



**White Pass & Yukon Route
Accessibility Plan
August 2023**

1. General

Statement of Commitment

The White Pass & Yukon Route(WP&YR) is committed to ensuring accessible and inclusive environments for both guests and employees. This commitment to accessibility is displayed in our organizational values. We further demonstrate this belief in our attention to the mobility and accessibility needs of our passengers and our practices as an equal opportunity employer. We know that this is a constant cycle of renewal and improvement at our railroad, consistently working to advance accessibility in the workplace and for our guests.

Plan Development

In the development of our Accessibility Plan we conducted a comprehensive review of our operations to identify existing barriers and potential actions that could overcome and/or mitigate challenges during the term of the plan (2023-2025). Following the Principles of Accessibility as outlined in the Accessible Canada Act (ACA) and our obligations under the Accessible Transportation Planning and Reporting Regulations(ATPRR), our Accessibility Plan is designed to increase our understanding of barriers to accessibility and deliver a three-year path to bettering accessibility in all of our operations. By committing to continuous improvement, we will produce annual reports every year of the cycle of this plan to provide direction and illustrate both progress and areas of need.

We worked with community partners throughout our corridor representing people with disabilities to aid in the development of this initial Accessibility Plan. We will continue that collaboration in concert with the ongoing work with our employees and continuing guest outreach to implement, improve, and refine this effort.

Contact

WP&YR welcomes input and feedback pertaining to our Accessibility Plan. Feedback can be shared through the following channels:

- Email: **info@wpyr.com**
- Phone: **1-800-343-7373**
- Mail: **WP&YR Executive Director**
White Pass & Yukon Route
P.O. Box 435
Skagway, Alaska 99840

Alternative Formats

The Accessibility Plan can be made available in the following alternative formats:

- Print
- Large Print (Increased Font Size)
- Braille
- Audio
- Electronic formats that are compatible with adaptive technology

You can request alternative formats of this plan and a description of our feedback process by contacting us at info@wpyr.com

2. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Accessibility Goals

- We will analyze our communications to address shortcomings in our system that create barriers to accessible communications. We will then develop plans and implementation procedures to address these issues.
- We will perform an accessibility audit of our website to ensure that it meets accessibility standards, including Web Content Accessibility Guidelines(WCAG) Level AA conformance.
- We will communicate our commitment to accessibility and support for people with disabilities and will work to make navigating that information easier.
- We will pursue enhanced technology for more audio and visual opportunities to convey this information more effectively throughout our system.

3. Communication

Accessibility Goals

- We will review reservation agent training and communication to ensure accessibility standards are upheld.
- We will institute regular audits to both the employee and guest experiences, to identify both areas of improvement as well as opportunities to refine the Accessibility Plan.
- We will audit our on-board passenger communications materials to identify potential barriers to accessibility.

4. Procurement

Accessibility Goals

- We will ensure that accessibility is considered in the initial stages of all relevant projects.

5. Design and Delivery of Programs and Services

Accessibility Goals

- Through consultation with community partners as well as people and organizations that represent a broad range of disabilities, we will harness a diverse knowledge base that will enhance the accessibility of our operations.
- We will audit related training programs for all employees to quickly address any potential gaps in the program.
- We will have a system and timing of review and redesign for our training courses to make sure that our staff can provide the necessary service to our guests.
- We will review recruitment and retention to identify opportunities to enhance accessibility and inclusivity.

6. Transportation

Accessibility Goals

- We will analyze our trains and facilities for boarding, disembarking, and onboard movement to address barriers to access.

7. Built Environment

Accessibility Goals

- We will through guest, employee, and stakeholder engagement develop standards that guide the development of new and refurbished buildings, work areas, and rail equipment.
- We will review the emergency response plans to ensure that accessibility needs are met during an emergency.

8. Provisions of the CTA Accessibility Related Regulations

As part of our initial review, we identified the following areas that will require further consideration and planning to remediate as part of our compliance with CTA accessibility-related regulations:

Train Lifts

We have identified that our current lift systems only support a capacity of 272kg. This is below the current 363kg standard required by the CTA. When possible we will increase the capacity of these lifts.

Communication in Braille

We have identified that that certain cars do not have the proper signage/markings for braille. We are addressing this in two ways. First through enhanced auditory communication from our train agents and second by installing the appropriate markings and locations for braille use. Safety information is also communicated by train agents at the beginning of every tour.

Lift Cars

We are seeking to increase the total number of cars equipped with lifts in our fleet, in an effort to increase accessibility.

9. Consultation

Consultation is critical to achieving our goal of identifying and removing barriers. Through this interaction with employees, guests, and community partners we can better understand and remove the barriers they experience.

Employees

We have established a welcoming and inclusive working environment for our employees. Through regular meetings, and feedback we can become aware and meet the needs of our workforce. With the help of these meetings, briefings, and anonymous suggestion boxes we have a diverse sampling from our staff to both submit their concerns and help us to improve.

Guests

We interact directly with our guests through conversations, survey cards, and our frontline service staff with both telephonic and electronic correspondence. By sharing and reviewing their experiences we are able to recognize their needs and make the appropriate improvements to enhance accessibility and the overall guest experience at the WP&YR.

Community Partners

We will continue to work with community partners representing people with disabilities to identify barriers and prioritize projects to address those barriers.

10. Conclusion

The WP&YR is committed to improving accessibility across the entirety of our enterprise. We continue to learn and develop our Accessibility Plan through consultation, continuing improvement, and feedback. Through this process we will bring about the change that will make WP&YR both accessible and better for all those who work, ride, and visit our historic railway.