

**SOPHIE HAHN**

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CONSENT CALENDAR
 November 17, 2020

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
 From: Vice Mayor Sophie Hahn (Author), Councilmember Rigel Robinson (Co-sponsor), and Councilmember Ben Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)
 Subject: Navigable Cities Framework for Ensuring Access and Freedom-of-Movement for People with Disabilities in Berkeley

RECOMMENDATION

1. Refer to the City Manager to incorporate relevant elements of the Navigable Cities Framework for Ensuring Access and Freedom-of-Movement for People with Disabilities in Berkeley, submitted to the City Council by the Commission on Disability, into the Berkeley Pedestrian Master Plan currently being updated, and any other planning processes for which the report would provide relevant information.
2. Refer to the Public Works and Parks and Waterfront Commissions to return to Council reports on ways that elements of the Navigable Cities Framework can be incorporated into the work, projects, contracts, and policies of the Public Works and the Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Departments.

BACKGROUND

The Commission on Disability recently agreed upon a series of priorities including a proposed Navigable Cities Framework to guide investments, regulations, and other actions in the City of Berkeley. The framework features three principles of navigable cities and four initiatives, summarized as follows:

Navigable Cities Principles:

1. All people residing in and/or visiting the City of Berkeley have the right to efficient, convenient and barrier-free movement;
2. People with disabilities (PWDs) often have distinct transportation-related needs and may be less able to navigate around items obstructing pathways; and
3. Changes to commercial activities and government policies (whether in Berkeley, the Bay Area, the State of California, or the United States as a whole) can have notable impacts on navigability.

Navigable Cities Initiatives:

1. Support smooth, barrier-free pathways frequently used by PWDs;
2. Ensure that new transportation services provide appropriate access to PWDs and do not negatively impact navigability;
3. Provide appropriate input on plans to adjust the layout of neighborhoods, urban centers, streets, pathways, etc.; and
4. Address the availability and accessibility of appropriate parking options, especially in city-owned and/or city-maintained parking lots/garages.

The City of Berkeley contains hundreds of miles of streets, sidewalks and other public spaces (e.g. outdoor plazas and parks), many of which do not provide smooth navigation for people with disabilities, who collectively represent around 15% of the City's residents and visitors. In addition, Berkeley features many transportation options including pedestrian and bicycle pathways, BART, buses, paratransit, nonprofit transportation services, transportation network companies (TNCs, e.g. Uber & Lyft), bike-sharing services, etc.; however, not all of these provide full access to people with disabilities, endangering independence.

These issues and more represent ongoing barriers for people with disabilities in Berkeley. The Commission on Disability is concerned by a lack of accessibility, in general, and in particular considering Berkeley's identity as the home of the modern disability rights movement. The Navigable Cities Framework is aimed at ensuring access and freedom-of-movement for people with disabilities in Berkeley, advancing their goal to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Staff time.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ATTACHMENTS

1. [Commission on Disability, Proposed Navigable Cities Framework for Ensuring Access and Freedom-of-Movement for People with Disabilities in Berkeley, Oct. 20, 2020](#)