

2025 Accessibility Plan Status Report

This report provides the City's 2025 annual update on the progress and accomplishments made by staff toward meeting the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR), Ontario Regulation 191/11.

In addition to fulfilling these legislative obligations, the City has also undertaken initiatives that go beyond the minimum standards to further enhance accessibility and eliminate barriers.

As required under the IASR, the City of Peterborough has developed a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan outlining the actions and strategies the municipality will implement to improve accessibility. This report serves as a companion document to the City's 2024–2028 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, highlighting the progress achieved during 2025.

The Accessibility Plan priorities, approved by City Council, set a five-year road map to address the main barriers for people with disabilities:

- Sidewalk infrastructure
- Transit system and stops
- Streets and intersections
- Park access and features
- Employment opportunities for people with disabilities

The priorities are designed to help increase access to basic needs such as food, housing, health care, education, employment, and the outdoors.

Costs associated with implementing the priorities are covered through annual Departmental requests for budget and/or external funding opportunities. Priorities are implemented as budget and resources permits.

Sidewalk Priorities

- The implementation of the 2022 Transportation Master Plan which outlines a significant investment in the sidewalk network, spotlighting the downtown, new growth corridors and intensification areas is underway. Completion of the Bethune Street corridor is an example of new growth corridors that are adding connectivity to sidewalk networks.

- The City is continuing to implement the Sidewalk Strategic plan to add missing sidewalk links. 850m of new sidewalks were constructed, and 800m of new multi-use paths were added in 2025.
- The implementation of the 2023 Central Area Urban Design Guidelines for development work and long-term downtown programs like the seasonal outdoor patio program is ongoing.
- The initiative to pilot alternative waste bin locations on streets with curb faced sidewalks is still being explored. The City is still looking to investigate downtown accessibility further by collaborating with partners like DBIA to develop standards for sidewalk promotional materials.
- The City will work with applicants to find solutions where property constraints may require changes to City property.
- Reconstruction of major arterial roadways that also improve the sidewalk network include:
 - Construction on Brealey Dr, from Lansdowne to Sherbrooke, has been completed.
 - Construction on Lansdowne St W, from Park to Lock, will be completed by the end of 2025.
 - Planning of improvements to Charlotte St, from Park to Water, is underway with construction will be completed before the end of this multi-year accessibility plan cycle.
 - Planning for improvements on Chemong Rd, from Parkhill to Sunset, is underway and construction will be completed before the end of this multi-year accessibility plan cycle.
- The City has consistently supported boulevard tree planting throughout 2025 to ensure comfort and walkability across the sidewalk network. The [Trees in the City of Peterborough](#) Webpage has more information on City tree planting.

Transit Priorities

- Transit booking options have been expanded to include email reservations for hearing impaired customers. The addition of a mobile app has improved information access so users can cancel, and track previously booked routes. Options are being explored to open the app to route booking for customers with disabilities that make calling to book challenging.
- The City is actively upgrading bus stop infrastructure to include concrete pads with connections to the sidewalk network. The transit stop improvement program is currently

in phase 4 with 63 bus stop pads being completed by the end of 2025. 5 of these stops included new bus shelters. The inclusion of bus route information at transit stops with bus shelters is still ongoing as new shelters are installed, and existing ones are updated.

- The installation of benches and waste bins at bus stops is ongoing; the City is leveraging sponsorship opportunities to offset costs associated with additional furnishings, while ensuring these accessories do not obstruct clear paths of travel. The upgrading of transit stops signage to a unique shape, colour, and size to help better identify stops is still being considered.
- Transit currently has 11 vans in service with 2 new vans arriving by the end of 2025, and an additional 2 that will be ordered by the end of 2025 arriving in 2026.
- All transit vehicles are fully accessible, and additional van services are added to cover wait-listed trips when staffing and operations are allowed.

Streets and Intersection Priorities

- The City is continuing to expand mid-block pedestrian crossings, where appropriate to improve safety of crossings in higher traffic areas where traffic lights do not exist. Some locations include:
 - Rotary Trail Crossing at Hunter St E
 - Maria St at Rogers Cove
 - Spillsbury at Valleysmore Park
- The enhancement of crosswalk markings at intersections throughout the city is ongoing, with more crosswalks added each year.
- The City will continue to implement the City's Urban Design Guidelines for new development and redevelopment projects.

Park Priorities

- The 2019 Municipal Parks and Open Space Study and Urban Design Guidelines have been applied to newly developed parks and park rejuvenation projects. This includes pedestrian-scale lighting, accessible site furnishings such as seating with armrests and backrests, and walkway connections to waste and recycling bins.
- Walkways and multi-use paths have been added into park rejuvenation projects. These walkways are connected to the municipal sidewalk network and to all on-site amenities, such as accessible benches, tables, and shade features. Project examples include:

- The completed [Bonnerworth Park](#) redevelopment
- The completed [Dominion Park](#) updates
- The completed [Valleymore Park](#) updates
- The completed [Denne Park](#) updates
- The ongoing [Knights of Columbus Park](#) redevelopment
- Accessible play elements have been integrated into park rejuvenation projects, including adaptive swings at Denne Park, and tactile play components at Dominion Park.
- Playground accessibility has been improved by upgrading sand surfacing to higher-quality materials such as engineered wood fiber at Dominion and Denne Parks.
- Public washroom facilities at community parks are being updated with new accessible features; Bonnerworth Park has an accessible water bottle filling station added to the exterior. New washroom buildings at Knights of Columbus Park are planned to be fully accessible, including changerooms.

Employment Priorities

- The City continues to ensure inclusive interview and hiring processes by following best practices and providing accommodation for applicants with disabilities upon request.
- Accessibility staff and the Accessibility Advisory Committee review all site plan applications to ensure barrier-free walkway infrastructure is incorporated into new employment developments in alignment with the Official Plan and Urban Design Guidelines.
- The City has partnered with Project SEARCH a school-to-work transition program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to give opportunity for local students with intellectual disabilities to gain work experience with the City of Peterborough. Internships at host locations include Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre, Riverview Park and Zoo, Public Works, Peterborough Public Library, Peterborough Art Gallery, and the People and Culture Division.