HALIFAX

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Item No. 9.3.2

Transportation Standing Committee
October 1, 2014

TO: Chair and Members of the Transportation Standing Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____

Lisa Pottie, Chair, HRM Accessibility Advisory Committee

DATE: September 23, 2014

SUBJECT: **Wheelmap.org**

ORIGIN

A presentation was given, discussion held, and a motion approved on the topic at September 15, 2014 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Terms of Reference of the Accessibility Advisory Committee sets out the responsibilities of the Committee, including:

"2.1   To advise Halifax Regional Council, through the Transportation Standing Committee, on matters related to the status of persons with disabilities."

RECOMMENDATION

That the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the possibility of the municipality utilizing wheelmap.org or a similar online resource to increase accessibility in Halifax.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At the September 15, 2014 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Corporate Diversity Consultant, Human Resources, and staff liaison to the Committee, made a presentation on the website Wheelmap.org, a copy of which is attached to this report. Mr. Rutt provided a demonstration of the website.

Wheelmap.org is an open and free online map for wheelchair accessible places. It empowers users to share and access information on the wheelchair accessibility of public places.

The Committee discussed the potential benefits of the municipality contributing to the website, such as updating the locations of construction barriers for road and sidewalk construction, and information on the accessibility of municipal buildings, playgrounds and sports fields, trails, bus stops and on-street accessible parking. It was also suggested that the information would be useful to tourists planning a visit to Halifax.

It was noted that the municipality's participation in populating the data on the website would be an information sharing role, and not an ownership role, and that municipal staff would already have much of this data to input.

The Committee approved a motion that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the possibility of the municipality utilizing wheelmap.org or a similar online resource to increase accessibility in Halifax.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications associated with the proposed initiative would be discussed in the requested staff report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is comprised of eight volunteer citizen members and two members of Regional Council, plus staff liaison members from a number of HRM business units including Metro Transit, Planning & Infrastructure, Human Resources, Community & Recreation Services, and Halifax Regional Police. Meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. Minutes, agendas, reports and other information on the AAC are posted on the HRM website.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None identified.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1   Wheelmap.org presentation provided to the September 15, 2014 meeting of the
                 Accessibility Advisory Committee.
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A copy of this report can be obtained online at http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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_____

HΛLIFΛX

Wheelmap.org

Laughie Rutt, Corporate Diversity Consultant

A city is not gauged by its' length & width, but by the broadness of its' vision and the height of its' dreams.

Herb Caen (alias "Mr. San Francisco)

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist

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WHAT IS WHEELMAP?

Wheelmap is an open and free online map for wheelchair accessible places. It empowers users to share and access information on the wheelchair accessibility of public places. Like with Wikipedia, everyone can participate by tagging places.

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HOW DOES IT WORK?

Wheelmap uses the same open source data as on the GPS that we may individually own or is on our cell phone. A wheelmap user can select and be directed to accessible services nearby or in a community.

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THE INFORMATION SOURCE?

The information comes from open text data that any user, business or government can enter into the open text data. They can rate the location as:

1. Accessible

2. Limited Accessible

3. Not Accessible

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NAVIGATING WHEELMAP!

Wheelmap.org is a global tool that can be used by everyone everywhere. It is available on the internet and as a free app for iPhone and Android.

This internet means it is also available on a tablet, laptop or desktop computer.

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LET US HAVE A LOOK

Http://wheelmap.org/en/

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A VISION

All municipal physical structures are located in the open source data and are rated for their level of access. Examples:

1. All municipal buildings.

2. All municipal playgrounds & sports fields.

3. All municipal trails.

4. All bus stops.

5. All on street accessible parking, & more.

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A DREAM

All places of interest such as restaurants, hotels, historical sites, shopping, hospitals, walk in clinics, banks and much more are plotted to the map, are rated for their level of accessibility and the information is available in the public domain.

Note: The posting to the open source data is endless.

A gate or telephone pole can be entered.

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If you truly want to go forward, your efforts may bring you beyond your dreams.

Anonymous

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