



**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

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**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, SCR D	D. McMahon
	Staff, DOS	M. Stjepovic
	Youth Representative	M. Vanhoeven
	SCR D, Corporate Officer	S. Reid
	Staff, SCR D	R. Porte
	Staff, TOG	K. Thomas
	Recorder, SCR D	K. Gower

**REGRETS:**

Committee Member	A. Gursche
Councillor, DOS	A. Toth

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**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](mailto: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