



SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 9, 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE GIBSONS AND AREA COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 700
PARK ROAD, GIBSONS, B.C. AND VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

(Voting Members)	Chair	B. Conway
	Committee members	E. Eaton
		L. Forrest
		R. Kiewitz
		A. Lattanzi
		B. Straw
		S. Tompkins

ALSO PRESENT:

(Non-Voting)	Councillor, TOG	D. Croal
	Director, SCRD	D. McMahon
	Staff, DOS	M. Stjepovic
	Youth Representative	M. Vanhoeven
	SCRD, Corporate Officer	S. Reid
	Staff, SCRD	R. Porte
	Staff, TOG	K. Thomas
	Recorder, SCRD	K. Gower

REGRETS:	Committee Member	A. Gursche
	Councillor, DOS	D. Inkster

CALL TO ORDER Chair Conway called the meeting to order at 11:10 am

AGENDA The agenda was adopted as amended.

MINUTES

The Sunshine Coast Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee (SCRAAC) minutes of October 21, 2024 were accepted as presented.

REPORTS

Where are we in the process - Update

- Environmental Scans were conducted in all three local governments
- Committee members should continue to send barriers & opportunities to legislative@scrd.ca
- Selection of a consultant is in progress, still to be determined whether Sechelt or Gibsons will administer the grant funds on behalf of the committee
- Ongoing feedback program – “Let’s Talk” page to be initiated

Environmental Scan

Each local government provided an update on the results of the environmental scan conducted within their respective local government.

Marina Stjepovic, Staff, District of Sechelt, highlighted the following:

- Office accessibility is a challenge, including the elevator, telephone system and access to different facilities

Rebecca Porte, Staff, Sunshine Coast Regional District highlighted the following:

- No specific standard for accessibility was identified
- Positive changes included options for residents to pay bills, attend meetings, or get information remotely or online
- Transportation was an issue of note – in particular, the demand for handyDart service exceeds the existing level of service available

Katie Thomas, staff, Town of Gibsons, highlighted the following:

- The Town of Gibsons building is not accessible and requires a building audit
- The Town’s Parks masterplan is being reviewed with an aim to developing one or two accessible trails from lower to upper Gibsons

Chair Conway addressed the committee highlighting the need to focus on prioritization of the opportunities and barriers as the committee's work continues.

Working Groups

- The Transportation working group meetings took place on November 18 and December 4, 2024
- The working group would like to see a member of SCRAAC participate on the new BC Ferries Advisory Committee
- In addition to advocacy, the Committee would like to actually work with BC Ferries and BC Transit to ensure support for accessibility improvements

Accessibility Barriers and Opportunities on the Sunshine Coast

- Committee members were encouraged to continue identifying opportunities and barriers to add to the tracking spreadsheet
- Creating the priorities list of opportunities and barriers will be ongoing and can be added to once engagement with the public begins

Consultant Update

- A list of consultants through the Disability Alliance has been made available
- Decision needs to be made amongst staff which local government will administer the grant and then interviews with consultants will follow
- The aim is to have a consultant in place before the next Committee meeting

Update on Let's Talk Page

The committee discussed the following with respect to public engagement:

- Consultants may have advice on how best to engage public and when an online public engagement page will be developed on the SCRD's *Let's Talk* website that will provide a place where the public can submit feedback, ask questions, and get information including background, goals, key milestones, and document links related to the work on the Regional Accessibility Plan
- The Let's Talk page will be developed once a consultant has been selected
- Other methods of public information and engagement will also be contemplated

- Informing the community, especially those with accessibility issues, of the committee's work to create a Regional Plan is an important priority
- A letter or article submitted to the Coast Reporter newspaper was suggested

COMMUNICATIONS

- Correspondence from Kate Turner, Assistant to the Director of Instruction for Inclusive Education, School District 46, regarding School District 46 Accessibility Planning, was received for information

NEW BUSINESS

- **Terms of Reference and Appointment of Committee Members**
The SCRD Corporate Officer addressed the committee regarding a proposed amendment to extend committee appointments to two years. Committee members present at the meeting were supportive of their terms being extended.

Next Meeting

- District of Sechelt to host next meeting. Date to be confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm