



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 7.1
Accessibility Advisory Committee
July 21, 2014

TO: Chair and Members of Accessibility Advisory Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Original signed
Jane Fraser, Director, Planning & Infrastructure

DATE: July 4, 2014

SUBJECT: Facility Development Progress Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Requested by Committee at June 16, 2014, meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

No Administrative Order applies.

BACKGROUND

During the 2008/09 Budget process, the Accessibility – HRM Facilities account was created. During the first few years the funds were not used for various reasons. In 2010, Facility Development had a staff member added to the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) as a staff liaison to the committee. The AAC meets monthly, acting as a voice for the community on issues. Facility Development saw this as an opportunity to work with the committee to help direct the funds. Members of the AAC have completed a number of audits on existing HRM facilities, which has been used by staff to prioritize the spending of these funds. Since joining the AAC in 2010, Facility Development staff has spent more than \$800,000.00 from this project account. Over 33 different facilities have been upgrade with door operators, washroom upgrades, pool lifts, and new elevators.

The work completed to date within this account does not include any accessible upgrades completed by Facility Services or Transportation and Public Works.

DISCUSSION

Account History: (CBX01035 (2008/09) & CBX01154 (2009/14); Accessibility – HRM Facilities):

Budget Year	Funding	Expenditures
2008/09	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 53,859.27
2009/10	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 40,837.51
2010/11	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 79,786.84
2011/12	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 145,545.88
2012/13	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 137,421.44
2013/14	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 523,357.75
2014/15	\$ 525,000.00 *	

* The approved 2014/15 Project Budget was \$400,000. Halifax Regional Council approved an additional \$125,000 on April 29, 2014.

Work completed under the above funding includes:

- 98 door operators have been installed at 33 different HRM facilities;
- Accessibility pool lifts at 4 HRM pools;
- Accessibility Washroom upgrades at the North Woodside Community Centre, Eastern Shore Community Centre, Centennial Area and the Mooseland Community Hall;
- Accessibility upgrades at the Needham Centre including a platform lift from the first floor to the pool deck;
- Accessibility components added to over 10 parks such as swings and surface material;
- New elevator for City Hall; and
- Tactile Warning Surface Indicators (TWSI) for pedestrian crossings at the Bridge Terminal, Highfield Terminal, and the Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre.

Standard of Care:

In 2012, Facility Development adopted CSA Standard B651-12 Accessible design for the built environment, as developed by the Canada Standards Association (CSA), as a benchmark to guide the requests of the AAC and all new construction. The addition of this standard to our design process ensures HRM's new facilities meet the highest standard for accessibility and inclusion for our residents.

A Standing Offer for door operators has been in place for three years, with the contract being renewed in 2014 for an additional three years.

Future:

The 2014/15 Work Plan includes planned project expenditures of over \$500,000. The projects will include additional door operators, Community Recreation Services (CRS) accessibility audit on 34 locations, Community Park dock program, the replacement of audible fire alarms with audible strobe fire alarms, and items identified through the AAC.

In addition, work will continue to complete any outstanding items in numerous buildings throughout the HRM, such as washroom layouts (lever taps, slanted mirrors, wheelchair accessibility counter tops, and accessories), as identified by the AAC during their site audits.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications associated with the work described can be accommodated in the approved 2014/15 Project Budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Darren Young, Project Manager, Facility Development, P&I (490-4903)

Original signed

Report Approved by:

For/Richard MacLellan, Acting Manager, Facility Development (233-4846)
