



Hamilton

**AODA Design for Public Spaces (Built
Environment Standard)
Presentation to General Issues Committee
September 19, 2012**

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, S.O. 2005 c. 11

Purpose of the AODA:

Recognizing the history of discrimination against persons with disabilities in Ontario, the purpose of this Act is to benefit all Ontarians by,

- (a) developing, implementing and enforcing accessibility standards in order to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities with respect to goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings, structures and premises on or before January 1, 2025; and
- (b) providing for the involvement of persons with disabilities, of the Government of Ontario and of representatives of industries and of various sectors of the economy in the development of the accessibility standards.



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AODA Regulations

- 5 standards developed in 2 regulations
- Customer Service - O. Reg. 429/07
 - Implementation January 1, 2010
- Integrated Accessibility Standard (O. Reg. 191/11) starting implementation on July 1, 2011
 - Information & Communication Standards
 - Employment Standards
 - Transportation Standard

New proposed standard:

Proposed amendment to O. Reg. 191/11 – Design for Public Spaces Standard (Built Environment)



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Design for Public Spaces (Built Environment Standard)

- City is considered a Large Public Sector organization – public sector organization with 50 employees or more
- Implementation date – January 1, 2016
- Primarily addresses accessibility requirements in the built environment external to buildings
- Accessibility requirements in the built environment interior to buildings to be addressed with amendments to the Ontario Building Code
- Requirements of this proposed amendment relating to the interior of buildings are the requirements for accessible service counters, fixed queuing areas and waiting areas



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Design for Public Spaces (Built Environment Standard)

- Intent of the Act and regulations - ensure that people with disabilities can fully participate in the life of the community, independently and with dignity; access services without barriers; access to opportunities
 - Required by Ontario Human Rights Code
 - Addressing many of these issues with Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities
 - The City's Barrier Free Guidelines already address many of these requirements
- Implementation requires a balanced and planned approach – 2016 timeframe for implementation allows the time to plan for implementation; to incorporate into capital projects



Design for Public Spaces (Built Environment Standard)

The Standard for Design for Public Spaces includes regulations for the following areas:

- Definitions
- Recreational Trails and Beach Access Routes
- Outdoor Public Use Eating Areas
- Outdoor Play Spaces
- Exterior Paths of Travel
- Accessible Parking Obtaining Services
 - Service counters
 - Fixed Queuing Areas
 - Waiting Areas
- Design of Public Spaces Standards Maintenance



Design for Public Spaces (Built Environment Standard)

- Items changed from previous draft
 - Timeline is clarified – implementation date of January 1, 2016
 - Only applies to new development or redevelopment
 - “Redeveloped” is defined as “planned significant or substantial changes to public spaces but does not include maintenance activities”
 - Exceptions allowed for sections of beach access and trails and exterior paths of travel for various reasons, including environmentally sensitive areas, historical designation, or specific site conditions
 - Sidewalk width
 - in previous draft, 1.8 metres width required under certain circumstances
 - Current standard proposes 1.5 metre sidewalk width – this is the City’s current standard



Design for Public Spaces (Built Environment Standard)

- Impacts on departments – shared in report; most report limited impacts, many requirements mirror the City's Barrier Free Guidelines
- Cost implications of this standard:
 - Ensuring that accessibility assessments/audits are completed for existing recreation facilities, to prepare for more complete cost estimates for capital budgets for properties to be redeveloped (\$100,000 to \$200,000)
 - Staff training to ensure understanding of requirements for design and maintenance of accessibility elements
 - Accessible Pedestrian Signals – new and replacement signals budgeted at \$150,000 per year
- Overall costs of meeting accessibility standards
 - Transportation – over \$5 million
 - Employment and Accessible Taxi Licensing Review – approximately \$200,000 combined
 - Website redevelopment total budget of \$2.4 million + (not all related to accessibility improvements)



Design for Public Spaces (Built Environment Standard)

- Changes proposed – areas of concerns, summary found in Appendix A
 - Additional definitions
 - Accessible Pedestrian Signals - recommended using the Transportation Association of Canada guideline for Accessible Pedestrian Signals
 - Exception for cultural heritage - to include Conservation Easements
 - Sections where additional clarity would be helpful related to signage on recreational trails and beach access routes, exceptions for eroding the heritage attributes and proscribed standards for service counters



Recommendations

- Report and Appendix A be submitted to the Ministry of Community and Social Services
- Request to the Province for funding to assist with implementation
- Request to the Federal Government for funding to assist with implementation



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