

Parks and Recreation Community Disability Steering Committee

- Date: Thursday, April 9, 2026
- Time: 10 to 11:50 a.m.
- Location name/room: Earl Bales Community Centre, Room 2

High Park Movement Strategy - Road Redesign Options

Committee members received a presentation on the High Park Movement Strategy draft road redesign options, covering an introduction to the project team, a review of accessibility-related engagement feedback from phase 1 of the project, a summary of the two road redesign options being explored, draft recommendations, and next steps. Questions and discussion from committee members favoured option 1 (i.e. separation of modes of transportation through physical barriers) over option 2 (i.e. a shared space approach to create barrier free environments that naturally slow movement and enhance safety through visual cues and increased user awareness) throughout the park except for the West Road south area, where support for the second option was expressed. The reason for this is that drivers generally don't pay as much attention to visual cues, so separating pedestrians and cyclists from vehicles increases both safety and accessibility. However, it was suggested that any physical barriers be painted in a bright colour to make them more visible. A question was also raised about whether accessible pedestrian signals would be included at pedestrian crossings, and the importance of giving pedestrians and people with disabilities priority as well as clear and visible signage and its enforcement was stressed. Project coordinators also provided their contact information for further feedback/follow-up.

Beach Accessibility Audit (Mainland and Toronto Islands)

A presentation was received which provided a project background and meeting purpose, the 18 beach locations to be audited, the interim beach accessibility improvements made to date, a list of the supervised beaches, proposed audit scope, additional audit considerations, approach and targeted schedule, and next steps. Committee member questions focussed on the inclusion of accessible washroom availability, the procurement and distribution of beach water chairs, the installation of beach mats, the amount of time that has been taken to initiate this audit, and when the final report would be made available to the public. Feedback stressed the need to audit all beaches (i.e. downtown and suburban as well as lifeguarded and not lifeguarded) for accessibility, the existence of an enlarged mat area leading to the water's edge, separation of users at the water's edge, documentation around where beach mats have already been installed, additional accessibility features being considered, and further consultation with people with disabilities outside of the P&R/CDSC. In addition, concern was expressed about the weak enforcement of the AODA, and strong support for adhering to Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines (TADG, 2021) was provided.

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Other Updates

Following an update on the implementation of member feedback on the P&R/CDSC web page, round table updates on upcoming Scarborough Theatre Guild productions, rubberized surfacing at Lusted Park playground, the Ontario Blind Golf summer schedule, the Polaris program at Pegasus Community Project, the Mayfest deaf expo, and an upcoming name change at Silent Voice Canada were received.