

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: WORKPLAN FOR ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. *THAT* Council approve the 1996 Workplan for the Access Advisory Committee.

REPORT

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 1996 January 24 received and adopted the *attached* report informing Council of the Access Advisory Committee's proposed activities for 1996.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Redman
Chair

Councillor D. Johnston
Vice Chair

- : COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR FINANCE
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.

TO: COMMUNITY ISSUES &
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

1996 JANUARY 04

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

OUR FILE: 17.908

SUBJECT: **1996 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

PURPOSE: To inform the Committee of the Access Advisory Committee's proposed activities for 1996.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee receive this report for information.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee has been in operation since 1988. The Committee is composed of Burnaby residents who are disabled, as well as City staff from various departments. The Committee assists Planning Department staff in researching and developing proposals to improve access for persons with disabilities.

Each year, the Access Advisory Committee establishes a Workplan. Since its inception, the Committee has participated in a number of actions/initiatives directed towards the improvement of private and public services and facilities to better accommodate persons with disabilities. Some of those actions/initiatives include:

- ▶ development of adaptable housing guidelines/requirements
- ▶ planning and implementation of Metrotown Access Review
- ▶ amendments to Burnaby Zoning Bylaw to specify requirements for designated parking spaces for persons with disabilities
- ▶ development of regulations regarding the posting and enforcement of designated parking spaces
- ▶ development of a program regarding the installation of audible pedestrian traffic signals to assist persons who are visually impaired
- ▶ production of two editions of the Burnaby Access Guidebook
- ▶ participation in National Access Awareness Week events
- ▶ development of a Council-endorsed checklist of building requirements for persons with disabilities to be used in the renovation or construction of City facilities.

This report outlines a broad range of proposed activities for the Committee's consideration and potential attention in 1996.

2.0 PROPOSED WORKPLAN

The following list represents a wide range of accessibility issues requiring some action. Conditional upon the Committee's resources and the City's support in terms of staff time, the Committee proposes to further its work on all or some of the following issues/activities in 1996:

- ▶ public education on designated parking spaces
- ▶ enforcement of designated parking spaces
- ▶ accessible bus service in Burnaby
- ▶ accessibility at Lougheed and/or Brentwood Shopping Centre
- ▶ National Access Awareness Week participation
- ▶ the need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, on-street designated parking, TDD telephones and telephones with volume controls
- ▶ consideration of disabled access during snow removal
- ▶ the City's accessibility checklist

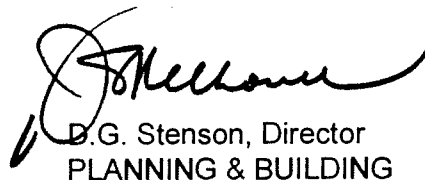
The costs associated with a modest approach to implement the workplan activities can be covered through the Planning Department's budget.

Details on the proposed Workplan are **attached** as Appendix 1.

From time to time, other issues of interest to the Access Advisory Committee may arise. Should any of them spawn potential activities which would significantly deviate from the proposed Workplan, staff would advise and seek authorization from the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee before action was taken.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Burnaby's Access Advisory has accomplished much since its establishment in 1988. Approval of the Workplan outlined in Section 2.0 and detailed in Appendix 1 of this report will continue the City's commitment to ensuring access to facilities and services for all Burnaby residents.


D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

JS/db
Attachment

cc: City Manager
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Recreation & Cultural Services
Officer-in-Charge, R.M.C.P.

BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 1996 WORKPLAN

Designated Parking Spaces

a. Public Education Campaign

Despite some progress on the issue of designated parking spaces, persons with disabilities continue to express concern about perceived inconsistencies in enforcement of and disregard by some members of the public for existing regulations. The Committee proposes to carry out a public education campaign during 1996 to raise awareness in the community of the consequences for persons with disabilities when others park in designated spaces. Potential tools for the campaign include Information Burnaby; bulletin boards at schools, libraries, recreation centres, and other public facilities; the Metrotown Centre kiosk; and articles in community newspapers. The Committee will also investigate partnerships with other organizations, such as Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) of B.C., in order to complement or supplement their activities.

b. Enforcement

The Committee will continue to attempt to address the issue of the use of designated parking spaces and, if necessary, develop recommendations for improved regulation of parking spaces designated for persons with disabilities.

Accessible Bus Service

The Committee proposes to do research on accessible bus routes in and through Burnaby, the timetable for and percentage of buses on those routes which are equipped to serve persons with disabilities, the location of accessible bus stops, and community needs for improved service. The Committee would then present their findings to relevant City departments and, through the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee, the Traffic and Transportation Committee (Transportation & Transit Division) and Council, to B.C. Transit regarding ways to improve accessible bus service in Burnaby.

Access Review of Brentwood and/or Lougheed Shopping Centre

The Metrotown Access Review, completed in 1994, was envisioned as the first of a series of proposed access reviews of Burnaby's town centres. The Committee proposes to review Brentwood and/or Lougheed in 1996, in order to have barriers identified before potential redevelopment of the area. The review(s), like the Metrotown review, would consist primarily of three components:

- ▶ a site survey of the physical elements in public areas both in and around the shopping centre(s). The review would include items such as curb cuts, walkways, ramps, parking spaces, washrooms, entrance doors, telephones, etc.
- ▶ collection of information about barriers from the public through notices in local newsletters, newspapers and other publications.

- ▶ discussions with shopping centre management, local service providers and the Lougheed Area Advisory Committee.

The information collected in the review(s) would be used to prompt action on the barriers, and could be included in a future edition of the Burnaby Access Guidebook.

Participation in National Access Awareness Week

For several years, the federal government has proclaimed a week in early June as National Access Awareness Week. Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee has undertaken a number of activities over the years during the Week, ranging from distribution of access-related information through kiosks, information booths and the media, to sponsorship of wheelchair tours of public areas. Given federal budget cuts, federal sponsorship of and financial support for National Access Awareness Week in 1996 is uncertain. In the absence of federal participation, the Access Advisory Committee proposes to continue to disseminate information, promote the newly published revised edition of the Burnaby Access Guidebook and carry out other activities outlined in the 1996 Workplan under the aegis of a Burnaby-proclaimed "Access Awareness Week".

Audible Pedestrian Traffic Signals, Curb Cuts, Sidewalk Improvements, On-Street Designated Parking, Snow Removal

The Committee will continue to monitor the provision/need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements and on-street designated parking and forward any requests for these improvements to the Burnaby Engineering Department. Discussion will also take place with the Engineering Department to promote consideration of disabled access when removing, plowing or piling snow.

Telephones

The Committee will continue to promote the provision of telephones with volume controls and the installation of TDD telephones at various locations.

Other

The Committee will update the City's accessibility checklist and explore the development of a checklist for use in the design of private developments. The Committee will also work on distribution of the revised Burnaby Access Guidebook. The 1996 edition of the Guidebook includes access-related information for 27 City-operated facilities and the Metrotown core business area. Copies will be sent to organizations representing or providing services to persons with disabilities. As well, copies will be available at City Hall and other City facilities. The Committee also proposes to explore partnerships with other organizations in order to make the information contained in the Guidebook accessible to sight-impaired persons, through translation to Braille, conversion to a "talking book", or some other means.

