

Our Plan Toronto: Jurisdictional Review and Draft Official Plan Vision Statement and Principles

Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee

June 13, 2022

City Planning Division

Presentation Purpose

Respond to November 15, 2021 Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee Motion ([Item DI18.3](#)) recommending the Chief Planner:

1. Conduct a cross-jurisdictional review of policies that include an equity-deserving lens that incorporates the needs of people with disabilities into long term land-use plans.
2. Prepare draft policies as part of the Municipal Comprehensive review which incorporate an equity-deserving lens with a focus on the needs of people living with disabilities.

Study Process

1. Receive Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee direction
2. Conduct Jurisdictional Scan of commonly used definitions and policies
3. Host Accessibility Focused meeting with communities who identify with disabilities, including neurologically diverse communities (Feb. 24, 2022)
4. Reflect on findings and public input
5. Present draft Official Plan language to Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee (Jun. 13, 2022)

Jurisdictional Scan – New York City

Accessibility Context

- Certain populations face housing challenges, including physical accessibility issues, affordability, language barriers, and qualification requirements
- Large portions of the housing stock creates significant hardship for individuals with mobility impairments.
- Accessible units are also important for seniors looking to age in place and even families with small children.

Jurisdictional Scan – New York City

Where We Live NYC Plan

- Expand existing programs that assist seniors and people with disabilities in obtaining physical modifications
- Improve education of architects and developers on their legal responsibilities when designing residential buildings to meet accessibility requirements
- Expand eligibility for a zoning bonus for transit accessibility improvements within high-density areas
- Rehabilitate or construct all required pedestrian ramps

Jurisdictional Scan – Seattle

Equitable Development Implementation Plan

- Consider future zoning amendments and their potential impacts that may increase the displacement of residents, especially marginalized populations
- Evaluate taxes, regulations, incentives, and other government policies and investments to determine the benefits and burdens on marginalized populations

Jurisdictional Scan – Ottawa

City of Ottawa Official Plan

- Accessibility Design Standards optimize accessibility for new construction or redevelopment of existing facilities owned, leased or operated by the City to address the needs of diverse users
- Policy language excerpts:
 - “Development shall demonstrate universal accessibility”
 - Plans and policies shall ensure that communities and places are designed to consider a diversity of experiences, including children, older adults, people with disabilities, women and gender-diverse persons, those identifying as 2SLGBTQQIA+ and people living with lower incomes

Jurisdictional Scan – London, Ont.

The London Plan

- Facility Accessibility Design Standards is a mandatory design aid for new facilities, as well as the retrofit, alteration or addition to existing facilities owned, leased or operated by the City
- Policy language excerpts:
 - Design complete neighbourhoods by meeting the needs of people of all ages, incomes and abilities, allowing for aging in place and accessibility to amenities, facilities and services
 - “...built form that is supportive of all types of active mobility and universal accessibility”

What we heard on Feb. 24, 2022

Housing challenges

- Chronic need for accessible, affordable, and supportive housing
 - In particular, individuals with intellectual disabilities are often left out of disability/inclusivity conversations, which can lead to institutionalized living and little individual choice

Mobility within complete communities

- Universal accessibility must consider Toronto's weather
 - This past winter's snowfall underscores the need to plan for individuals living independent, spontaneous, and safe lives

Full meeting summary posted on www.toronto.ca/ourplan

Draft Official Plan Vision Statement

2051 draft Vision Statement (excerpts)

- Toronto Official Plan should:
 - seek to eliminate disparities experienced by Torontonians
 - prioritize climate change action and sustainability towards net zero by 2040
 - be the road map for Toronto to become the most inclusive city in the world

Draft Principles for a Successful and Inclusive City

Principle 1 – Access (excerpts)

- Successful city-building requires improving access to many facets of daily life
- This means:
 - planning for universal accessibility for Torontonians of all ages and abilities
 - enabling access to affordable housing and complete communities with parks, open spaces and nature;

Draft Principles for a Successful and Inclusive City

Principle 2 – Equity (excerpts)

- Successful city-building requires applying an equity lens that identifies and removes barriers for the City's most marginalized and vulnerable communities for achieving transformative change and inclusive growth
- This means:
 - addressing present challenges faced by Torontonians and businesses without compromising the needs of future generations and economic opportunities; identifying policies and practices that eliminate systemic exclusion and displacement of marginalized and racialized populations, including women and the LGBTQ2S+ community

Draft Principles for a Successful and Inclusive City

Principle 3 – Inclusion (excerpts)

- Successful city-building requires creating a safe and inclusive city for all Torontonians and those yet to arrive
- This means:
 - removing physical barriers for individuals to lead independent and spontaneous lives;
 - providing dignified and supportive housing for vulnerable populations;
 - providing virtual and in-person engagement opportunities for all.

Next Steps

- Continue engagement – September to December, 2022
- Refine Draft Official Plan Language
- Write Final Report with recommended Chapter 1 for Council approval in early-2023
- Stay Updated
 - www.toronto.ca/ourplan (subscribe to e-updates)
 - opreview@toronto.ca