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Meeting Date: September 26, 2019
File No.:



To: Chair and Members
Lambton Area Water Supply System Joint Board of Management

From: Clinton Harper
General Manager

Subject: LAWSS WTP Accessibility

Recommendation

Report provided as information.

Background:

LAWSS is a publicly funded water utility governed by the LAWSS Joint Board of Management. The Joint Board of Management regularly convenes to address matters of the water system at the LAWSS Water Treatment Plant (WTP), located at 1215 Fort Street in the Village of Point Edward. Meetings of the LAWSS Joint Board of Management are open to the public.

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) became law on June 13, 2005 and applies to all levels of government, non-profits, and private sector businesses in Ontario. The AODA aims to identify, remove, and prevent barriers for people with disabilities.

One of the five standards that make up the AODA is the Design of Public Spaces Standard. This standard focuses on removing barriers to people with disabilities in buildings and public spaces such as parks, paths of travel, parking lots, and beaches. The Standard provides a minimum benchmark for how public access are to be designed in Ontario going forward.

Existing public spaces, that do not meet the requirements of the AODA, are not required to be renovated if alternative access or arrangements are provided.

Comments:

The LAWSS WTP was constructed in early 1970s and is not considered assessable under AODA standards. Additionally, the WTP lacks secure separation between the administration and operational areas which would allow for the general public to freely access operational area of the Plant. The main entrance of the WTP is not compatible with meetings that are open to the general public.

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In June the Board requested that an effort be undertaken to determine the costs associated with providing improved access and establishing separation between the operations and administration area of the WTP.

Two concepts were developed and cost estimates prepared. Due to the excessive slope between the WTP's main entrance and the roadway the final rise of steps cannot be overcome by ramping alone. Therefore, both exterior options include a mechanical lifting device. Both concepts utilize the same approach to separating the administration and operational areas.

Interior Solution:

The interior concept involves a new "public" entrance into the Administration area. The separate Administration area includes the two LAWSS offices, a new accessible unisex washroom, the Board Room, and the Lab. A secure doorway between the administration and operational area is proposed along with modifications to the Woman's washroom.

Exterior Solution #1:

The first exterior concept involves converting the planter immediately in front on the WTP into a ramp structure and installing a mechanical stair lift for the final rise to entrance grade.

Exterior Solution #2:

The second exterior concept involves building an elevator on the south wall, re-purposing a section of the front planter, and building a new sidewalk to the base of the elevator from the roadway. A small area within the WTP would be re-purposed as an elevator control room.

Consultation:

This report was prepared in consultation with MIG Engineering Ltd. and OCWA Operational and Maintenance Staff.

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Financial Implications:

The cost to complete this work was not included in the 2020 Budget Proposal.

(x1000)	Solution #1 (Chair Lift)	Solution #2 (Elevator)
Exterior Construction:	\$238	\$227
Interior Construction:	\$54	\$54
Total Engineering:	\$50	\$50
Total Capital Cost:	\$342	\$331

This report was prepared by Clinton Harper, LAWSS General Manager

Attachment(s): AODA Front Entrance WTP Conceptual Design Solution #1 & #2