

THE CORPORATION OF THE  
**CITY OF WHITE ROCK**  
CORPORATE REPORT



**DATE:** May 13, 2024  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Jim Gordon, P.Eng., Director, Engineering and Municipal Operations  
**SUBJECT:** Pier Accessibility Improvement Options

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT Council can:

1. Approve funding of up to \$115K for the installation of a semi-permanent mat to improve accessibility on the Pier and direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals for a semi-permanent mat, evaluate proposals, and report to Council; or
  2. Direct staff to continue researching grant opportunities for Pier accessibility improvements and to include a funding request for consideration during 2025 Financial Plan discussions; or
  3. Direct staff to focus on other accessibility improvements.
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On April 23, 2024, the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) discussed different options to improve accessibility on the White Rock Pier (Pier). The report, titled “White Rock Pier Accessibility Update” (Appendix A) provided background information that the AAC considered along with information provided by AAC members and the public.

It was concluded by the AAC that a semi-permanent mat option six to six and half feet wide would be preferred over permanent options as the mat could be lifted for Pier plank repairs and repurposed after the Pier is reconstructed. Committee members and the public noted successful installations of various mat options.

The AAC recommended that Council approve funding of up to \$115K for the project.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE DIRECTION**

<b>Motion # &amp; Meeting Date</b>	<b>Motion Details</b>
2024-054 February 12, 2024	That Council:  Directs staff to prepare a comprehensive report detailing the feasibility, costs, and maintenance requirements associated with the installation of an accessible mat at the Pier, including funding options, and refers this report to the Accessibility Committee for comments.

2024-001 April 23, 2024	THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• direct staff to explore semi-permanent, 6- to 6.5-foot-wide mat options, subject to approval by the Committee; and,</li><li>• approve funding of up to \$115,000 for this project.</li></ul>
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### **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

On April 23, 2024 the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) discussed different options to improve accessibility on the White Rock Pier (Pier). The report titled “White Rock Pier Accessibility Update” (Appendix A) provided background information along with information provided by AAC members and the public.

It was concluded by the AAC that a semi-permanent mat option six to six and half feet wide would be preferred over permanent options as the mat could be lifted for Pier plank repairs and repurposed after the Pier is reconstructed. Funding of up to \$115K is needed for the project to proceed.

#### **Next Steps**

Following consideration of options Council may:

1. approve funding of up to \$115K for the installation of a semi-permanent mat to improve accessibility on the Pier and direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals for a semi-permanent mat, evaluate the proposals, and report to Council or,
2. direct staff to continue researching grant opportunities for Pier accessibility improvements and to include a funding request for consideration during 2025 Financial Plan discussions or,
3. direct staff to focus on other accessibility improvements.

If Council approves moving forward with a Pier mat installation, several items need to be addressed. These include:

1. Funding of up to \$115K Required – AAC committee members and the public in attendance at the meeting were not aware of any funding source for the project.
2. Pier Heritage – Council will need to consider the Pier designation as a Municipal Heritage Site and approve an installation consistent with the heritage designation (Appendix B).
3. Mat Location – Consideration will need to be given to benches, plaques and other potential impediments to a mat.
4. Request for Proposals (RFP) – If funding is approved, staff will issue an RFP
5. Evaluation of Proposals – Staff need to evaluate the proposals including an onsite demonstration and report to Council
6. Council Approval of Installation – Council will need to consider the heritage implications of a Pier mat installation and approve the installation by resolution.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Funding of approximately \$115K would be needed for mat purchase and installation. There may be additional annual operating costs related to temporarily removing the mat for Pier plank

replacements and possibly some events. These costs are unknown at this time and will be reported back to Council in the event that they cannot be absorbed by existing operating budgets.

The longevity of the mats is not known; however, most products will come with a 5-year limited warranty and it is expected that there would be periodic replacement costs at the end of an accessibility mats service life should Council endorse moving forward with the installation.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Staff will continue to engage with residents and through the AAC.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS**

Engineering and Municipal Operations staff will continue to engage with Recreation and Culture staff with respect to cultural and special event implications.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Improving accessibility to the Pier is in alignment with the Community and Waterfront Priorities. The Community Priority identifies that we foster a livable city with connected residents enjoying distinctive places and activities and the Waterfront Priority identifies that the City support a prosperous and vibrant waterfront.

### **OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES**

The following options are available for Council's consideration:

1. approve funding of up to \$115K for the installation of a semi-permanent mat to improve accessibility on the Pier and direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals for a semi-permanent mat, evaluate the proposals, and report to Council,
2. direct staff to continue researching grant opportunities for Pier accessibility improvements and to include a funding request for consideration during 2025 Financial Plan discussions or,
3. direct staff to focus on other accessibility improvements.

If Council selects option 1, there is the outcome of initial capital costs plus ongoing maintenance costs. Additionally, there is risk that an installation would affect some special events and Pier aesthetics. However, Pier access would be improved for all users.

If Council selects either option 2 or 3, there is the outcome that the concerns about improving accessible access to the Pier are not addressed in the most timely manner.

### **CONCLUSION**

On April 23, 2024 the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) discussed different options to improve accessibility on the White Rock Pier (Pier).

The AAC concluded that a semi-permanent mat option six to six and half feet wide would be preferred over permanent options as the mat could be lifted for Pier plank repairs and repurposed after the Pier is reconstructed. Members of the AAC did not support the concept of fund raising for the mat.

The AAC recommended that Council provide funding of up to \$115K.

Council may decide to provide funding immediately, defer until 2025 Financial Plan discussions or direct staff to focus on other accessibility improvements.

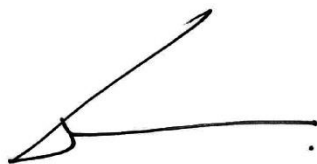
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Gordon', written in a cursive style.

Jim Gordon, P.Eng.,  
Director, Engineering and Municipal Operations

**Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer**

This corporate report is provided for information purposes and Council's direction to staff.

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Guillermo Ferrero  
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: Accessibility Advisory Committee Pier Accessibility Update Report  
Appendix B: Pier Heritage Bylaw No. 854