowen Regarding Issues

Discussed at Last Meeting: Jessica informed us that she is awaiting a response regarding the First Ontario Centre and issues raised at the previous meeting. She is hopeful we can have them in attendance in the

future to discuss renovations at the other two facilities.

We reviewed the motion passed in 2020 regarding urban braille and the Barrier Free Design Guidelines. Jessica asked us what we were looking for with regards to reviewing the Barrier Free Design Guidelines specifically in respect to urban braille. Before we could answer Jessica's Question, Chair asked the group what exactly we meant by fully enacting urban braille. He explained how the urban braille wayfinding and warning pads are spreading out to the feeder and side street intersection corners. There is also urban braille being installed at new bus stops as well as during rebuilds. Chair asked if we are slowly seeing it spread out, what is the end result to look like? Paula responded that it needed to be consistent throughout. Having it stop and start doesn't help anyone. Parkdale also came up as an example of going too far and creating an information overload. Jessica wanted clarity on whether we are asking for a small review of sidewalk curb cuts and urban braille designs for the BFDG or were we looking for a larger review under this motion. We asked if this motion could cover the larger review and it was posited that it could and would be useful for assisting in moving a

larger review forward. The group agreed this was a prudent course of action.

We then asked if we could speak to the group looking after urban braille design as we had questions on the different materials and patterns we are seeing across the city. Lance raised concerns with them potentially tripping up people with mobility issues and we explained that the patterned concrete is less invasive than other options and shouldn't affect mobility.

A question was raised on why a motion put forth four years ago is being acted on now. Jessica explained how somethings can get bumped from one department to another before finding its home and during the periods of upheaval we have experienced, sometimes things get missed.

We discussed the shortcomings of current legislation and Chair pointed out that the BFDG is really our only avenue to suggest change. Chair also pointed out that it is in our handbook that our recommendations should exceed current minimum standards.

We then discussed the Capital Projects list. Levi explained what he was looking for with regards to reviewing new projects with respect to hearing loss. Levi gave us a brief history on the current standards of Hamilton public spaces and the requirements for hearing assistance. Levi also explained hearing loop technology and gave some examples of where and

how it would work. Jessica suggested sending in a motion encapsulating the request to review upcoming projects. Chair asked if Levi could look into that and report back.

We briefly discussed APS and a list of priority placement.

Chair then reviewed a series of images of issues he encountered in his travels with BEWG and Jessica. The issues ranged from holes in sidewalks, deeply grooved sidewalk installation, obstructing signs in the throughway, No contrast bike racks, construction fencing impeding travel, design flaws in the built environment negating any accessibility improvements. Jessica explained the complaint process and how MLE is responsible for some issues but corridors is responsible for more. A member asked if we can use 311 for this service and Jessica explained that we do not use it.

Lance raised issues with gravel and debris around construction areas and described the difficulties he had navigating through it.

4. Sidewalk Bypasses: Chair mentioned that we are having Cristina Geissler at our next meeting and he wanted people to keep an eye out for sidewalk

bypasses and review if there are any issues with them.

5. BEWG Vice-Chair Nomination: Chair reminded everyone that he is still looking for someone to accept the Vice Chair role and perhaps one day take over the BEWG. There were questions and concerns about availability and being able to follow through. We will continue to discuss.

6. Other Business: There was no other business.

7. Adjournment