Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing in response to a request from a member of Council for an update on progress on the Accessible City Strategy which was directed by Council last year and $200,000 was built into the 2019 operating budget to pursue.

While many departments will play a role, ACCS has been assigned the lead on the Accessibility Strategy. Given the many other priorities in the 2019 workplan, staff had targeted a late 2019 start for this work. Sandra noted this timeline recently during the Council discussion on various equity initiatives.

Since then, a number of new Council directed policy and strategy initiatives have been added to staff’s work plan and Sandra and the team are reassessing whether there is capacity to initiate the Accessible City strategy work in 2019 or if it needs to be delayed until 2020.

As we have many new directions arising from Council for 2020 and limited capacity, Accessibility Strategy will likely need to be considered by Council in terms of priorities for staff attention for 2020. Please note that the creation of an Age Friendly City plan is an aligned but distinct unfunded Council direction from last year that will also need to considered by Council as staff plan the 2020 workplan vis-à-vis the 2020 budget process. It’s possible that some of these and other initiatives may need to be assigned to 2021 workplans.

If you have any questions about these pieces of work, please contact Sandra Singh at sandra.singh@vancouver.ca.

Thank you,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.