

- **Name**
Alan Taylor
- **Enter the date of the meeting you wish to present to council**
February 15th 2024
- **Which is your preference for attending the meeting.**
In Person
- **Will there be anyone other than yourself addressing Council?**
No
- **Use the space below to clearly outline your purpose for presenting to council. Provide a brief outline of your subject matter including your suggested outcome.**
A presentation on behalf of the Woodstock Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Regarding the Downtown revitalization program.

Hard copy presentation to be delivered to City Hall Tuesday morning

- **Will you be providing any additional written information in addition to your summary above? If YES please note it must be provided to the Clerks department no later than 2:00pm on the Tuesday prior to the meeting**
Yes
- **Will you be providing any additional electronic information in addition to documents you will be attaching? If YES please note it must be provided to the Clerks department no later than 2:00pm on the Tuesday prior to the meeting**
No
- **Have you appeared before council to discuss the same topic in the past?**
No



WOODSTOCK ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Our Goal is
Universal Access
for All!*



Streetscape Master Plan & Museum Square

Woodstock Accessibility Advisory Committee

Delegation to Woodstock City Council Feb 15, 2024



Background

- Woodstock Accessibility Advisory Committee (WAAC) has previously consulted with / met with the following groups regarding improving accessibility:
 - City of Woodstock Planning Department
 - City of Woodstock Engineering Department
 - City of Woodstock Downtown Development Officer
 - StreetScape Consulting Firm (Planning Urban Design and Landscape Architecture)

Current Condition



Council has deferred the StreetScape master plan until March for City Staff to come back with cost-saving options, and for a survey to be conducted to seek public input.



Council's concerns / reasons for the deferral included:

- Overall cost and impact to taxpayers
- Street was re-paved a short while ago
- Oxford County increased tax impact to Woodstock taxpayers



The physical condition of the current streetscape and Museum Square negatively impacts the vibrancy of the Downtown. From an accessibility standpoint, the current streetscape causes barriers for those with physical limitations.

Gaps / Problems

Several elements of the StreetScape plan include accessibility (and safety) improvements:

Pedestrian
Clear Zones,
and Crossings

Bump Outs

Pass Throughs,
Lanes, and
Alleys

Lighting

On-Street
Parking

Signage /
Wayfinding



Not proceeding with the above will negatively impact the City of Woodstock's Vision and Commitment to Accessibility as stated in the City's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan...

City of Woodstock's Vision and Commitment to Accessibility

(from the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan)

- To promote public awareness and sensitivity towards all persons with disabilities;
- To encourage co-operation between all service and interest groups;
- To identify and document relevant matters and concerns;
- To create a community that provides opportunities for barrier-free access to transportation, programming, recreation, and other City services;
- To embrace the concept of universal design to include both persons with disabilities and the aging population;
- To ensure that policies and practices are maintained in relation to the development and redevelopment of services and facilities that incorporates persons with disabilities and aging population statistics;
- To ensure that the City receives the maximum economic benefits from building an accessible City;
- To encourage public participation and civic engagement in community accessibility matters.

Analysis



The Master Plan incorporated multiple suggestions provided by the various Stakeholder groups that were consulted:



City Engineering • City Parks and Recreation • City Public Works • Planning • City Economic Development • Woodstock Museum Advisory Committee • Woodstock BIA • Accessibility Advisory Committee • Heritage Advisory Committee • Woodstock Art Gallery • Public Library Board • Environmental Advisory Committee • Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners • Action Alliance Committee for Dementia Friendly Communities



Comments and insights by the above various stakeholders were often aligned with the feedback received from the public through the open houses and surveys conducted.



Analysis

- A **set of goals** were established for the project based on the important feedback received from stakeholders and special interest groups. These goals included the following regarding accessibility:
 - **The downtown should be accessible to all and should consider those with physical, mental and financial limitations.**
- **Section 3.6.3 (Page 42)** of the Master Plan states:
 - All aspects of the streetscape shall be designed to be accessible to persons living with disabilities and must comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act [AODA] and its regulations including the Design of Public Spaces Standards. Outlined in this section are several key public realm accessibility objectives for the Streetscape Master Plan. The primary goal of these recommendations is to ensure that the design of areas within the public realm consider users of all abilities.

Recommendations

- ▶ Prioritizing accessibility and pedestrian-friendly initiatives in Downtown Woodstock is crucial for creating an inclusive community. By optimizing infrastructure and promoting Woodstock as a welcoming destination, we can ensure that everyone, regardless of mobility, can enjoy and engage with our vibrant urban environment.
- ▶ By staying true to the Streetscape Master Plan, we can optimize our resources, improve accessibility, and enhance the overall appeal of our community. This will ensure that Woodstock remains a vibrant and attractive place to live, work, and visit.
- ▶ In 2026 the City of Woodstock will celebrate it's 125th anniversary in tandem with Downtown Woodstock BIA's 50th anniversary. Let's have a **GRAND RE-OPENING** to celebrate!

