



ACTION REQUEST – Corporate Services	
To:	SDG Accessibility Advisory Committee
Date of Meeting:	November 25, 2024
Subject:	Annual Update to SDG Counties’ Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT the SDG Accessibility Advisory Committee receive the annual update to the SDG Counties’ Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and recommend that the update be forwarded to SDG Counties Council for adoption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* outlines the requirement for municipalities to establish, maintain and document a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan to outline the organization’s strategy to prevent and remove barriers. The purpose of the AODA is to develop, implement and enforce accessibility standards in order to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities and to improve opportunities for people with disabilities by providing for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers in the Province.

The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry’s Multi-Year Accessibility Plan outlines our approach to being an inclusive and accessible service provider and workplace. The plan was first reviewed and discussed by the SDG Accessibility Committee in October 2021 and formally adopted by SDG Counties Council in November 2021. Counties staff have submitted updates to the plan for the committee’s review.

BACKGROUND:

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is based upon requirements under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*. Under AODA, all municipalities have a legal obligation to prepare Multi-Year Accessibility Plans. The AODA sets out the roadmap for an accessible Ontario by 2025. The standards are contained in one regulation called the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation, also known as the IASR. Currently, the IASR contains standards in the following five (5) areas:

1. Customer Service;
2. Information and Communications;
3. Employment;
4. Transportation; and



5. Design of Public Spaces.

Appendix 'A' of the plan includes the Counties' plan with respect to requirements under the *Ontarians with Disability Act*, the Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation (IASR) and the Human Rights Code and will be updated as needed.

Appendix 'B' summarizes the results of the review of the municipal facilities undertaken by municipal staff. Updates to this appendix are highlighted in blue in the attached document.

The following items were completed in 2024:

- Replacement of the automatic door opener at 26 Pitt Street to a larger button
- Replacement of the help light in the accessible washroom with a bell
- Addition of assistive technology devices in Council Chambers for hearing impaired members of the public who attend meetings
- Launch of SDG Library's new website which is WCAG AA Standard

Staff are looking to update the County's various accessibility policies in 2025. These will be brought forward to the committee for input. Tourism staff are looking at adding a virtual reality jail tour option.

ATTACHMENTS:

2024 Updated SDG Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2021-2026

RECOMMENDED & APPROVE BY:

Kimberley Casselman
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk