Strategic Pillar 3: Accessibility in the Built Environment

Applying universal design principles to planning, developing and upgrading the built environment increases opportunities for participation, social connection and active living for all community members. Staying up-to-date on technological developments and innovative, accessible practices promotes solutions that continuously evolve to reflect changing needs. Continuing to incorporate these best practices into the City's Enhanced Accessibility Design Guidelines and Technical Specifications optimizes accessibility planning in the built environment for both public and staff and promotes aligned approaches among City departments.

Recommended Actions

3.1 Incorporate accessibility improvements in the built environment when planning annual City facility upgrades, capital projects and maintenance schedules. ~ Ongoing

3.2 Review City standards, plans and guidelines related to the built environment to identify opportunities to align and promote efforts to advance accessibility. Examples include Engineering Drafting and Design Standards, Parks and Open Space Strategy, and Enhanced Accessibility Design Guidelines and Technical Specifications. ~ Medium-term

3.3 Update the City's Enhanced Accessibility Design Guidelines, including identifying opportunities to expand the guidelines to other areas of the built environment in the city, such as plazas, community gardens and sensory-friendly spaces. ~ Medium-term

3.4 Enhance inclusive mobility throughout Richmond by integrating best practices in accessible design and innovative technologies into wayfinding systems. ~ Ongoing

3.5 Expand active transportation networks that promote accessible connections throughout the community, including routes to and from City facilities, parks and open spaces. ~ Ongoing

3.6 Develop and implement procedures to maintain access during temporary changes to the built environment, including planning for and communicating safe alternatives and temporary accessible paths of travel. ~ Long-term

3.7 Explore ways to address challenges in the built environment faced by people with disabilities during extreme weather incidents, such as flooding, extreme heat and snow. ~ Short-term

