

Annual Presentation to Council by the City of Greater Sudbury Accessibility Advisory Committee

# 2006 Accessibility Plans



Presented by: Elizabeth Lounsbury, Chair

September 6, 2006





- City of Greater Sudbury has a strong history of accessibility planning:
- Sudbury Transit Full Accessibility Implementation Plan (1993)
- Transportation for Persons with Physical Disabilities Advisory Panel
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Policy on Universal Access





## Accessibility Advisory Committee:

- Elizabeth Lounsbury (Chair)
- Nancy Baron (Vice-Chair)
- Bob Bannister
- Councillor Claude Berthiaume
- Earl Black
- Shirley Childs
- Peter Desilets
- Norma Fitzgerald
- Councillor Terry Kett
- Diane Loyer





- The Ontarians with Disabilities Act identifies five types of disabilities:
  - Physical Disability
  - Mental Impairment or Developmental Disability
  - Learning Disability
  - Mental Disorder
  - Injury or Disability for which Claims received under WSIB





 16% of Ontarians have disabilities

 18,000 Residents of City of Greater Sudbury have a long-term disability





 Purpose of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 is:

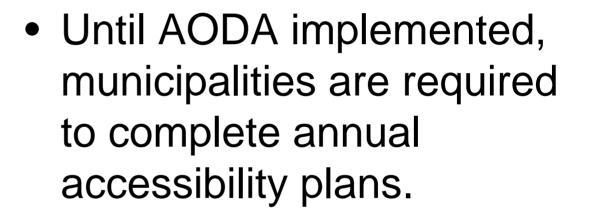
 To develop, implement and enforce accessibility standards in order to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities by January 1, 2025; and





- To provide for the involvement of persons with disabilities, of the Government of Ontario, and of representatives of industries and of various sectors of the economy in the development of accessibility standards.











 Accessibility Advisory Committee worked on two Plans:

- City of Greater Sudbury Accessibility Plan

- Greater Sudbury Transit Accessibility Plan





# Handi-Transit Harmonization:

- August 14, 2001, CGS Council approves a 5-year Harmonization Plan
- Handi-Transit Service Hours increased to match Conventional System
- Harmonization Plan did not take into consideration growth of Conventional System





# Handi-Transit Harmonization:

- October 2002, CGS Council approves RFP to harmonize service delivery
  - Eliminated Boundaries
  - Central Dispatch
- Leuschen Bros Limited (formerly Estaire Bus Lines) awarded RFP
- Current Service Contract extends to May 2008





Handi-Transit Harmonization:

November 2003, CGS Council approves Holiday Service:

> Christmas Day Boxing Day, and New Year's Day



# Handi-Transit Harmonization:

2004, added two new Handi-Transit Vehicles to meet ridership demands

## 2006 Accessibility Plans



2005, fully Harmonized Handi-Transit Service to Conventional Transit

- Funded by Provincial Gas Tax Revenues





<u>Handi-Transit Harmonization</u>: Measures of Success:

- Handi-Transit Ridership
  - almost DOUBLED in three years from 42,616 rides in 2003 to 82,851 rides in 2005
- 2005 Ridership Survey
  - Overall System rated Highly
  - 89% of Riders treated with Dignity and Respect





- 2004, Barrier Free Design Training
- 2005 EnAbling Change Workshop

 2005 Community Accessibility Workshop





 2006 Partnership with Greater Sudbury Police – Handicapped Parking Enforcement

 2006 Community Partners Meeting – Accessible Taxis





# Facilities:

- Access to Arenas has been improved including:
  - Barrier free washroom and new entrance ramp – Coniston Arena
  - New Entrance Ramp McClelland Community Arena Hall





## Services:

## ➢ Pioneer Manor:

- Gentle Care Model for Residents with Dementia
- Senior's Campus Project
  Partnership with
  Alzheimer's Society





# Access to Government:

# ➤Tom Davies Square

- \$50,000 in Renovations to Enhance Accessibility
- TTY Phones in Lobby, CSC and OntarioWorks
- Accessible Counters Clerks/Purchasing





## **Barriers**:

 A barrier is identified as a human made design flaw in the environment that prevents or hinders a person with a disability from fully participating in society or from accessing a service.





## Examples of Barriers and Actions City of Greater Sudbury Accessibility Plan:

#### BARRIER TYPE AND DESCRIPTION

Lily Creek Boardwalk is not wheelchair friendly

Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing cannot hear when their name is called in a public waiting area

Placement of garbage cans can create impediments to those with visual or mobility impairments

Participants in Alzheimer's Society Day Program need alternative transportation arrangements

#### ACTIONS for BARRIER REMOVAL as identified at Public Hearings

Review ramp incline and width of small bridge. Use more hard surfaces and less gravel.

Use both visual and auditory calling systems. Staff should move into the waiting area when calling an individual name and should ensure that they are seen by those who are waiting

Review placement of garbage cans to ensure that there is room for a companion animal / large scooter to pass

A joint meeting between the City of Greater Sudbury, the Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair and the Alzheimer's Society Board was held this spring to develop solutions



## Examples of Barriers and Actions City of Greater Sudbury Accessibility Plan:

#### 2006 BARRIER TYPE & DESCRIPTION

Payment of fares is challenging for passengers who can not handle tickets or coins.

Difficult for people with visual difficulties to navigate Transit Terminal

#### ACTIONS for BARRIER REMOVAL as identified at Public Hearings

Review green pouch program and clip on passes. Review opportunity for Handi-Transit passengers to prepay for a specific number of rides. Investigate touchless smart cards as part of proposed new fare box system

Introduce Public Address announcements Improve signage, including lowering signs Review lane number signage Develop a tactile map of Transit Terminal Ensure buses always use the same platform Provide brailled and large print route information Mark curbs and pedestrian crossing areas

between platforms and to street with high contrast paint and or Review position of signage to eliminate glare

Review maintenance protocols Install door openers for bathroom

Greater | Grand Sudbury.

Accessibility and safety of Transit Terminal Washrooms





• Next Steps:

- Council Adopts the Two Accessibility Plans
- Plans Posted on Website and Submitted to Province
- AAC Continues to Work to Improve Accessibility