



# University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT VICE-PRESIDENT, SPACE AND FACILITIES PLANNING

## FOR INFORMATION:

TO: Planning and Budget Committee

SPONSOR: Elizabeth Sisam, Assistant Vice-President, Space and Facilities Planning

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DATE: September 16, 2005 for September 22, 2005

AGENDA ITEM: 8

## ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report on Barrier Free Access.

## JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Planning and Budget Committee receives reports for information.

## PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The AFD Standing Committee on Barrier Free Accessibility is required to report annually to the Planning & Budget Committee of the Academic Board. The Barrier Free Accessibility Report is also considered by the University Affairs Board.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

A number of highlights, all of which have or will contribute significantly to the improvement of accessibility on our campuses, are briefly summarized below.

### SACWAC & AFD Partnerships:

Two partnerships between SACWAC and AFD have been established in recent years. The first of these, identified as P1 2002-05 for small projects was originally established in 1999 for a period of three years ending in 2002, i.e. P1 1999-2002. This partnership was renewed in 2002 for a further three years and will end in June 30<sup>th</sup> 2005. The intent of the partnership was for both parties to each contribute \$30,000 per annum and to agree on a number of small projects that would improve accessibility on all campuses. It is recommended that the small accessibility projects partnership be renewed for a further three years from 2005-2008. The second partnership is directed to larger projects and follows the same arrangements between the two partners except that the agreement is for a period of five years, P2 2002-07, started in 2002 and continuing to 2007 with each partner contributing \$70,000 per year for each of the five years.

Table 1 provides a record of the accessibility expenditures. It also identifies additional projects, approved by SACWAC in May 2005 which have yet to be formally approved by the AFD. Both partnerships still have funds available to support further projects in the future that address student need.

Significant projects that have been undertaken, include:

1. **Accessibility at UTSC.** A number of projects are highlighted, all with strong input and direction from the Accessibility Office at UTSC.
2. **- WheelTrans bus stops.** Relocated and appropriately signed in consultation with TTC. Concrete pad created for one WheelTrans stop as part of the fire route reconstruction associated with the Management Building. WheelTrans stops incorporated into the design of the Student Centre, including appropriate curb cuts.

- **Student Centre.** Ramps and/ or power doors at all major entrances, accessible washrooms. Signage to be installed to ADA standards.
  - **Management Building.** Power doors at major entrances, accessible entrances. Signage to be installed to ADA standards.
  - **Science Teaching Laboratories.** Includes wheelchair accessible bench spaces/fume hoods.
  - **Bookstore relocation.** The new bookstore includes a ramp to main bookstore that will also provide accessible access to the new Faculty.
  - **Staff lounge.** The layout of the book-store has been done to permit wheelchair/scooter access.
  - **Main academic courtyard.** The landscaping of the space between the Science Wing and the Bladen Wing is being landscaped as part of the Arts and Administration Building; the hard landscaping includes a ramp to the previously inaccessible Bladen Wing, and a ramp to the Faculty Staff Lounge.
  - **Bladen 4 computer lab renovation.** The Accessibility Office has provided advice on the layout of the labs to ensure that provision is made for scooters and wheelchairs.
  - **Arts and Administration Building.** The Accessibility Office has provided advice on the layout of the Registrar's area and Welcome Desk to ensure that reception desks are at an accessible height and to ensure that the entire building is consistent with the principles of Universal Design.
  - **Cafeteria Renovation.** The Accessibility Office has provided advice on the layout of the servery and the tables to ensure that these are consistent with Universal Design.
  - **Accessible Exam Suite.** A design has been completed for a new accessible exam suite that is to be constructed on the third level of the Bladen Wing in Fall 2005. This is a 150 sqm facility that includes a washroom that will be modified for a variety of accessibility needs, plus examination and study spaces designed for different requirements. The facility is at grade to permit easy egress in the event of an emergency.
  - **Recreation Centre Renovations.** Entrance and Cardio Room. Accessibility requirements in terms of reception counter design and access to facilities in the renovated spaces.
  - **ARC.** New vertical power door operators installed to make them easy to reach from scooters.
3. **University College Accessibility Project.** The \$325,000 renovation project to improve accessibility into University College was completed.
  4. **93 Highland Accessibility Washroom.** A wheelchair accessible washroom has been constructed on the ground floor of 93 Highland Avenue. Lack of a fully accessible washroom was a serious shortcoming at the President's residence which has now been corrected. The washroom facilities are required in support of all University functions at 93 Highland Avenue and will certainly be a boon to the planners of these activities as well as the attendees at these events.
  5. **Accessibility within Innis College:** Plans for an elevator are currently being developed as the first phase of a multi-phased project for Innis College. The elevator, in conjunction with other modifications to space within the College will make facilities fully accessible. Construction of the elevator is planned to occur in the summer of 2006 and will be complete by September 2006. Other related renovations will occur when funding becomes available.
  6. **Accessibility within the Lash Miller Courtyard:** The Lash Miller Courtyard project has provided a tremendous opportunity to make the McLennan Physics Laboratories accessible at its most visible and most traveled entry location, the open space area and courtyard west of St. George Street. Funding contributed to this project for these purposes will improve ease of access for thousands of students weekly.

7. **Growing Accessibility Requirements for Examinations:** The creation of a dedicated examination facility and planned co-location of the Accessibility Services Test/Exam Centre will address the broad requirements of the student population. It is particularly important to develop the resources required to accommodate the range of disabilities that are encountered and consolidate the facilities from many locations across campus to one location.
8. **Hart House:** The Hart House elevator was opened in 2004/ 05. This is a phenomenal deliverable for the University as whole.
9. **Development of Design Accessibility Standards:** The Office of Campus and Facilities Planning is working together with the Office of Accessibility Services, under the initiatives set out by the Office of the Vice President Human Resources, to update the Barrier-Free Accessibility section of the University's Design Standards. This process is now underway, and it is anticipated that the updated standards will be available by the end of the year.

These Design Standards impact all capital construction projects; as a result, given the extensive Capital Plan of the University, the extent of accessibility has accelerated significantly as each new capital project is completed and opened. The current Capital Plan is estimated at \$900 million.

## **FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

Funding for accessibility projects can be derived from any number of sources. A key source of funding has been provided by the AFD/ SACWAC Partnerships, AFD and SACWAC. ZOOM Funds, with the enthusiastic support of Student Affairs, have also contributed significantly to assist these improvements across campus. Faculties and or Colleges have also provided support for particular projects.

Table 1 provides an update of the AFD/ SACWAC Partnerships, a listing of the projects undertaken within the partnership, and the extent of funds that are yet available for new projects that are supported by both SACWAC and AFD. APPENDIX A provides a detailed project lists from the three campuses that are proposed for consideration. This list is updated annually and submitted to SACWAC to review. Recently approved SACWAC projects from this list are identified with an asterisk.

All accessibility projects that are advanced for consideration by the Planning & Budget Committee and the Accommodations and Facilities Directorate [AFD] have particular merit and are evaluated against a stringent set of academic criteria. These criteria are detailed in the Capital Plan tabled at the Planning & Budget Committee, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004<sup>1</sup>.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This item is for information only.

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The nine criteria by which all capital projects are assessed are:

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| 1. Mission Objectives of the University, | 2. Policy Objectives & Legislative Requirements, |
| 3. Provincial Space Standards,           | 4. Strengthening Scholarship,                    |
| 5. Providing Academic Leadership,        | 6. Student Experience,                           |
| 7. Economic Consistency,                 | 8. Resources,                                    |
| 9. Deferred Maintenance.                 |  |