

Transforming Attitudes, Embedding Change

UPDATE ON THE ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY AND THE MULTI-YEAR ACTION PLAN

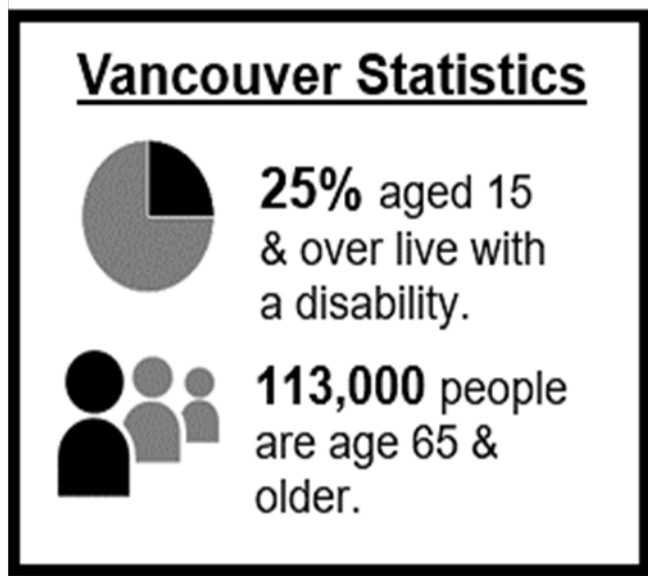


Council Presentation

We acknowledge that we are undertaking this important work on the unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəy'əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlíl'wətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We thank them for their stewardship of this land since time immemorial.

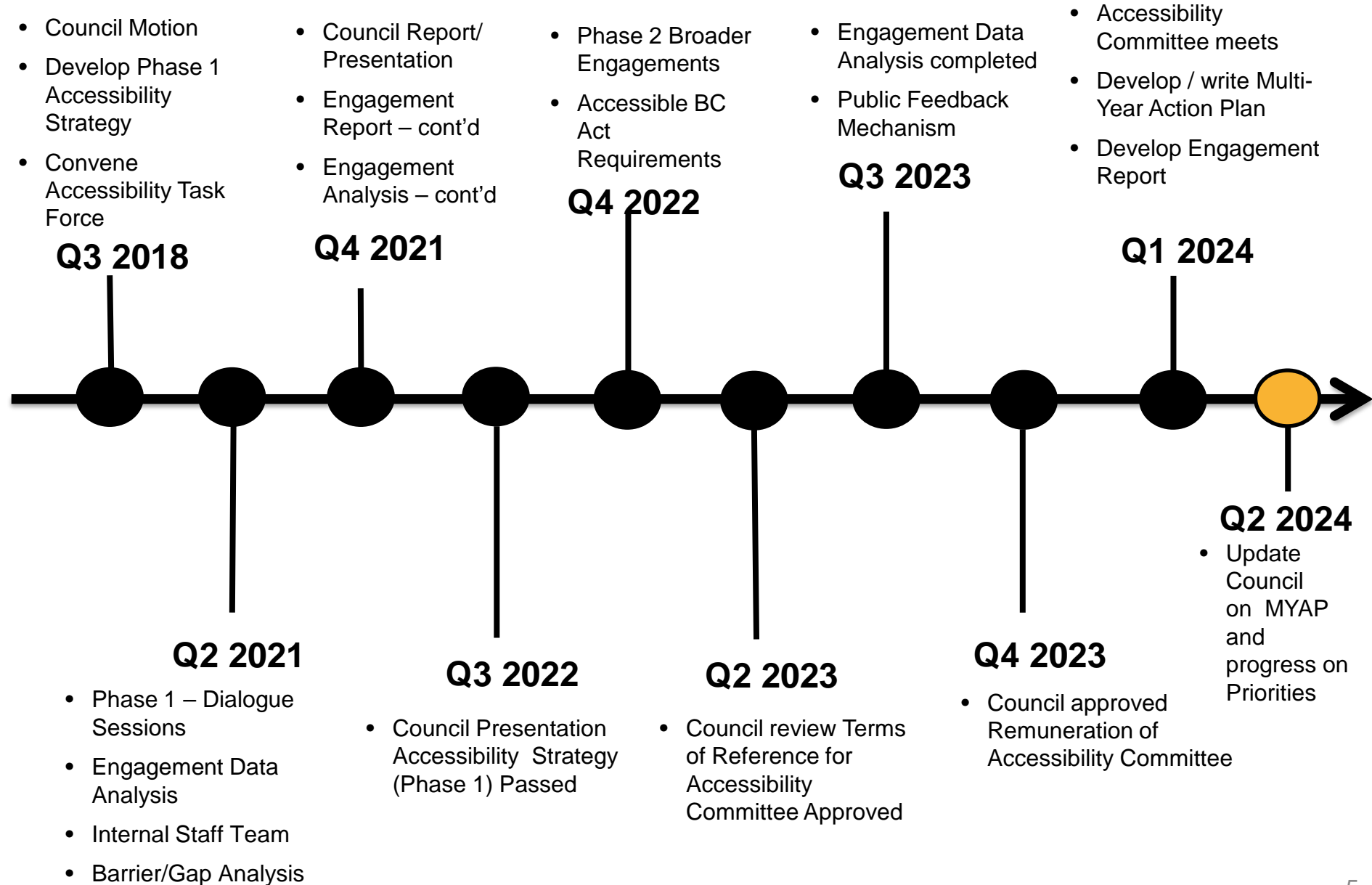
- 1. Background**
- 2. Community Engagement**
- 3. Multi-Year Action Plan**
- 4. Annual Reporting**
- 5. Culture of Vulnerability**
- 6. Council Recommendations**

Goal of the Accessibility Strategy



- To build inclusive communities & provide an accessible environment
- The term “persons with disabilities” includes people who experience physical, mental health, cognitive, communication, intellectual, sensory, or age-related impairments, inclusive of seniors and people with lived experience of mental health challenges or substance-use-related disabilities.

Timeline of Key Milestones



The Accessible British Columbia Act (2021) lays out requirements for the following:

- Accessibility Plan
- Ongoing Accessibility Committee
- Ongoing Public Feedback Mechanism



Community Engagement

- Facilitated **3 engagement sessions** with disability communities (May to June 2023)
- Launched **survey** through Shape Your City, platform
- Developed “**What We Heard**” Report
 - Executive Summary included in Council Report (Appendix C)



Internal Working Group

- Involved 38 staff across 10 departments & 19 divisions in the City.
- Held monthly meetings to identify and prioritize actions, based on input from Community Engagement and Accessibility Committee.
- Included representation from:
 - Arts, Culture & Community Services (ACCS)
 - City Clerk's Office (CCO)
 - Civic Engagement and Communications (CEC)
 - City Manager's Office (CMO)
 - Development, Buildings & Licensing (DBL)
 - Engineering
 - Finance and Supply Chain Management (FSC)
 - Human Resources (HR)
 - Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation (PB)
 - Real Estate & Facilities Management (REFM)
 - Technology Services (TS)
 - Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services (VFRS)
 - Vancouver Public Library (VPL)

Key Areas of Focus

1. Built Environment and Public Spaces
2. Transportation Services, Policies and Programs
3. Housing Policies, Programs and Design
4. Information and Communications
5. Employment
6. Governance and Engagement
7. Capacity and Collaboration
8. Advocacy and Working with other levels of Government
9. Emergency Management and Climate Change (PROPOSED NEW)

New Focus Area proposed for addition to the Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP):

Emergency Management and Climate Change

Goal:

Apply an accessibility lens to all aspects of emergency and disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

“Disaster and evacuation planning for disabled people needs to be better considered.”

~ Broader engagement participant, June 2023

“Climate change e.g., air quality, availability of air conditioning, degree of heat is also a factor. Some of these places get so hot that even when I’m visiting, I’m drenched in sweat. Aside from developers working on accessibility, we also need to look at it from a climate ready perspective – this indirectly affects people living with disabilities.”

~ Broader engagement participant, June 2023

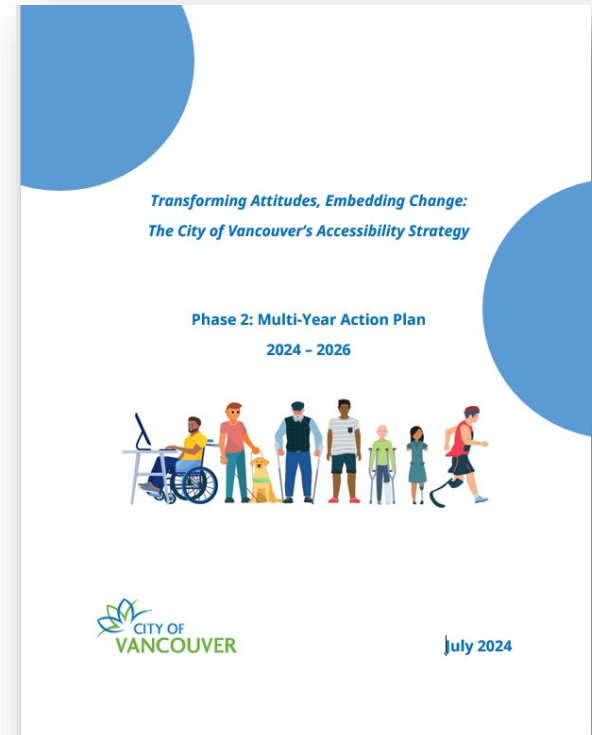
Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP)

Includes a total of 106 actions across the nine focus areas, summarized as follows:

Completed: 35 actions

Work in progress: 44 actions

For future consideration: 27 actions



Multi-Year Action Plan

Focus Areas	Completed	In Progress	For Future Consideration	Total Actions per Area
1. Built Environment and Public Spaces	7	4	4	15
2. Transportation Services, Policies and Programs	5	8	3	16
3. Housing Policies, Programs and Design	1	4	2	7
4. Information and Communication	4	6	1	11
5. Employment	4	5	2	11
6. Governance and Engagement	6	4	5	15
7. Capacity and Collaboration	2	3	1	6
8. Advocacy and working with other levels of Government and Agencies	2	3	4	9
9. Emergency Management and Climate Change (new)	4	7	5	16
TOTAL	35	44	27	106

Examples of Work Completed

- Reviewed Vancouver's Building By-law and Standards of Maintenance By-law to **make sure that housing operators have plans and tools to repair broken elevators.**
- **Updated the accessible parking requirements** to the Parking By-law for new developments.
- **Updated the Zoning and Development By-law** to result in more ground floor units with no entry stairs and allow for units on a single level.
- **Added accessibility considerations to standardized communications** templates and practices.
- Created **disability awareness course** for staff.

Examples of Work in Progress

- **Implement the Rick Hansen accessibility standards where feasible** for the remainder of existing City-owned buildings.
- **Improve navigation measures** through city-wide programs and pedestrian upgrades.
- **Reduce accessibility barriers on sidewalks and pathways** through city-wide programs and pedestrian access upgrades.
- Explore **changes to the City's Building By-Law** to improve accessibility in existing regulations and policies with the upcoming changes to the BC Building Code to advance accessibility.
- Create **plain language materials** and provide options that consider accessibility barriers in communications and engagement activities.

The Accountability Framework was approved in 2022 as part of the Accessibility Strategy. It includes:

- Quarterly updates to the Accessibility Committee and City Leadership Team
- Annual progress report to Council
- Three-year progress report to the BC Government
- Review outcomes, impacts and effectiveness of Accessibility Strategy in five years

Cultivating a Culture of Vulnerability

- Community of Practice
- Public Partners Table
- Internal Knowledge Resource Hub



Following are the recommendations contained in the July 9, 2024 Council Report:

- A. THAT Council receive this report as an update on *Transforming Attitudes, Embedding Change: The City of Vancouver's Accessibility Strategy*, along with its Multi-Year Action Plan (Appendix A).
- B. THAT Council approve the addition of a new focus area to the Accessibility Strategy: Emergency Management and Climate Change.

Thank You

