

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

January 07th, 2025

Virtual Teams Meeting

4:00PM – 6:00PM

Members in Attendance: Paula Kilburn, Cara Hernould,
James Kemp

Members Absent: Lance Dingman, Levi Janosi, Hargun
Kaur

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of January 07th Agenda: Agenda was
Approved

3. Update from Roads Planning Department Meeting:

Chair updated the group from a meeting with Susan Jacob and Ed English regarding road and sidewalk construction. Ed began by breaking down the different groups responsible for road work of various kinds. There are five main groups. Road Planning/Construction which is Ed's group, Road

Maintenance which is Peter Sniolis', 3rd Party groups; like Hydro and Bell, Transportation Repair and Developers. Ed explained that all complaints begin with his department and then he has to narrow down who is actually responsible and redirect to the right department.

Ed then explained some of the efforts made with his department as well as the contractors working with them to ensure accessibility of job sites. He mentioned that they have made significant improvements on training how to assist those with disabilities and how to properly redirect the flow of traffic. Chair pointed out that aside from sign placement issues and white cane redirection, the bigger problem with these projects is Saturday and Sunday, when there is no one to assist people cross the sites safely. Ed then explained what Roads maintenance does and they are responsible for projects like the corner treatments being done on main, feeder and side streets. This is in reference to the textured paving blocks installed on street corners. We briefly discussed third party projects, but as there is already a sidewalk vault motion that is being addressed by staff, we didn't feel the need to get into it very much. We then discussed what we feel is the biggest problem when it comes to sidewalk repairs:

Transportation Department Repairs. Ed mentioned that this is done by numerous outside contractors following their own standards.

This was followed by Developer installations. Sometimes developers of apartment buildings and condos are required to replace the sidewalks themselves. This can lead to issues where they are using another city's standards instead of Hamilton's as is the case with the button plate installation on King William and Hughson.

Susan Jacob explained that she will arrange to have the various different groups attend upcoming meeting of BEWG so we can begin to address these issues. We then discussed Urban Braille and the city's efforts with textured paving. Chair explained that we have noticed several variations on patterns and different coatings. Susan agreed this was a very experimental process as it is not done in other municipalities. She mentioned that she is have a consultant review the urban braille plan to ensure we are in compliance with the AODA as she feels that we should conform to what other cities are doing. Chair described the problems with button plates for all persons with disabilities. Chair tried to explain that this was not a strike against Hamilton but a sign we were providing above and beyond what the AODA called for. We will continue to have this discussion as well as meet with

the consultant when appropriate. We will also look into an education drive for the general public to explain its purpose.

4. HSR Bus Stop Snow Clearing Discussion: Chair explained the issue with snow clearing at bus stops and described some of the conditions during the December snow events. All members agreed that what is being done is not appropriate. We have tried to address this problem before but HSR tells us they contract with the City. When we bring it up with the City, they tell us that the HSR is responsible for their own snow clearing. This working group has to put in a concerted effort to get to the bottom of this issue and everyone agreed.

5. Outstanding Business List and Priorities for 2025 Discussion: We went through a rough list of outstanding business items and Chair will formalize the list for next meeting. Priorities to include road work/sidewalk construction, bike lanes, accessible washrooms list or index, Capital Projects list.

6. BEWG Vice-Chair Discussion: Chair discussed the Vice-Chair role with the group. Some people have expressed interest but are concerned they won't be able to keep up with the workload or have the time

available and worry about letting the group down. We then discussed contributing to the ACPD in general and how people can find different ways to do so that works for them.

7. Other Business: Cara gave us a brief update on the Road Safety Committee. Hargun and Cara rotate attendance and the committee only meets once every other month. Cara mentioned that she had a good meeting and was able to contribute with leading questions. More information to follow.

8. Adjournment