Internal

COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR AGENDA

Commission on Aging
Odile Lavault, Chair
Darlene Bronson, Commission Secretary

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
North Berkeley Senior Center
Gooseberry Room 1st Floor
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid model with both in-person and virtual attendance. To join this meeting remotely you can click this zoom link https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1656442076

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting, however, if you are feeling sick, please do not attend the meeting in person.

Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order by Chair, Lavault
2. Roll Call by Secretary, Bronson
3. Public Comments
   The public may comment about any item not on the agenda. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker. Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item.
4. Approval of minutes from October 2026 (Attachment A)
5. Approval of order of agenda

The Commission may discuss any subject listed on the agenda. Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker.

Presentations

Staff report

The Commission on Aging will be on hiatus during the month of December 2026 and will resume its regular meetings January 20, 2027.

Discussion / Action Items

1. Vision Zero draft action plan discussion- Yamaguchi
2. BAROW letter about scooters, Attachment B- Lavault

3. Accident Statistics letter: Older drivers, Attachment C- Evans
4. Commission on Aging Elections – February 2027
5. Commission vacancy

Commissioner reports

1. Liaison to other Commissions report
2. City of Berkeley preparation for El Nino, Newbery

Items for Ongoing Discussion

1. Older drivers' safety and DMV policies, find a relevant guest for presentation.
2. Cycling without Age, Orrick/Newbery

Adjournment

Information Items

**Please submit all agenda items by *Monday January 4th to* the Commission Secretary, for the *January 20th meeting* only.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the **Disability Services Specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD)** at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public records and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the commission secretary for further information.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the North Berkeley Senior Center located at 1901 Hearst Avenue, during regular business hours. The Commission Agenda and Minutes may be viewed on the City of Berkeley website: http://www.cityofberkeley.info/commissions.

Video and audio recordings of the Commission on Aging meetings are available upon request. Please contact the Commission Secretary at dbronson@berkeleyca.gov or (510)-981-5194 to obtain a recording.

Secretary:
Darlene Bronson
Health, Housing & Community Services Department
(510) 981-5194
E-mail: dbronson@berkeleyca.gov

Mailing Address:
Commission on Aging/HHCS
Darlene Bronson
1901 Hearst Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709

Attachment A

COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Health, Housing & Community
Services Department
Commission on Aging

Wednesday, October 21,2026
1:30 p.m.

1. **Roll Call**
   Present: (8) Newbery, Orrick, Yamaguchi, Collins, Evans, Binder, Davila, Lavault
   Absent:
   Excused Absence:
   Staff Present: (2) Darlene Bronson, Donnarcia Scurry
   Public: (3)
2. **Public Comment** (1)

Presentation
None

Staff Report
Update for Senior Wellness Fair September 30, 2026. Hosted at North Berkeley Senior Center- Darlene Bronson

Commission Report
1. Senior Wellness Fair experiences/report outs
2. Liaisons to other Commissions-Yamaguchi, Lavault
3. Older drivers and collisions report, Evans
4. Memory Café at North Berkeley Public Library, Lavault
5. Elections of Chair and Vice-Chair for February 2027, Lavault

Discussion
1. Cycling without Age – Newbery
2. Exploitation of Vulnerable Homeowners
3. Draft presentation materials for distribution to public about the Commission on Aging

Action Items
1. Exploitation of Vulnerable Homeowners- The commission agreed to form an ad hoc committee with Lavault and Binder, it will identify relevant informational materials and locate appropriate venues to disseminate these materials to reach seniors who would benefit from such information.
2. Draft a letter to present to City Council regarding older drivers and collisions for the November Commission on Aging meeting, Evans

Commissioners adjourned at 3:12p.m.

Minutes Approved on:

_____

Darlene Bronson, Commission Secretary

Berkeleyans for Accessible Rights-of-Way

October 13, 2026

Paul Buddenhagen
City Manager
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Via Email: CManager@berkeleyca.gov

Re: Request to Improve Safety & Accessibility Data Collection & Reporting for Veo and Lime

Dear Mr. Buddenhagan,

As organizations that support the needs of seniors and people with disabilities in Berkeley, we are writing to urge the City to expand its efforts to collect and report data regarding pedestrian injuries caused by improperly parked scooters, including expanding the data collection and reporting requirements for Veo and Lime.

Most of us attended an information session by representatives of the City (Mark Helmbrecht) and Veo (Jeff Hoover), held at the East Bay Center for the Blind on August 14th. We appreciate this outreach, which provided a forum to underscore the daily hazards posed by improperly parked scooters and riders who drive recklessly. When asked what data is collected on related injuries, Mr. Hoover said only that Veo must submit quarterly reports to the City and directed the inquiry there. Subsequently, a member of our community submitted a Public Records Act (PRA #26-2418) request to obtain Veo's reports.

After analyzing these reports, spanning Q4 2022 to Q1 2024, we find they consistently track rider activity, device maintenance, vandalism, theft, and rider-centric safety events. Collision information primarily relates to Veo riders and cars or solo rider falls. These reports do not include accessibility impacts to the public right-of-way (PROW), such as injuries or blocked access from improperly parked scooters, parking structures,[1] or collisions with pedestrians. In addition, there are no reports on the number of fines that have been issued for improper parking, or underage or double riders.

[1] We note that scooter parking amenities and other alterations to public facilities must comply with California Government Code §4452 pertaining to accessibility standards in the Building Standards Code.

Across all five quarters, the reports contain no identified category, metric, or narrative disclosure addressing:

- scooters blocking sidewalks
- curb-ramp obstructions
- scooters left in tactile warning surfaces
- bus stop blockages
- mobility-aid interference
- blind/low-vision pedestrian conflicts, or
- scooters forcing pedestrians into the street.

This may be because neither Veo's website nor its app contains portals for non-Veo riders to report safety incidents, such as collisions with a pedestrian or injuries from improperly placed scooters. (On the Veo app, the "Safety Center" and "Help" pages are geared to riders.) While members of the public can call the City's 311 customer service number to report improperly parked scooters posing safety and accessibility hazards, which the City then directs Veo (or Lime) to clear, Veo's reports do not include the number of such incidents or the speed with which reported incidents are addressed, nor is there any obvious way for the public to report collisions, injuries, dangerous drivers, or ADA complaints. Additionally, 311 reports are not categorized in a way that allows the City to identify disability-related PROW obstructions or analyze patterns affecting seniors and people with disabilities.

Although community members can call 311, we ask the City to create an accessible reporting pathway that does not depend on visual or smartphone-based features such as QR codes, photo uploads, or device numbers, and to expand vendor and City reporting to include PROW obstructions, pedestrian injuries, unsafe riding, enforcement actions, and response-time metrics developed with disability-community input.

Veo's reports also do not contain any information on whether accessible Veo devices are available or used. Veo's national fleet includes several mobility-accessible or stability-focused device types designed for riders of diverse ages and abilities, such as the Cosmo seated scooter, Cosmo e-bike, Apollo two-seated e-bike, and the Rover adaptive trike. However, Veo does not report whether these devices are reliably available or used.

This lack of information creates structural gaps in transparency and safety that all members of our community seek and deserve. For example, the City cannot properly assess PROW accessibility or its ADA Title II compliance obligations when evaluating Veo's program-access and impacts based on Veo's reporting alone nor with the City's 311 reporting.

Therefore, the undersigned organizations strongly request that the City evaluate these gaps, require its micromobility vendors to add PROW-, accessibility-, and public-safety-

oriented reporting features on their websites and/or apps, and expand related reporting requirements mentioned in this letter. The City should combine this information with its 311 reports to comprehensively analyze the safety impacts and accessibility of these micromobility devices, and integrate the data into transportation planning and micromobility permit compliance.

The City should publish this information in accessible quarterly reports showing the number and type of complaints, response and resolution times, recurring problem locations, and enforcement actions, while protecting individual privacy.

Thank you for considering these concerns. We would appreciate a written response identifying the responsible department, timeline for action, and opportunities for disability-community input before reporting or permit requirements are changed.

Sincerely,

Michai Freeman
Systems Change Advocate
Center for Independent Living

Mike Cole
Executive Director
East Bay Center for The Blind

Erik Knaresboro and Michaela Tsztoo
Founders
Streets of Equality

Carol Crooks
Betsy Morris
Co-conveners
Gray Panthers of Berkeley and the East Bay

Helen Walsh
Accessibility-Inclusion Advisor
UCC Disaster Ministries
-and-
Member, Berkeley Disability Commission*
*for identification purposes only

Rev. Kelly Colwell
Senior Minister
First Congregational Church of Berkeley
United Church of Christ

Bab Freiberg
Executive Director
Ashby Village

cc: Mark Helmbrecht, Transportation Manager, City of Berkeley
Jeff Hoover, Veo
Mayor Ishii and Members of the City Council
Commission on Aging
Commission on Disability

Attachment C

City of Berkeley
Commission on Aging

November 13, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor Adina Ishii
Members of the Berkeley City Council

The City of Berkeley Commission on Aging recently looked into the accident statistics for older drivers, particularly those over 80 years old.

We found: **Nationally, in 2021**, a fifth of U.S. drivers were 65 and older. The number of accidents and fatalities involving older drivers has been increasing. The largest number of crashes involved drivers 85 and older. Factors contributing to accidents in this age group include vision decline and loss, cognitive impairment, a decrease in reaction time, and movement challenges due to strokes, arthritis, and hip and knee problems.

In Berkeley, there were 68 crashes, from January to September of 2024, involved drivers 70 years old and older. Sixty-two of these accidents involved pedestrians. Six involved cyclists. One fatality resulted, as well as 85 injuries.

As of February 2025, local drivers involved in three pedestrian fatalities were 79, 85 and 87 years old.

Gaps in public transportation, especially in the hills, contribute to the necessity to drive for many older people. The City's free "Rides for Seniors" program, which provides taxi rides and helps keep older drivers off the road, is currently accepting applications, after being on hiatus while the program was restructured.

Given the facts in Berkeley for older drivers, it seems there is a strong argument to continue to fund the "Rides for Seniors" program, as well as to consider additional public transport, particularly for hill dwellers.

There are programs to help older drivers brush up on skills, including the (1) DMV Mature Driver Improvement Program, offering lessons by licensed instructors, and (2) the AARP Smart Driver Online Course. As an incentive, some insurance companies offer discounts to drivers who have completed such classes. **We'd like to ask that individual members of the City Council publicize these programs in their newsletters.**

Links to information are included below.

AARP Program:

https://www.aarpdriversafety.org/

DMV Program:

https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/vehicle-industry-services/occupational-licensing/occupational-licenses/mature-driver-improvement-program/

Respectfully Yours,

City of Berkeley Commission on Aging