

PDAC Workplan

Nov 18 2021

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PDAC Members: Tasia Alexis, Caitlin Anderson, Alfiya Battalova, Denny Bilac, Nathan Bragg, Peter Brown (Co-Chair), Michelle Chakraborti, Amelia Cooper, Jacques Courteau (Vice-Chair), Salina Dewar, Michael Frazer, Paul Gauthier, Yat Li, Laura Mackenrot (Co-Chair), Chris Morrissey

Top Objectives

1. To ensure that the built environment in the City of Vancouver is accessible
2. To advocate for accessible and affordable housing for people with disabilities and to take further action to ensure an exterior accessible path is required to one entrance in most newly built dwellings, such as houses, duplexes, triplexes, laneway houses and apartments.
3. To continue to promote social inclusion and accessible services within the city and make the 2022 Elections more accessible
4. To work with the City and its Partners to create transportation systems that are accessible to all.
5. To assist staff in preparing for and supporting people with disabilities during significant emergencies and crisis – such as COVID 19, heat domes and earthquakes.
6. Assist City Clerk’s Office with review and improvement of Advisory Body system.

Accessible City Subcommittee

Chair: Alfiya Battalova

Members: Tasia Alexis, Peter Brown, Amelia Cooper, Jacques Courteau, Michael Frazer, Laura Mackenrot

Most of the issues will be addressed by the committee as a whole, except for the Stanley Park issue that will be led by Peter Brown and accessibility of EV stations that will be led by Jacques Courteau.

1. Accessibility of parks and community/city facilities

- Community centres (design indoor and outdoor, navigation, signage, washrooms, drop-off zone, parking, elevators, etc.) (e.g., Oakridge Civic Centre, Community Centre Strategy)
- Parks (navigation, signage, parking, bike lanes, washrooms, etc.) (e.g., Stanley Park (temporary bike lane and access to washroom – Lead: Peter Brown), Parks washroom strategy and its implementation)
- Elevators in public buildings
- Emergency facilities and services in public buildings
- Public accessible washrooms

2. Outside built environment

- Accessible parking (availability, design)
- Bicycle paths
- EV charging stations accessibility – Lead: Jacques
- Accessibility and availability of parks and playgrounds
- Sidewalks

3. Development Plans

- New St. Paul's Hospital
- Northeast False Creek plan
- Oakridge Plan
- Other new development projects

4. Other

- Snow removal
- Monitoring of Places for People Downtown strategy

Housing Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Paul Gauthier & Jane Vorbrodt

Members: Tasia Alexis, Denny Bilac, Salina Dewar, Laura Mackenrot, Chris Morrissey

Non PDAC Community Members: Chris Hofley, Jane Vorbrodt (Co-Chair), Jill Weiss

1. George Pearson Advisory Committee

Lead: Paul; help from Chris M & Chris H

Continued involvement with the Pearson Dogwood Redevelopment Committee to ensure that accessible housing and support for residents moving out of Pearson Centre and into the community follow the Consensus Document. The Consensus Document includes principles for autonomy, integration, and full, independent living, and is the guiding document for the de-institutionalization of Pearson Centre. It was developed by PDAC, Pearson Residents Redevelopment Group, and the Disability Alliance in 2013, and was then adopted by Vancouver Coastal Health and the City of Vancouver.

2. Right Fit Program

Lead: Jane; help from Paul

Continued involvement with the Right Fit Program, whose mandate is to match wheelchair users to accessible housing, equipment and support. Liaise and assist in expanding Right Fit's inventory of accessible housing stock.

3. Urban Design Panel

Jane to liaise

PDAC Housing Subcommittee helped establish a role on the Urban Design Panel to review the accessibility of incoming rezoning and development permit applications. Identify recurring accessibility-related issues, and liaise with City Staff and PDAC to prevent barriers from occurring in future projects.

4. Jeanette Anderson Street

Lead: Tasia; help from Paul & Laura

Ensure that an informational plaque about the disability advocate, Jeanette Anderson, is installed on the Street named after her.

5. Accessible Path

Lead: Jill & Chris M; with help from Tasia & Laura

Take further action to ensure an exterior accessible path is required to one entrance in most newly built dwellings, such as houses, duplexes, triplexes, laneway houses and apartments. This will complete Vancouver's Adaptable Building Bylaw and ensure that people with disabilities can visit other people's homes.

6. Accessible units in new apartments & condominiums

Lead: Chris M; help from Jill

Ongoing review of City of Vancouver policies regarding the required number of accessible units in new developments. Initiate recommendations for increasing required percentages.

7. COV Accessibility Bylaws, Policies, Standards

Lead: Chris M

Review current COV accessibility bylaws, policies & guidelines regarding accessibility, and provide recommendations for adjustment or improvement.

8. Inventory of Accessible Suites

Lead: Chris H

Ensure that an inventory of accessible suites, which are to be reviewed and categorized through PDAC's Accessibility Checklist, is listed in an easy-to-access public database.

9. Elevators

Lead: Chris H

Consult with City staff regarding the difficulties associated with providing a single elevator in multi-storey housing developments.

10. Renters Office

Lead: Laura; with help from Salina

Involvement in the establishment of a Renters Office; ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities are addressed in this new civic initiative.

Social Inclusion Subcommittee

Chair: Michelle Chakraborti

Members: Tasia Alexis, Caitlin Anderson, Alfiya Battalova, Nathan Bragg, Amelia Cooper, Salina Dewar, Laura Mackenrot

Issues will be addressed by the committee as a whole

1. Janette Andersen Street

A plaque explaining the historical significance of Pearson and explaining the contribution of Janette Andersen for community inclusion (in collaboration with the housing sub-committee).

2. Telephone Voting 2022 City Election

To make the elections more accessible by promoting engagement and collaboration with the committee prior to the elections.

3. Overcoming logistical issues and barriers to social inclusion at Vancouver Public Library (accessibility difficulties/barriers)

4. Work with city staff to promote social inclusion and raise awareness about observance of special days, for e.g, 'World Mental Health day, World Disability day.

Actions include lighting city hall, providing the information on the City of Vancouver twitter feed, add the standard dates to the accessibility website for the City of Vancouver.

5. Attending consultations to provide feedback from a diversity, equity and inclusive lens

6. Defining the term 'Social Inclusion' from our committee's perspective

- create a tagline on the definition of social inclusion
- educating city staff is crucial to increased actual social inclusion outcomes

7. Advocating for the creation of virtual meeting guidelines

8. Work on the accessibility of the City of Vancouver website (vancouver.ca)

9. Promotion of Social inclusion for individuals in the workplace

10. Presence of event assistants during events

11. Monitoring of the plastic bendable straw by-law

Transportation Subcommittee

Chair: Caitlin Anderson

Members: Tasia Alexis, Yat Li, Laura Mackenrot

Non PDAC Community Members: Dellie Lidyard, Jill Weiss

Issues will be addressed by the committee as a whole, except where lead is indicated

1. Paratransit (HandyDART)

Lead: Laura; help from Tasia & Jill

- Ensure that persons who use HandyDART have equal transportation outcomes as those who use conventional transit
- Increase the use of taxis within HandyDART to improve cost effectiveness and sustainability
- HandyDART registration, engagement & overview: Tasia, Jill
- HandyDART COMPASS: review training & feedback
- Follow changes in the service and modernization project

2. Conventional Transit

Leads: Caitlin and Yat; help from Dellie

- Broadway Extension line bathrooms and elevators: update and follow up
- Work on increasing shelters at stops
- Bus balancing motion – address the need for more seating: Tasia
- Increase access to washrooms and elevators through the whole system
- Ensure that persons with disabilities are not refused access to buses and services

3. User Directed Transportation Services (Taxi/Limos/Ride Hailing)

Leads: Yat and Caitlin; help from Jill

- Ensure that all User Directed Transportation Services provide equal transportation outcomes to persons with disabilities
- Review statistics, updates & accessibility fee
- Driver Training update

4. Other

- Arbutus Greenway bathrooms
- Outdoor Patios impact on transport
- Mobility pricing in downtown
- Review Climate Action Strategy impact on transportation for persons with disabilities: Tasia
- Accessible parking spots
- Signage
- Electrical scooters, making sure they remain safe
- Drop off zones
- West 10th Avenue Follow up: ensure safety and access for persons with disabilities especially in the hospital/medical area: Tasia

Other Projects

1. Accessible Strategy

The City has enacted the Accessibility Strategy Task Force to create an all-encompassing accessible strategy which will apply to all City programs, policies and operations. Members Tasia Alexis, Caitlin Anderson, Peter Brown and Jacques Courteau will attend meetings and report back to the committee about this important piece of work.

2. The Vancouver Plan

PDAC members will continue to attend these consultations to ensure accessibility concerns and the interest of persons with disabilities are considered throughout the development of the Plan.

3. Emergency Procedures

The committee will continue to support city staff in advising on issues such as emergency procedures, COVID-19 and preparing for climate emergencies such as future heat domes.