

Water Taxi Accessibility

Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee
September 8, 2025



Executive Committee Meeting

June 17, 2025

EX24.11 - Ferry Accessibility Updates

Committee Decision

The Executive Committee:

- 1. Requested the Waterfront Secretariat, in consultation with the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, to present an update to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee at its September 8, 2025 meeting, on what they plan to do about inaccessible services offered by water taxi service companies such as TikiTaxi, Toronto Harbour Water Taxi and Pirate Taxi Toronto.**

Concrete Steps Taken Centre Island Water Taxi Dock

- The City (P&R) and TRCA have installed an accessible floating water taxi dock at Centre Island.
- Dock is reached by an accessible pathway, with signage, from the Centre Island ferry landing.
- P&R and TRCA have advised water taxi operators of protocols to ensure correct use.
- Expected 2025 season until September based on current water depth.
- Lake dredging in Fall 2025 will facilitate a longer 2026 season.
- City-run ferries to Toronto Island Park are accessible year-round.





Concrete Steps Taken Future Dock Locations

- The City, Waterfront Toronto and Ports Toronto, through the Marine Coordination Committee, are working on a water-based transportation pilot project in 2026.
- New dock locations are planned potentially at Portland Slip and Ookwemin Minising / Biidaasige Park.
- These will allow for a fixed route transportation system and potentially water taxi pick-up and drop-off along with other functions.
- It is presently undecided if the dock infrastructure will be City owned or privately owned, however the City will require them to be accessible.

Concrete Steps Taken Yonge Slip

- Waterfront Toronto and Ports Toronto have a lease with York Bay Marine for the east side of Yonge slip.
- The dock/gangway includes a ramp to a floating dock.



Concrete Steps Taken Harbourfront Centre

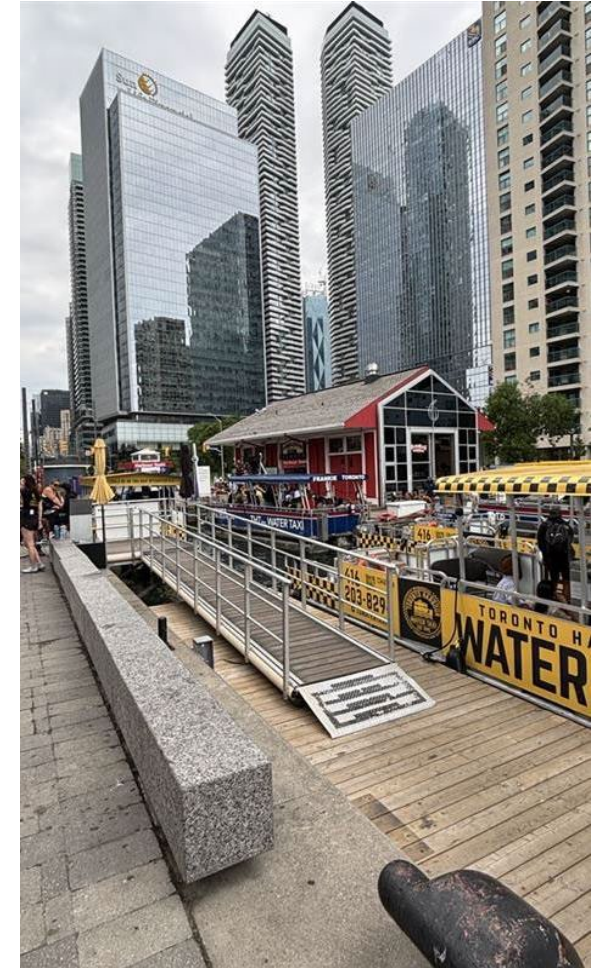
Presented the need for accessible docks to the Marine Coordination Committee in early 2025.

The issue was discussed with leaseholders including Harbourfront Centre and Ports Toronto.

Harbourfront Centre oversees leases at 4 locations:

1. Toronto Harbour Water Taxi Services / Water Limo - York Slip NW corner.
2. Pirate Taxi - York Quay boardwalk (east of west pier).
3. Pirate Taxi - Peter St Slip west side / NW corner of slip.
4. Tiki Taxi - Spadina Slip NW corner.

Harbourfront Centre are receptive to adding a standard access section to their agreements.



Concrete Steps Taken

Water Taxi Working Group

- Formed in early 2025 and comprised of Parks & Recreation, Waterfront Secretariat, Waterfront Toronto supported by Corporate Real Estate Management.
- Reviewed water taxi locations and how to improve access to Toronto Island Park and accessibility, among other initiatives.
- Considering how management best practices can be implemented.

Clarity on Jurisdiction

- Vessels (i.e. water taxis) are regulated by Transport Canada
- City has ownership and oversight over the docking infrastructure where the City has ownership of the lands – directly on the Island side and indirectly on the City side (through Harbourfront Centre)
- Note that PortsToronto is responsible for those areas along the City side where they have ownership of the lands
- Privately owned water taxi operators are to follow Transport Canada guidelines onboard the vessel and City requirements at the docking infrastructure on City owned lands

Transport Canada and Accessibility on Vessels

- Transport Canada enforces accessibility guidelines for vessels through regulations such as the **Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations (ATPDR)**
- These regulations require accessibility features, such as ramps, clear passageways and specific seating arrangements, as well as providing information in accessible formats and training of staff in how to assist persons with disabilities
- ATPDR applies to ferries weighing at least 1,000 gross tons
- For small commercial vessels (under 15 gross tons), accessibility regulations are based on the vessel's type, size, and the voyages it undertakes, rather than a single document for all small vessels
- Transport Canada's Small Vessel Compliance Program assists in navigating those requirements
- For more information: [Vessels of 0 to 15 Gross Tonnage](#)

Private Water Taxis Re-Cap

- Water taxis are independent operators, not licensed by the City apart from a license to use pick-up and drop-off facilities in Toronto Island Park.
- In 2025 there are five companies that operate water taxis in Toronto's Inner Harbour with licenses with Toronto Island Park.
- Private water taxi companies have agreements with various (non-City) landowners or leaseholders to allow for docking and passenger pick-up & drop off along Toronto's waterfront.
- Harbourfront Centre is the main group that leases to water taxis on the City-side. Ports Toronto/Waterfront Toronto also lease to groups that provide water taxis. (Corporate Real Estate Management (CREM) does not have leases with water taxi operators.)





Questions?