City of Edmonton

€dmonton

2021-2022 Progress Report

Corporate
Accessibility Plan

Contact information barrierfreeyeg@edmonton.ca edmonton.ca/accessibilitypolicy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	3
INTRODUCTION	4
PROGRESS SUMMARY	4
Corporate Actions	5
Community Services	9
City Operations	13
Communications and Engagement	17
Employee Services	24
Financial and Corporate Services	27
Integrated Infrastructure Services	31
Office of the City Manager	34
Urban Planning and Economy	37
NEXT STEPS	

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw (Cree), Dené, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

~source: City of Edmonton Indigenous Framework



INTRODUCTION

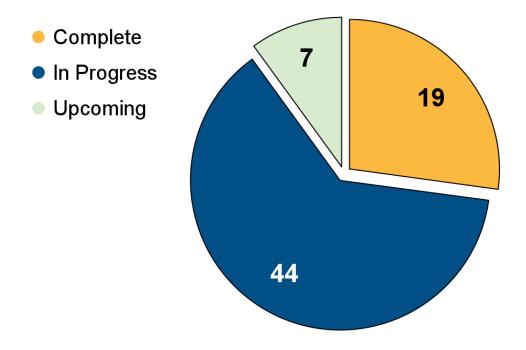
The City of Edmonton published its first three-year **Corporate Accessibility Plan** in 2021. The Plan includes **64 accessibility actions and six supporting actions** which were developed by all seven City departments and the

Corporate Accessibility Committee. The actions support the City's commitment to making Edmonton a more accessible City for all. They are planned to be implemented over three years (**July 2021 to June 2024**).

Progress is tracked and reported for each action, including the supporting actions. This document shows the work done in the 70 accessibility actions from July, 2021 to June, 2022.

PROGRESS SUMMARY

Out of the 70 actions, 19 are complete and 44 are in progress. Implementation of the remaining seven actions are planned to start in the coming months.

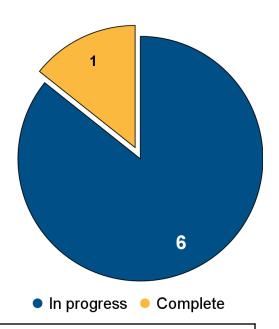


ACTIONS IMPLEMENTATION STATUS UPDATE

Corporate Actions

Out of the six Corporate Actions led by the Corporate Accessibility Working Committee, six are in progress. One action is being done through activities led by the Communications and Engagement Department. See page 17.

The following table describes what has been done on the Corporate Actions in the first year of the Plan.



Action

 Promote awareness on accessibility within the City of Edmonton organization and create a culture of acceptance and inclusion.

What we did so far

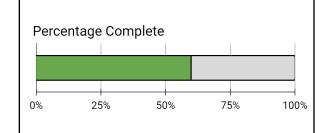
Action in progress

accessibility.

Forty-five presentations were made to City staff across all departments to build awareness of disabilities and promote the importance of

A "Why accessibility matters" video was created featuring the City Manager and City staff with disabilities. The video was shared with all staff and is also included in the internal accessibility web page.

Speaker sessions were organized for City staff to learn from people with disabilities about how accessibility barriers affect their lives.

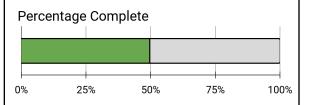


2. Promote awareness of the duty to accommodate under human rights legislation and related guidelines that City staff must consider when assessing accommodation options for members of the public.

Action in progress

A Public Accommodations

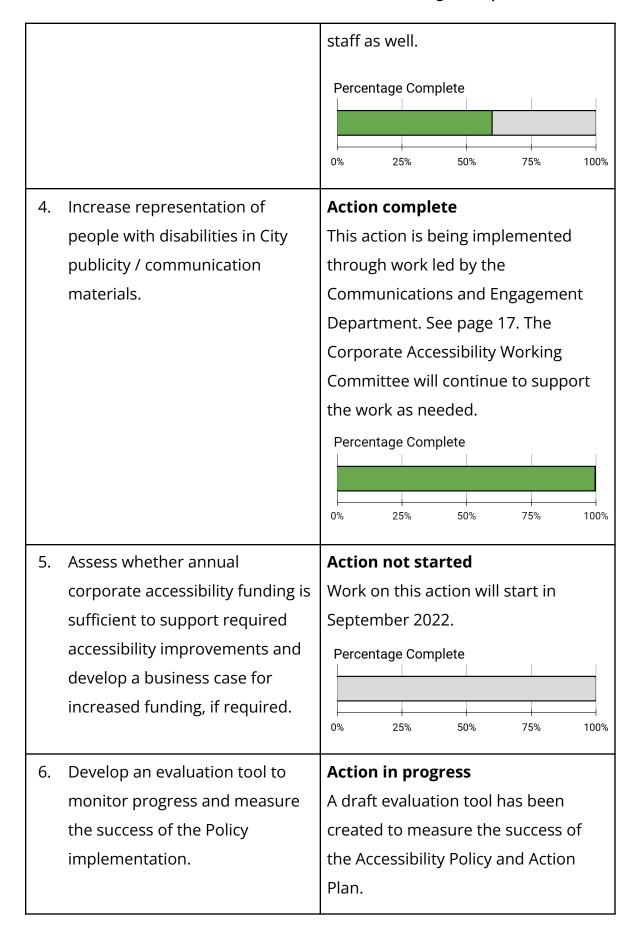
Framework tool is being created to guide City staff who assess and manage accommodations requests from the public. The tool will create awareness of the City's duty to accommodate members of the public in line with human rights legislation.

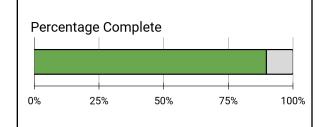


Promote corporate disability and accessibility awareness training.

Action in progress

Nearly 700 City staff have completed the City's accessibility awareness training. Promotion of the e-learning training is ongoing through staff newsletters, communication from leadership, mentions at team meetings, and promotional emails about training available to staff. Edmonton Public Library has made the e-learning module available to its

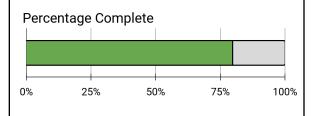




7. Research how people who are Deaf or hard of hearing experience City of Edmonton recreation programs in order to inform a prototype for a communication services fund (i.e. ASL/CART).

Action in progress

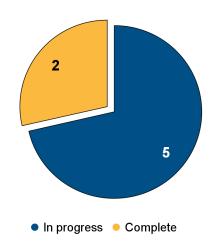
The Accessible Communications
Services Pilot Project started in April 2022. The project is testing a new process for the City to receive and assess requests from members of the public who are Deaf or hard of hearing to make accessible communication services (e.g. ASL interpreters, CART) available to them when participating in registered City recreation programs.



Community Services

Five of seven actions identified by the Community Services Department are in progress, and two are complete.

The following table describes what has been done on actions led by the Department in the first year of the Plan.



Action

Review existing recreation
 publications, programs, and
 supports to assess how
 accessibility is included
 (examples include Rec Facility
 Guides, Leisure Access Program,
 etc.).

What we did so far

Action in progress

The Accessibility of Facilities web pages have been updated. Following this work, other activities will be included in the Communications and Engagement Department Action Plan.

Percentage Complete

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

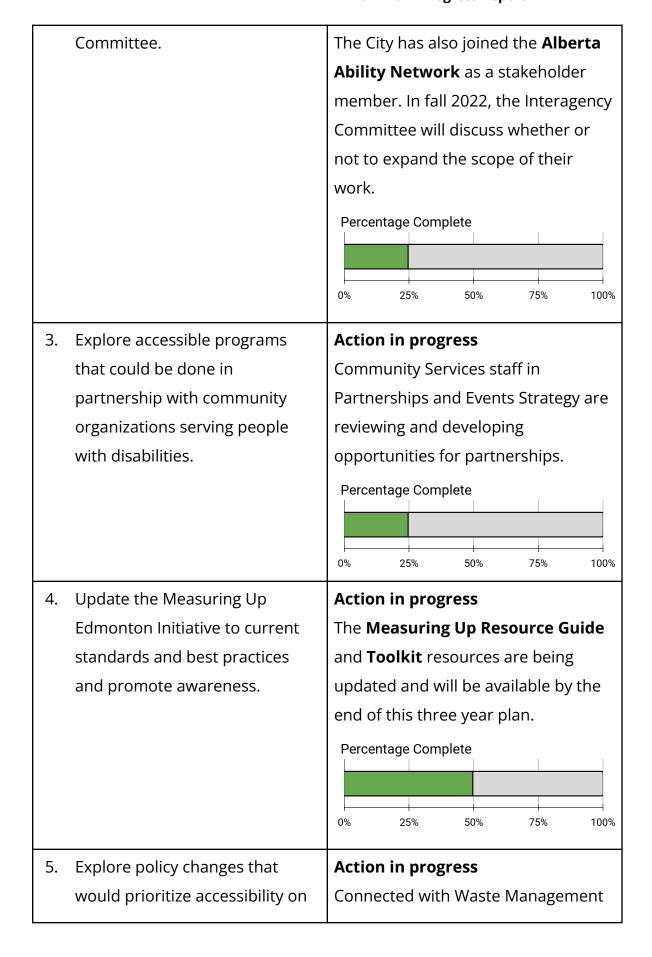
2. Engage the Interagency
Committee on Inclusive
Recreation to consider the
possibility of expanding their
scope to address general
accessibility issues, programs,
services and potential
partnerships. Strengthen the
relationship with the City of
Edmonton, Accessibility Advisory

Action in progress

Community Services staff met with several local groups that serve people with disabilities to discuss the future direction of the **Interagency**

Committee on Inclusive

Recreation. The groups included the Edmonton Sport Council, The Steadward Centre, and the Inclusive Sport and Recreation Committee.



city streets and sidewalks.

to assess any findings or discoveries with enhanced level of service provided for individuals with low mobility in residential locations.

Review the Snow and Ice Control initiative for residential street clearing (Phase 1 & 2). Explored and presented options to Parks and Roads Services for the Snow & Ice Control - Programmed Approach for the 2022-2023 Winter Season report (# CO01277).

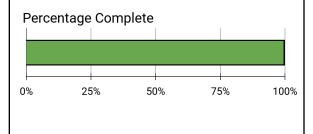
Percentage Complete

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

Infrastructure Services in assessing current state and informing prioritization of accessibility improvements of City owned and operated facilities, streets, open spaces and other City owned and operated, publicly accessible locations.

Action completed

Created prioritization criteria and completed prioritization. The City of Edmonton audit tool was also refined. Community Services will continue to support the Integrated Infrastructure Services Department in completing accessibility Audits.

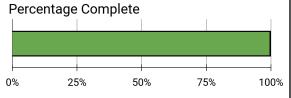


7. Establish a list of accessible City of Edmonton services and programs to be included on a centralized City website.

Action completed

Identified gaps and supported the Communications and Engagement Department to update edmonton.ca/accessibility. Will continue to provide support to

Communications.

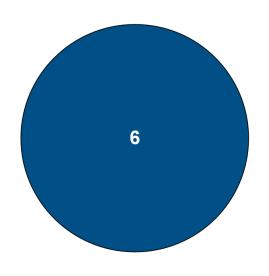


City Operations

City Operations identified six actions.

These are high-level goals with
multiple activities used to achieve each
goal. All the actions are in progress.

The following table describes what has been done on actions led by the City Operations Department in the first year of the Plan.



In progress

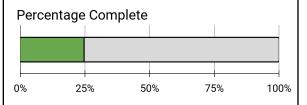
Action

 Improve inclusion and consultation with people with lived experience with disabilities when making changes, developing programs and services, acquiring assets for public use and designing infrastructure.

What we did so far

Action in progress

A project team has been established to develop a plan to create transit user panels for transit vehicle accessibility. Transit users with disabilities will be engaged as panel members to provide their feedback and perspectives about transit vehicle features and elements that impact user accessibility. Panel feedback will be used to inform decisions around potential purchasing and retrofitting of transit vehicles. A pilot is planned for 2023.

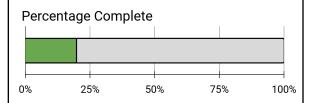


 Improve customer service by providing enhanced training to staff around accessibility and best practices when serving people with disabilities.

Action in progress

The City's **Accessibility Awareness e-learning training** was promoted in all areas of City Operations.

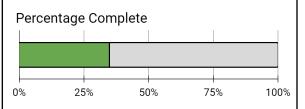
Research has been undertaken looking at customized customer service training focused on disability awareness for front line staff.



Implement continuous
 improvement to infrastructure
 projects to ensure the built
 environment meets the needs of
 people with disabilities.

Action in progress

Accessible infrastructure audit tools have been created and a Co-Op student will be hired to perform accessibility audits on City Operations infrastructure that are used by the public.



Explore ways to address
 challenges faced by people with
 disabilities posed by living in a
 Winter City.

Action in progress

Funding has been approved to expand resources for snow and ice removal in 2022, which will help with increased clearing of curb cuts and windrows. Program enhancements

will be presented for consideration as part of the 2023 - 2026 capital budget process that may include expanded snow and ice removal resources, targeted service to make pathways more accessible, and expansion of the **Snow-to-Go** program which will help facilitate residential snow removal through Community League grants.

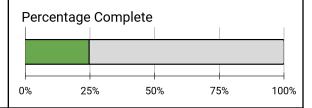


 Implement continuous improvement to accessibility of public transit services.

Action in progress

In-person transit travel training offered through the ETS Mobility Choices program has resumed and the ETS Seniors on the Go summer program was reopened for 2022.

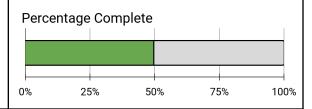
Service model enhancements to the Dedicated Accessible Transit Service (DATS) have resulted in sustained ability to accommodate all pre-booked trip requests.



 Expand on initiatives to enhance the accessibility of the City's waste collection program.

Action in progress

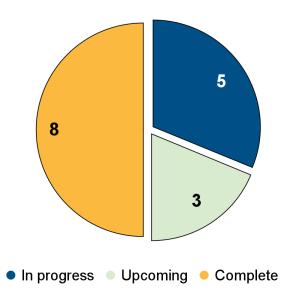
Promotional efforts helped expand the utilization of the assisted waste collection by 265% over the course of the year. Additional efforts are underway to help cross-promote this program with other community initiatives such as the **Snow-to-Go** program.



Communications and Engagement

Communications and Engagement has identified sixteen actions. Eight actions are complete, five are underway and three actions planned to start later in 2022.

The following table describes what has been done on actions led by the Department in the first year of the Plan.

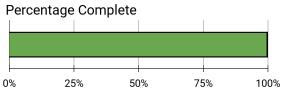


Action		What we did so far
1.	Promote and encourage training	Action completed
	around accessibility, disabilities	Promoted the City's Diversity and
	and equity.	Inclusion, GBA+ (Gender Based
		Analysis+) and other accessibility
		awareness training and resources to
		City staff through internal
		communications channels including
		corporate newsletter.
		Percentage Complete
		0% 25% 50% 75% 100%
2.	Provide accessible	Action in progress
۷.	communication products and	
	services.	Identified priority communications
	services.	products and services that require an
		accessible approach.
		Defined accessible standards and

documented the application of accessibility as it applies to communications products and services in the Corporate Brand **Guidelines**. Specific actions underway or complete within the department (see C&E actions 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 below) Percentage Complete 25% 50% 75% 100% **Action completed** Accessibility information and links on the City's webpages were reviewed. A user-friendly landing page (edmonton.ca/accessibility) was

 Establish a centralized online location for all accessibility information on the City website (Edmonton.ca).

the City's webpages were reviewed. A user-friendly landing page (edmonton.ca/accessibility) was created for City of Edmonton accessibility information and resources. The page uses icons and visuals for a better user experience, and is compatible with text-to-speech and translation tool technology.



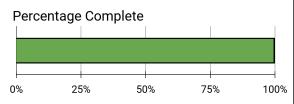
 Create a centralized, internal online resource for all City of Edmonton employee

Action completed

The City's internal Accessibility web

accessibility information (OneCity).

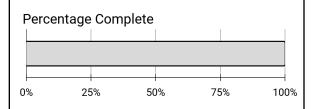
page was redesigned to be more accessible and easier for staff to use. The page now better highlights important accessibility information and resources that City staff need to be aware of and use in their work.



 Promote accessible services, tools and programs available for staff and Edmontonians (Internally & Externally).

Action not started

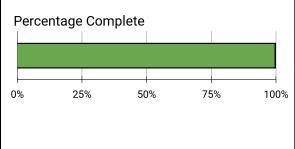
Work on this action will start in September, 2022.



 Support development of client communication plans that include accessible and equitable forms of information.

Action completed

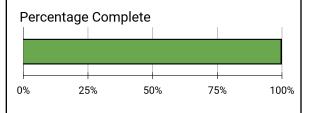
To ensure that accessibility is considered and included in City communications, the Department has added accessibility checks in strategic planning and communication planning tools used by staff.



7. Provide sign-language interpreters at significant City of Edmonton news conferences to ensure they are accessible to more people.

Action completed

Sign language interpretation is now used for major City of Edmonton news conferences and livestream events.



8. Improve information/signage
(e.g. posters/pamphlets) to
ensure communication material
is highly visible, interpretive and
uses plain language.

Action completed

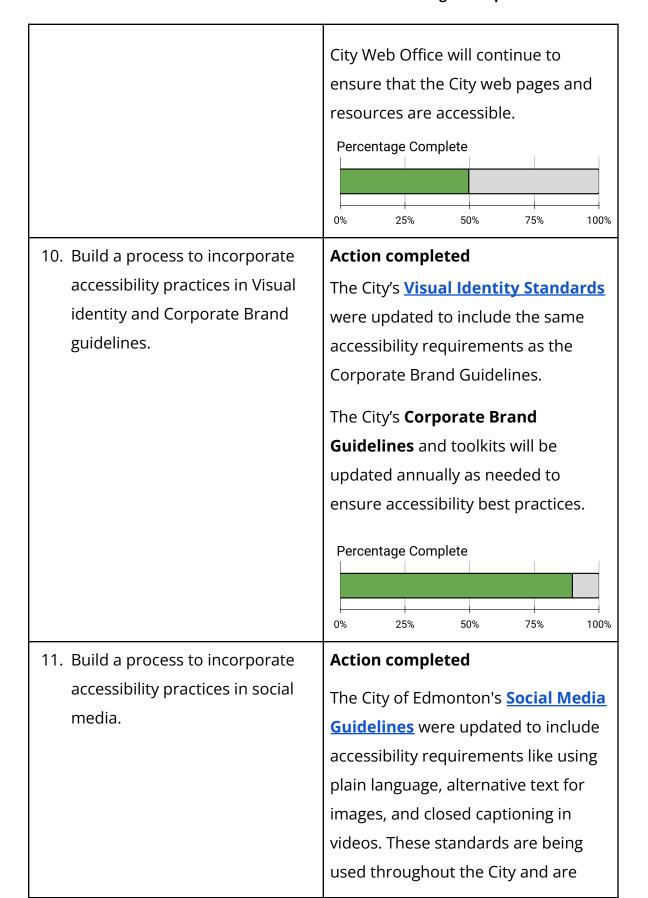
Created awareness on existing best practices on visibility, readability and plain language. Communications staff are encouraged to make sure that City signage, posters, pamphlets and other communications products are checked for contrast, readability, distance and time-sensitive viewing and plain language.

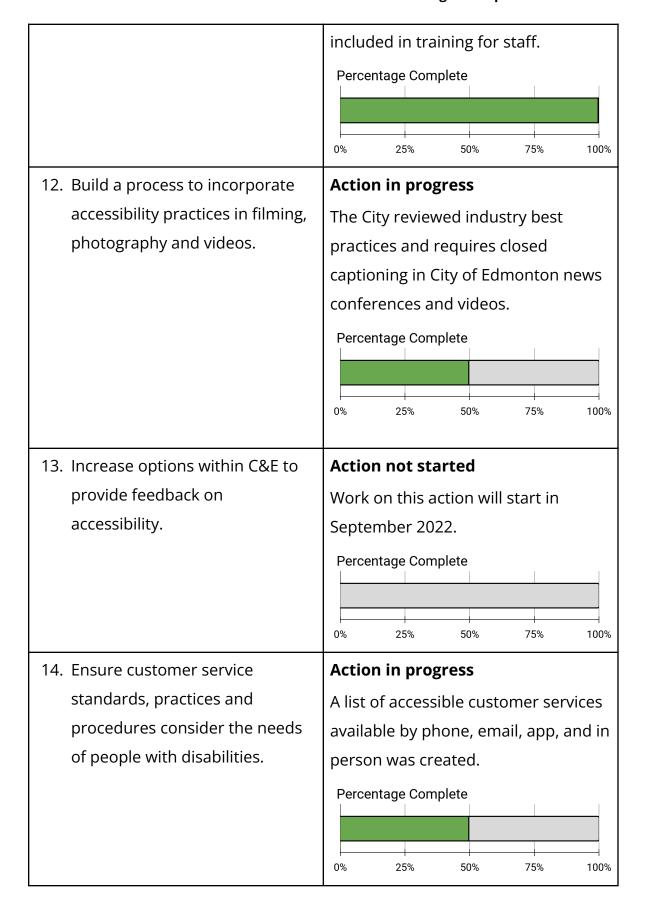


Build a process to incorporate accessibility practices in Web operations best practices.

Action in progress

Training which includes instruction for creating accessible web content and meeting web accessibility standards was made available to staff who create and manage web content.





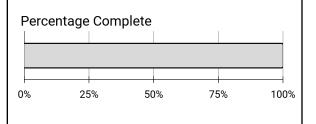
15. Create a public engagement checklist of elements/best practices.

Action not started Work on this action will start in September 2022. Percentage Complete 0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

16. Annual or bi-annual engagement with persons with disabilities(both in City and city) and front line staff to capture barriers and opportunities.

Action not startedWork on this action will start in

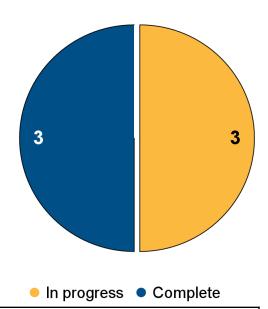
September 2022.



Employee Services

The Employee Services department identified six actions, which support employees of the City of Edmonton. Three actions are complete and implementation of the remaining three are underway.

The following table describes what has been done on actions led by the Department in the first year of the Plan.



Action What we did so far

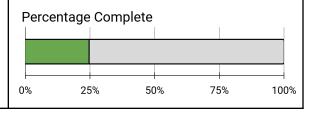
Educate City of Edmonton
 recruitment team to improve
 accessibility of the recruitment
 process.

Action in progress

All City job postings now include accessibility accommodation statements.

The City's **Guide for Inclusive Hiring** and **Guidelines for Inclusive Postings** was promoted to all City hiring managers.

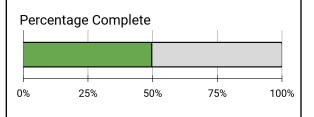
A training and learning series is being developed for City Talent Acquisition Consultants which includes resources about accessibility for people with different abilities for all phases of the recruitment process.



 Ensure corporate training provided by Employee Services for City of Edmonton employees is accessible to the greatest extent possible.

Action in progress

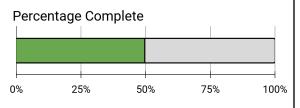
Developing new ways to provide learning and training opportunities to staff that are more accessible and work with different learning styles and needs.



 Develop corporate guidelines for consistent working from home/flexible work hours opportunities to remove barriers and enable employment for City of Edmonton employees with diverse needs.

Action in progress

The City's **Hybrid Work program** for eligible and approved out-of-scope, management, and unionized staff started in April 2022. The program will be reviewed using feedback from surveys of employees and supervisors to understand challenges and identify opportunities for improvement.



Ensure first aid kits, AED
 cabinets, and fire extinguishers
 in staff areas within Century
 Place are located in accessible

Action completed

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) staff have ensured that first aid kits and other emergency equipment in

spaces.

City offices at Century Place are placed in accessible locations and heights. It was confirmed that the equipment meets OHS standards.

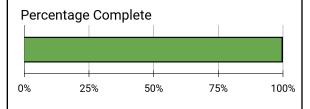
Percentage Complete

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

5. Improve accessibility to single-stall barrier-free washrooms in Century Place by ensuring they remain unlocked and available for those who require them.

Action completed

Single stall barrier-free washroom doors at Century Place were adjusted to be easier to open and close, and now have access code locks instead of key locks to improve accessibility.



6. In collaboration with the Integrated Infrastructure Services (IIS) department, Employee Services will review and recommend swipe passes and automatic door openers in areas within Century Place where barriers may exist for those who require improved accessibility.

Action completed

The City's Real Estate Branch will manage accessibility changes needed in the Century Place building.

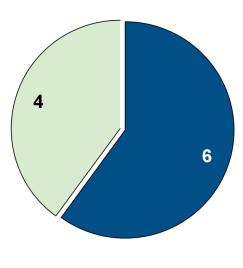
The second floor of Century Place is now fully accessible.



Financial and Corporate Services

Six of the ten actions identified by the Financial and Corporate Services department are in progress. Work on four actions will start later in 2022.

The following table describes what has been done on actions led by the Financial and Corporate Services Department in the first year of the Plan.



In progressUpcoming

Action

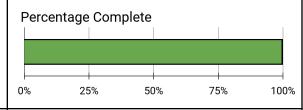
1. Provide annual assessment and tax notices in alternative formats made available upon request, and continue development of secure web services to enhance access to and comprehension of property assessment and tax information.

What we did so far

Action in progress

Property owners who are blind or have low vision can request to receive their property tax notices in audio format on CD.

The City will continue to explore other accessible formats for tax notices.



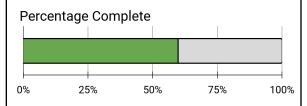
 Ensure City employees and Edmontonians have easy access to financial policy, process and information, and seek ongoing opportunities to improve clarity with plain language.

Action in progress

The City's budget documents including Operating Budget and Capital Supplemental Budget can now be found more easily on edmonton.ca under the Budget and

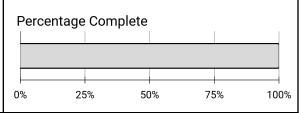
Finance link.

The City is getting input from the public on the 2023-2026 Budget online and is also reaching out to community groups including people with disabilities to make sure everyone has a chance to participate.



3. Enable technology solutions that support and foster accessibility across the corporation.

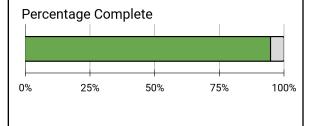
Action not started



4. Opportunities to improve accessibility will be incorporated into the changes and updates to ongoing maintenance schedules and capital upgrade projects. An accessibility lens will be used when communicating service disruptions.

Action in progress

Met with appropriate personnel to discuss the current accessibility approach. Received a list of upgrades and projects. Reviewing how current approaches can affect projects and if extra measures need to be considered.

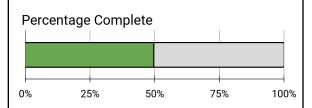


5. Enhancing building evacuation plans and drills to include processes and instructions for evacuation of employees and visitors of all abilities.

Action in progress

Building evacuation plans were reviewed to ensure that they include instructions about safely evacuating people with different abilities.

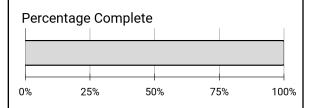
Evacuation plans and contact lists are being updated and put together for easier access to staff.



 Adjustments for greater digital accessibility will be explored by the Data Analytics team through training from a third party specializing in Adaptive Technology.

Action not started

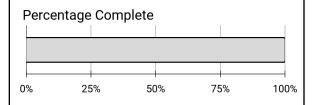
Work on this action will start in September 2022.



 Work with external partners to increase accessibility of the Geographic Information System (GIS) platform used by the City.

Action not started

Work on this action will start in September 2022.

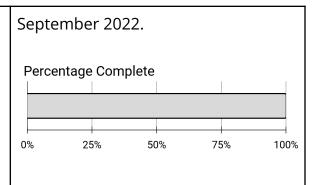


8. Apply human-centered design principles and methods,

Action not started

Work on this action will start in

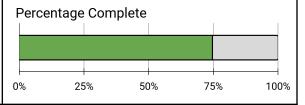
including accessibility and inclusion considerations, when reviewing and evaluating services and recommending service design and delivery changes.



9. Customer Experience research will include engagement with people with disabilities, to ensure accessibility considerations are addressed and planned for.

Action in progress

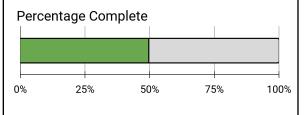
Surveys such as the **2022 Service Satisfaction Survey** allows
respondents with disabilities to self identify. To guide service and accessibility improvements, the City will continue to adapt research activities to include experiences and perspectives of people with disabilities.



10. Promote awareness of and position accessibility as a driver in the strategic corporate planning processes applied within the City, and ensure plain language and other accessibility considerations are applied when sharing corporate strategy and reporting materials online.

Action in progress

City departments were encouraged to include accessibility actions in the City's corporate planning process in Departmental Business Plans.



Integrated Infrastructure Services

The Integrated Infrastructure Services department has identified six accessibility actions to support delivery of universally accessible infrastructure for all. Implementation of all the actions are underway.

The following table describes what has been done on actions led by the Integrated Infrastructure Services Department in the first year of the Plan.



Action

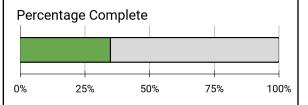
1. Understand Accessibility:

Provide staff with training to
help them identify barriers to
accessibility and recognize how
to prevent/remove them within
their work, projects and
deliverables. Raise staff
awareness on available training,
tools and resources by
developing and implementing an
IIS Accessibility Education Plan.

What we did so far

Action in progress

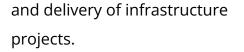
Developed an infrastructure specific Accessibility Education Plan. It outlines training sessions that will be offered to all staff involved with design and construction of infrastructure (facilities, open spaces and transportation).

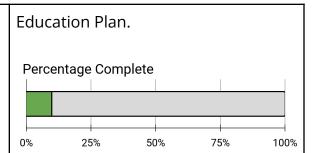


 Apply an accessibility lens:
 Develop requirements that ensure an accessibility lens is applied throughout the planning

Action in progress

Awareness sessions for technical staff who review drawings are included in the Accessibility





Understand current state:
 Develop and implement an Accessibility Assessment
 Program for infrastructure assets.

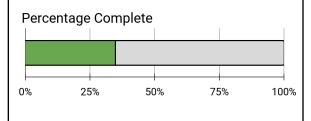
Action in progress

Developed the **Facilities Accessibility Audit Checklist Tool**and conducted multiple facility

audits.

Working on the development of an audit tool for open spaces.
Supporting Edmonton Transit
Services in the development of an

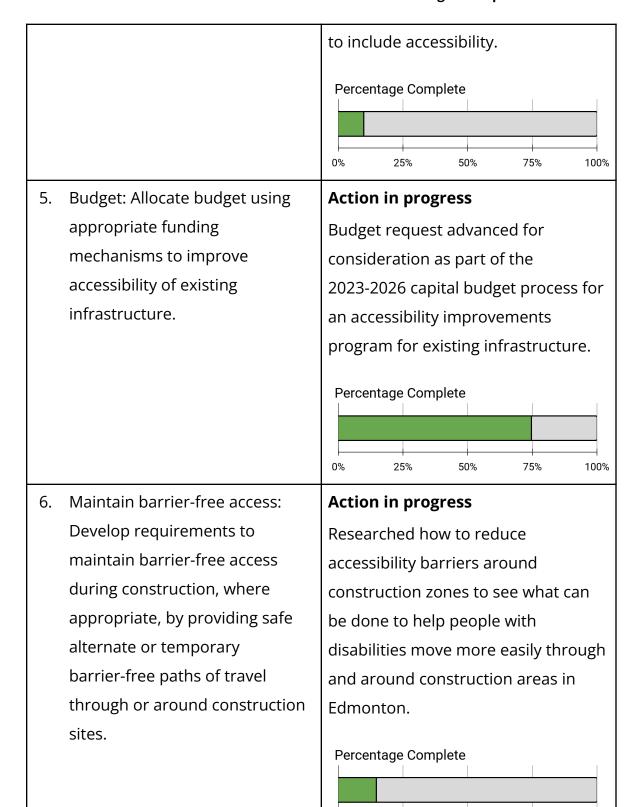
Accessibility Audit Checklist for Transit Facilities.



Tools, guides and resources:
 Review and update all tools,
 guides, and resources to align
 with City's commitments
 towards accessibility as per
 Policy C602, Administrative
 Directive A1472, and Procedure.

Action in progress

A list of all of the City's tools, guides and resources that are used for design and delivery of infrastructure projects was gathered. These tools, guides and resources will be reviewed and updated where needed



0%

25%

50%

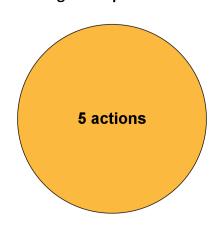
75%

100%

Office of the City Manager

The Office of the City Manager identified five actions. Implementation of all the actions are complete.

The following table describes what has been done on actions led by the Office of the City Manager in the first year of the Plan.

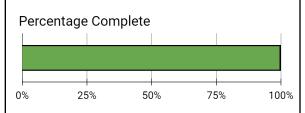


Complete

Action What we did so far Election Office handrail and **Action completed** 1. accessibility of the front door is The main entrance door to the being addressed to ensure Elections Office now has a power accessibility without secondary door opener and the handrail assistance. location was changed for better accessibility to the site. Percentage Complete 0% 25% 50% 75% 100% **Edmonton General Elections Action completed** information sessions offered Virtual information sessions for virtually. candidates and election workers were close-captioned. Percentage Complete 25% 50% 75% 100% **Action completed** Ensure plain language for **Edmonton General Elections** Edmonton Elections online

online materials.

information was updated using simpler language and provided information about accessible election, voting technology and safety.

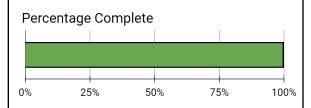


Apply GBA+
 (https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/gba-acs/in dex-en.html) lens to the development of Edmonton
 General Elections processes and procedures.

Action completed

The City made changes to the City's elections strategy and advance vote and election day processes and procedures to ensure voting is accessible to all residents eligible to vote.

Provided voting instructions in 13 languages.



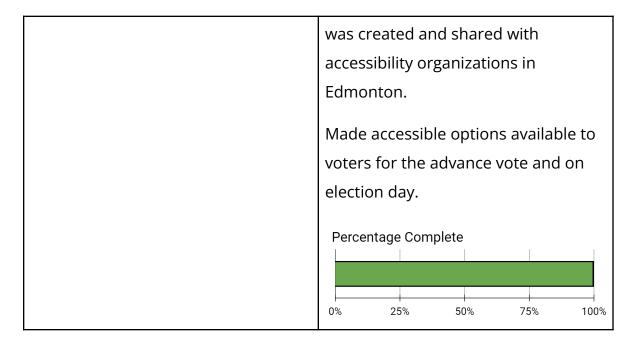
5. Partner with subject matter experts to support the development and delivery of accessible election participation opportunities - vote, work, run.

Action completed

Edmonton Elections **Voter Accessibility Plan** was developed with advice from the Accessibility

Advisory Committee.

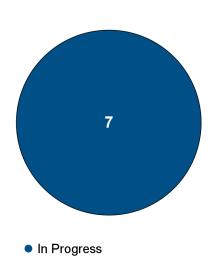
The **Accessible Election** web page



Urban Planning and Economy

The Urban Planning and Economy Department identified seven actions. All the actions are in progress.

The following table describes what has been done on actions led by the Urban Planning and Economy Department in the first year of the Plan.



Action

Accessible Built Environment Encourage the development of
 buildings and surrounding built
 environments to contribute to
 accessibility to accommodate
 people of all ages and abilities
 through increasing the
 awareness of City of Edmonton
 Access Design Guide.

What we did so far

Action in progress

Raising awareness of accessibility issues with **Building Owners and Managers Association** (BOMA), **Urban Development Institute** (UDI)

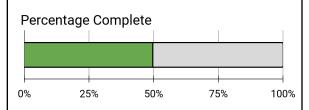
and others in the development industry.

Created a simplified guide for

Storefront Improvement Program,

Development Incentive Program, and

Corner Store Program



Accessible Tools/Guides - Ensure staff are aware of and referencing the current City of

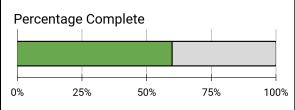
Action in progress

Created a list of accessibility guides, standards and tools (internal and

Edmonton Access Design Guide, in addition to other standards and guides, in the design of infrastructure projects.

external to the City) for City staff working on infrastructure projects to use.

Providing team/group leaders with information, presentations on Universal Design to raise awareness.

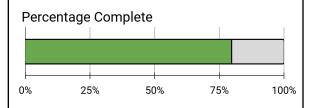


Accessible Public Engagement In cooperation with
 Communication & Engagement,
 support/promote the creation of
 a list of accessible venues for
 in-person engagement activities
 and public meetings.

Action in progress

Raised the profile of the <u>Accessibility</u> of <u>City Facilities</u> on the City website.

The **Public Engagement Participant Feedback Survey Template** is being updated to ask about the accessibility of the venue and event.



Accessible Design Review Establish a Design Review
 process to ensure accessibility
 considerations are included in
 design of developer-led
 infrastructure projects.

Action in progress

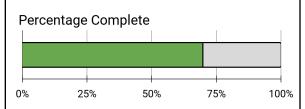
Promoting awareness of the City's

Universal Design Review Tool which
provides guidance for accessible
design of spaces used by the public
in privately owned sites.

Created a list of internal City subject

matter experts for reviews and developed a system for tracking and addressing comments and feedback.

Established a set of criteria to determine where and when to install TWSI (tactile walking surface indicators)



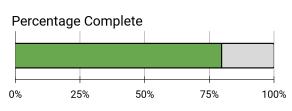
Accessible Communications Promote use of the City's Event
 Accessibility Checklist for event
 planning (ensure
 accommodations upon request captioning, ASL interpreters,
 large print, braille etc).

Action in progress

Promoting awareness of the City's

Guide to Planning Accessible

Events Checklist to event planners
in the community and with City staff
who plan public events for the City.

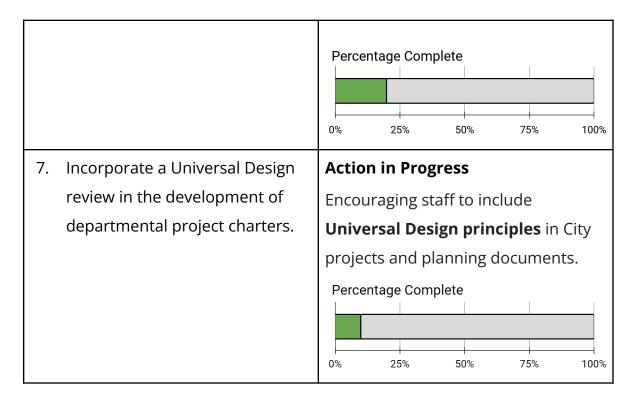


6. Accessible Experiences - Offer opportunities for staff within the department to experience some of the issues that people with disabilities face on a daily basis (e.g. using wheelchairs).

Action in progress

Staff tours of the Braille Trail in

Dawson Park are being developed to help City staff learn about features that are needed by people who are blind or have low vision to use and enjoy park trails and spaces.



NEXT STEPS

The City will continue to monitor progress of each action identified in the Corporate Accessibility Plan. The next Annual Progress Report will be published in Q3, 2023.