

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022
10:00 TO NOON
(IN-PERSON)**

Present: John Graham (Chairperson), Scott Jocelyn, Kelly Cook, Josh Watt, Laurel Repski, Dianna Scarth, Kris Cowley, Shawna Joynt, Lucia Madariaga-Vignudo and Monika Bonsor (Accessibility Compliance Secretariat), Charissa McIntosh, Maria Ferraro, Darren Macdonald and Colleen Watters (MAO)

Regrets: Brad Robertson

Summary:

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the land acknowledgement. Those present introduced themselves. The chair indicated that Maria Ferraro, New Senior Policy Analyst, will be joining the MAO on October 11, 2022 and will serve as Secretary to the Council while the secretary is on maternity leave.

The chair reviewed the September 14, 2022 meeting agenda which included a discussion on compliance, updates from the MAO, consideration of accessible procurement and formulation of a Council position, as well as development of an agenda for the Council meeting with the Minister on October 13, 2022.

A discussion with the Assistant Director of Compliance followed, focussing on compliance and broader MAO projects for potential inclusion in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 ministerial Accessibility Plan.

Council engaged in a preliminary discussion on procurement, including policies from other provinces, most notably Ontario.

Action: At the request of Council, the MAO will ask legislative drafters to prepare a document outlining the advantages and disadvantages of procurement policies versus legislation.

Council received updates from the MAO as follows:

- **Manitoba Accessibility Fund:** The MAO Executive Director and Manager, Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF) provided a joint update on the August 24 launch event at the Good Will Social Club, including an overview of the 30 projects selected for funding. The manager noted that some of the applications for the first intake included requests for projects related to renovations and accessibility upgrades not currently funded by MAF. There were fewer applications from rural areas, municipalities and school divisions, and some of the RMs, in particular, were seeking funding for capital projects. In the second year, it will be important to

encourage more applications from these sectors and outreach activities are planned, as well as a survey of stakeholders (including organizations that did and did not apply). Council can assist with survey distribution.

Standard Development Update: Updates were provided on forthcoming standards on transportation and the design of public spaces.

AMA Five-Year Review: The second five-year review of the AMA will take place some time in 2023.

Action: Council members were asked to submit to the MAO names of possible reviewers and desirable characteristics of potential candidates. These will be forwarded to the Minister.

- **Enabling Accessibility Fund:** The federal Enabling Accessibility Fund (small projects component) is accepting applications for funding until November 1, 2022. Information was circulated by email prior to the meeting and Council members were invited to share with their networks.

A discussion took place on the upcoming Minister meeting with the Council on October 13, 2022.

Action: The Chair will draft an agenda for the Minister meeting, as well as the one-hour Council meeting to follow and circulate to members.

Future 2022 Council meetings will take place on:

Thursday, October 13 from 10 am to noon (meeting with Minister –
IN PERSON: Room 230 at the Manitoba Legislative Building, 450 Broadway)

Thurs. November 10 from 10 am to noon
Thurs. December 8 from 10 am to noon

The Council agreed to meet virtually during the winter months.

The meeting adjourned at noon.