



Community and Health Services
Office of the Commissioner

Memorandum

TO: Members of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee
FROM: Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner of Community and Health Services
DATE: September 28, 2016
RE: **Accessibility (Compliance) Report on the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA): Compliance with the Design of Public Spaces Requirements – January 1, 2016**

This memo offers an update on any activities undertaken by York Region, York Regional Police and the York Regional Police Services Board to comply with the 2016 Design of Public Spaces (DOPS) requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).

Under the AODA (Section 29.4) municipal accessibility advisory committees must provide advice to municipal councils on the requirements and implementation of the accessibility standards and compliance reports. The York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC) fulfills this function. This memo serves to fulfill this obligation for the 2016 AODA requirements.

New AODA accessibility standards for the Design of Public Spaces became law January 1, 2016. The standards include accessibility requirements for:

- Recreational trails and beach access routes
- Outdoor, public-use eating areas like rest stops or picnic grounds
- Outdoor play spaces such as playgrounds in parks and communities
- Public outdoor paths of travel including sidewalks and pedestrian signals
- On and off-street parking areas
- Service counters, fixed waiting lines and waiting areas with fixed seating
- Maintenance and service disruptions

The standards apply to public spaces that are new or undergoing planned significant redevelopment and do not require that public spaces be retrofitted to meet compliance.

The Region has incorporated the Design of Public Spaces requirements in design criteria for projects initiated on or after January 1, 2013 and will continue this practice.

York Region, and the York Regional Police have completed requirements in all of these areas. A summary of compliance activities is attached as Appendix A.

York Region must report to the Province on AODA compliance activities

The AODA requires large public sector organizations like York Region to file two reports that document compliance. Information in this report will be use to complete these legislated reports:

1. Annual Status Report - Outlines actions taken to meet the AODA requirements and must be made publicly available. The next status report will be posted online at york.ca by December 31, 2016.
2. Bi-Annual Accessibility (Compliance) Report to the provincial government - York Region, York Regional Police and the York Regional Police Services Board submit one combined report. The next one is due by December 31, 2017.

This memo will be forwarded to the York Regional Police Services Board for their information. Staff will continue to monitor AODA compliance activities and provide regular updates to Council. This information will be used to meet provincial AODA reporting requirements.

For more information contact Lisa Gonsalves, Director, Strategies and Partnerships Branch, Community and Health Services at 905-830-4444 x. 72090.

Adelina Urbanski

AU/KA/jb

Attachment: Appendix A: Summary of Compliance Activities at January 1, 2016: York Region, York Regional Police, and York Regional Police Services Board

Appendix A:

Summary of Design of Public Spaces Compliance Activities at January 1, 2016: York Region, York Regional Police and York Regional Police Services Board

Overarching Requirement:		
Effective January 1, 2016, obligated organizations must make new or redeveloped public spaces accessible. ¹		
Establishment of Accessibility Policies [IASR s. 3]		
✓	<p><u>Requirement:</u></p> <p>Have a written accessibility policy that governs how the Design of Public Spaces (DOPS) standards would be achieved</p>	<p><u>Compliance Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOPS requirements incorporated into the York Regional Council endorsed corporate Accessibility Policy November 19, 2015. <p><u>Activities Beyond Compliance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York Region has applied the DOPS effective January 1, 2013 when contracting for the construction or redevelopment of a public space. • Developed corporate guidelines to inform the design and construction of Regional facilities including “Accessibility Design Guidelines” for buildings and facilities (Property Services), “Housing Design: Guidelines and Standards” (Housing) and “Accessibility Design Guidelines for York Regional Forest Trails” (Forestry). The guidelines include technical requirements for the built environment including DOPS. • York Region’s Purchasing Bylaw includes an objective to promote and implement procurement practices that support the principles of the AODA.
Recreational Trails and Beach Access Routes² [IASR³ 80.6 – 80.15]		
✓	<p><u>Requirement:</u></p> <p>Make new or redeveloped recreational trails accessible</p>	<p><u>Compliance Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes are in place to ensure new or redeveloped recreational trails comply with DOPS. • Constructed two accessible trails that meet or exceed the legislative requirements. <p><u>Activities Beyond Compliance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed “Accessibility Design Guidelines for York

¹ DOPS compliance activities highlighted in this table pertain to new or redeveloped public spaces only. Organizations are not required to retrofit public spaces under the Design of Public Spaces Standards.

² No Region-managed beach access routes were identified in York Region.

³ The IASR is the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation, Ontario Regulation 191/11, made under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.

Appendix A:

Summary of Design of Public Spaces Compliance Activities at January 1, 2016: York Region, York Regional Police and York Regional Police Services Board

Overarching Requirement: Effective January 1, 2016, obligated organizations must make new or redeveloped public spaces accessible. ¹		
		<p>Regional Forest Trails” in consultation with the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee and people with disabilities. The Guidelines meet or exceed the legislative requirements and will inform the design of future trails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcased the development of these first accessible trails through a promotional video created by the Province. • Currently working on a third accessible trail.
Outdoor Public-Use Eating Areas [IASR 80.16 – 80.17]		
✓	<p><u>Requirement:</u></p> <p>Make new or redeveloped outdoor public use eating areas accessible</p>	<p><u>Compliance Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes are in place to ensure new or significantly reconstructed outdoor public use eating areas comply with the requirements. • Conducted an inventory of outdoor public use eating areas to assess compliance, with one area identified at the Community Safety Village. This area predates DOPS requirements and will be monitored if upgrades are planned. <p><u>Activities Beyond Compliance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed “Accessibility Design Guidelines” for buildings and facilities in 2014 which includes the technical requirements for outdoor public use eating areas. The Guidelines will inform the design of future outdoor public use eating areas.
Outdoor Play Spaces [IASR 80.18 – 80.20]		
✓	<p>Make new or redeveloped outdoor play spaces accessible</p>	<p><u>Compliance Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes are in place to ensure new or redeveloped outdoor play spaces comply with the requirements. • Conducted an inventory of outdoor play spaces that our organization intends to maintain. Play spaces were identified at the Community Safety Village and will be monitored if upgrades are planned. <p><u>Activities Beyond Compliance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed “Accessible Design Guidelines” for buildings in 2014 which includes the technical requirements for inclusive play spaces. The Guidelines will inform the design of future

Appendix A:

Summary of Design of Public Spaces Compliance Activities at January 1, 2016:
York Region, York Regional Police and York Regional Police Services Board

Overarching Requirement: Effective January 1, 2016, obligated organizations must make new or redeveloped public spaces accessible. ¹		
		outdoor play spaces.
Public Outdoor Paths of Travel [IASR 80.21 – 80.31]		
✓	<p>Make new or redeveloped exterior paths of travel accessible (including ramps, stairs, curb ramps, depressed curbs, accessible pedestrian control signals and rest areas)</p>	<p><u>Compliance Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes are in place to ensure new or redeveloped exterior paths of travel comply with the requirements. <p><u>Activities Beyond Compliance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted an inventory of paths of travel at road intersections that require redevelopment to meet the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Modifying 36 intersections in 2016 ○ Modifying a minimum of 58 intersections between 2017/2018 (more will be added through development). • Modified 23 intersections modified prior to January 1, 2016⁴. • Added accessible pedestrian crossings to rural areas where transit may be provided in the future. • Created new more accessible York Region standard for curb ramps which separates ramps by direction. • Consulted with the YRAAC on the accessibility elements of the Annex Building (2014 and 2015) and Transportation and Rapid Way design projects (2015 and 2016). • Developed “Accessibility Design Guidelines” for buildings and facilities in 2014 which includes the technical requirements for exterior paths of travel. The Guidelines will inform the design of exterior paths of travel going forward. • Ensured consultants and contractors complied with DOPS and the Accessibility Design Guidelines, and/or received AODA training to commence projects. <p>The following were constructed to comply with DOPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 new buildings and facilities prior to January 1, 2016 and modified many existing through Property Services and Environmental Services Departments.

⁴ All intersections have included the installation of proper sidewalk ramping, tactile plates, zebra pavement markings and accessible pedestrian stations (APS).

Appendix A:

Summary of Design of Public Spaces Compliance Activities at January 1, 2016: York Region, York Regional Police and York Regional Police Services Board

Overarching Requirement: Effective January 1, 2016, obligated organizations must make new or redeveloped public spaces accessible. ¹		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YRRTC rapidway platforms, including pedestrian exterior paths of travel which are mechanically snow melted to improve function and accessibility. • two stage crossings at all YRRTC rapidway intersections, including safe waiting areas and pedestrian signal push buttons.
On⁵ and off-street parking areas [IASR 80.32 – 80.39]		
✓	<u>Requirement:</u> Make both on and off-street parking accessible	<u>Compliance Activities:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes are in place to ensure new or redeveloped off-street parking facilities comply with the requirements. <u>Activities Beyond Compliance:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed “Accessibility Design Guidelines” for buildings and facilities in 2014 which includes the technical requirements for on and off-street parking areas. These Guidelines will inform the design and construction of future on and off-street parking areas. • Ensured consultants and contractors complied with DOPS and the Accessibility Design Guidelines, and/or received AODA training to commence projects. •
Service Counters, fixed waiting lines, and areas with fixed seating [IASR 80.40 – 80.43]		
✓	<u>Requirement:</u> Make both service counters and waiting areas accessible	<u>Compliance Activities:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes are in place to ensure new or redeveloped service counters, fixed queuing guides and waiting areas comply with the requirements. • Conducted an inventory of service counters and waiting areas for monitoring purposes. <u>Activities Beyond Compliance:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed “Accessibility Design Guidelines” for buildings and facilities in 2014 which includes the technical requirements for service counters and waiting areas. These Guidelines will inform the design and construction of future

⁵ York Region does not have responsibility for identified on-street parking.

Appendix A:

Summary of Design of Public Spaces Compliance Activities at January 1, 2016: York Region, York Regional Police and York Regional Police Services Board

Overarching Requirement: Effective January 1, 2016, obligated organizations must make new or redeveloped public spaces accessible. ¹		
		<p>service counters and waiting areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All police counters at service locations meet the legislative requirements in advance of the DOPS compliance date.
Maintenance and Temporary Disruptions [IASR 80.44]		
✓	<p><u>Requirement:</u></p> <p>Maintain the accessible parts of your public spaces and have a multi-year accessibility plan in place that explains preventative and emergency maintenance and procedures for temporary disruptions</p>	<p><u>Compliance Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures are in place for preventative and emergency maintenance of the accessible elements in: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recreational trails 2. Outdoor, public-use eating areas 3. Outdoor play spaces such as playgrounds 4. Public outdoor paths of travel including sidewalks and pedestrian signals 5. On and off-street parking areas 6. Service counters, fixed waiting lines and waiting areas with fixed seating <p>Procedures include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scheduled routine preventative inspections/site visits to review accessible elements 2. Handling services requests received through the Property Services Help Desk 3. Dispatching staff to address and rectify issues • Procedures are in place for dealing with temporary disruptions when accessible elements are not in working order. <p>Procedures include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Posting signs notifying persons of the temporary disruption 2. Closing off areas

Appendix A:

Summary of Design of Public Spaces Compliance Activities at January 1, 2016: York Region, York Regional Police and York Regional Police Services Board

Overarching Requirement: Effective January 1, 2016, obligated organizations must make new or redeveloped public spaces accessible. ¹		
		<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Initiating service calls when deficiencies are found4. Repairs where necessary <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The York Region Multi-Year Accessibility Plan includes information about preventative and emergency maintenance and procedures for temporary disruptions for the accessibility elements in public spaces.

September 28, 2016