

DAW 2018 TOWN HALL REPORT

TRANSPORTATION & ROAD SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE

- Need for higher priority on pedestrian safety
 - Current crossing speeds are not long enough at lights for everyone to cross safely.
 - Many intersections do not yet have audible cues to identify that the lights are flashing and it is safe to walk. These audible cues also provide directional cues that can aid those who are visually impaired. A few specific examples include Lansdowne Avenue, Garden Street, Coburg Street, the YMCA and Blurry St.
 - Vehicles are not yielding to pedestrians at crosswalks and intersections.
 - There are concerns about railway crossing safety for those in wheelchairs.
 - Many sidewalks in the city are not maintained for easy passage in a wheelchair.
 - Pot holes on roads pose a challenge for those with mobility issues.
 - The Metcalf and Lansdowne intersection require APS.
 - The Union Street pedestrian light is not working.
- Need for accessibility and safety on city buses
 - Pink buses are not accessible.
 - Some transit buses are accessible, but others are not.
 - Need to ensure that all stops are announced on all buses.
 - Request that transit drivers wait until all passengers are seated before driving.
 - Accessibility features are required at transit bus shelters. SJAAC is looking for a list of proposed bus shelter upgrades and their anticipated completion dates.
- Acknowledgement that there are challenges in persuading privately owned businesses to make accessibility changes.

- City is only able to influence private businesses to make business accessible when there is a renovation.
- Current sidewalk and road infrastructure regulations are resulting in ramps for businesses and apartments not getting approval, meaning many accessibility barriers remain.
- There could be a city counsellor who is specifically responsible for accessibility issues.
- There is a concern that the cost of accessibility upgrades has taken a priority over public safety.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Concern over firefighters and first responders being aware of persons with disabilities when they arrive at apartment buildings to help. Fire safety boxes are a good solution, but not all apartment buildings in the city have them.
- Need for flashing lights to be required in buildings to indicate a fire alarm or emergency for those who have low/no vision.
- Need for interpreters or captioning for emergency alerts and communications.
- Could a registry of persons with disabilities or hearing loss be created so first responders know where they live? This would require updating etc...
- Need for yellow safety markings on all steps.

SJAAC

- Participants want to know how to access information SJAAC committee such as mandate, who is on the committee, bylaws, and past minutes.
- How can we join?
- Currently minutes are not public but can be requested.

- Resume and approval of common council is required to join. Also committee is set up to have equal representation for persons of all disability groups. Currently recruiting representation from mental health and invisible disabilities communities.
- Debating forming an Ad Hoc committee for public safety.

Human Resources and Recreation

- SJAAC spoke with Peter Morgan (Human Resources). He highlighted the internal sensitivity training given to city employees last year, as well as the city hiring policies and the fact that they are cognizant of Human Rights legislation.
- SJAAC spoke to Brad Adams (Recreation) about the new field house. He gave updates on its progress, highlighted that the public will be given the opportunity to make suggestions, and covered some of the accessibility features that are being included, such as the use of a flat walkway instead of cobblestones.
- DAW wants to integrate with schools. They have made a start with a daycare centre.
- It was pointed out that sledges have more uses than for paraplegics.