



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

## COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR AGENDA

Wednesday, February 19, 2025  
North Berkeley Senior Center  
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### **Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order by Vice 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 January, 2025 (Attachment A)

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.

### **Presentation**

1. Jessica Rothhaar, Senior Public Policy Manager of Northern California and Northern Nevada Alzheimer's Association

### **Staff report**

1. Oanh Guise; Age-Friendly Budget update

### **Discussion / Action Items**

1. Vote for Chair & Vice Chair
2. Provide input on the implementation of the newly passed Measure FF and schedule a presentation on FF at a future meeting, Orrick
3. Discussion and possible endorsement of Berkeleyans for Accessible Rights-of-Way letter regarding implementation of Measure FF funds (Attachment B-Recommendations for Measure FF letter)-Porter
4. Invite 2025 UCB Master of City Planning author(s) to present their findings at the March Commission meeting on the following topic: "Aligning Street Safety and Emergency Response in the Berkeley Hills"- Orrick
5. Commission on Aging Bylaws
6. Commission on Aging work plan 2025

### **Commissioner reports**

Commissioner Orrick: Report on observations/takeaways from attending the Feb. 1 Senior Resource Fair.

### **Information Items**

1. \*\*Please submit all agenda items by Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> to the Commission Secretary, for the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting only.

### **Items for Ongoing Discussion**

1. Safety & identify homebound seniors in Berkeley
2. Berkeley Rides for Seniors and Disabled waitlist
3. Older drivers' safety and DMV policies

### **Adjournment**

#### **COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION**

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a 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 record 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>.

#### **Secretary:**

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

#### **Mailing Address:**

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



Health, Housing & Community  
Services Department  
Commission on Aging

## COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 15, 2025  
1:30 p.m.

### 1. Roll Call

Present: (7) Cochran, Yamaguchi, Orrick, Lavault, Collins, Porter, Evans

Absent: (1)

Excused Absence: Chisholm

Staff Present: (2) Darlene Bronson, Donnaricia Scurry

Public: (0)

### 2. Public Comment (0)

### Presentations Proposal

Invite Jessica Rothhaar, Senior Public Policy Manager of Northern California and Northern Nevada Alzheimer's Association to speak at our February meeting

### Staff Report

- Resource assistance for families affected by Alzheimer's of the East Bay Closure, Darlene Bronson
- Parks and Recreation Department, intergenerational activities, Darlene Bronson

### Action Items

#### 1. Motion to send a letter to the Fire Weather Plan; supporting hybrid meetings for upcoming workshops

M/S: Evans / Cochran

Ayes: Orrick, Porter, Yamaguchi, Lavault, Orrick

Noes: None

Abstain: None

**Motion passed.**

#### 2. Motion to move the discussion on newly passed Measure FF and schedule a presentation on FF to February's meeting

M/S: Orrick / Cochran

Ayes: Collins, Porter, Yamaguchi, Evans, Lavault

Noes: None

Abstain: None

**Motion passed.**

### Discussion Items

1. Pre-election discussion in preparation for February voting

**Commissioners adjourned at 3:06p.m.**

Minutes Approved on:

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Darlene Bronson, Commission Secretary

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## *Berkeleyans for Accessible Rights-of-Way*

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February 6, 2025

Mayor Adena Ishii  
Members of the Berkeley City Council  
2180 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704

*Via email to [council@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:council@berkeleyca.gov)*

Subject: Recommendations from the Disability and Senior Community for Implementing 2024 Measure FF

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

As members or supporters of Berkeley's disability and senior community, we write to offer our recommendations for how Measure FF, passed by the voters last November, can be implemented such that the needs of people with disabilities on public rights-of-way are served. In Berkeley, 6.7% of people under 65 have disabilities. By 2030, 1 in 5 adults will be over 65 years of age and 37% of people over 75 experience ambulatory difficulty. This significant population faces heightened dangers every day simply navigating our sidewalks and street crossings.

The City's 2019 Vision Zero Action Plan, which Measure FF spending must be consistent with, recognizes that seniors and people with disabilities, among other groups, face a "disproportionate burden of traffic deaths and severe injuries."<sup>1</sup> It is important also to recognize that severe injuries and death can result solely from hazardous street and sidewalk conditions unrelated to traffic (affecting able-bodied people as well), and those hazardous conditions also impinge on the ability of mobility-impaired persons to simply get around town. Many such persons cannot drive cars and must walk, use wheelchairs or adaptive bicycles, or take public transportation.

Further, in late 2023, the Federal government adopted guidelines under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), known as PROWAG, that require state and local governments to ensure that facilities used by pedestrians in the public right-of-way are readily accessible

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<sup>1</sup> The Plan includes other groups that also face a disproportionate burden: people of color, people with no or low income, people with no or limited English proficiency, people experiencing homelessness, youth, and seniors.

to and usable by pedestrians with disabilities.<sup>2</sup> Thus, by the terms of both Measure FF and federal guidelines, the City should take care to implement the measure to address the needs of people with disabilities.

We offer the following recommendations both to meet Vision Zero goals and to comply with the ADA:

1. Add a position to the city's ADA program staff to focus on bringing the City into compliance with the new federal ADA guidelines, PROWAG, including monitoring and enforcing the ADA obligations of the City's contractors. Private construction, especially large buildings, can block sidewalks and create hazards for people with disabilities. Proper signage and safe alternate passageways, as required under the new Federal rules, are often lacking. The position could be fully funded with Measure FF funds.
2. Prioritize Measure FF's goal of "eliminating" the backlog of damaged sidewalks "by 2036," and "ensur[ing] accessibility for all users." The most hazardous sidewalk conditions should be identified and repaired immediately, and all sidewalks should be made acceptable and safe – meeting all ADA requirements – within at least 12 years. The 15% of funds allocated for sidewalks and pedestrian paths should be used strictly for repair of damaged sidewalks and paths, and should add to, not replace, historical levels of funding except where other sources of funding (such as past measures) are expiring.

The City should fully fund the 50/50 cost-sharing program to expedite clearance of the backlog of cost-sharing requests and to prevent future backlogs (as proposed by CM Humbert in 2023). In addition, the city should evaluate whether the 50/50 waitlist includes the most dangerous ADA violations and, if not, establish a means of prioritizing correction of these violations.<sup>3</sup>

3. Incorporate ADA-mandated curb ramps and other ADA Title II traffic safety measures (crosswalks, street furnishings, pedestrian signals, parking, and other parts of the public right-of-way) in all pedestrian and bicycle "Safety Improvement" projects and fund all such measures out of the "Safety Improvements" budget (which is twice as large as the allocation for sidewalk and pathway repairs).

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<sup>2</sup> Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (PROWAG), Appendix to Part 1190, R.204. See: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-36/chapter-XI/part-1190>. Also See <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-08-08/pdf/2023-16149.pdf> and <https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/>.

<sup>3</sup> The City keeps a highly detailed ADA violations database describing each violation, e.g., the slope of broken sidewalks.

4. Ensure that bike lanes and cycle tracks are designed to be equitable and accessible and do not impose additional barriers for people with disabilities and promote transit access for all sectors and abilities, as required by law.<sup>4</sup>
5. Ensure that the three required Measure FF implementation workshops build in an inclusive community process to identify and mitigate disability street injustices and ensure that the disability community is represented on the new SAFE STREETS Citizen Oversight Committee (SSCOC) and/or by formally coordinating with the Commissions on Aging and Disabilities.
6. Collect data on street, sidewalk, and bikeway usage and injuries (related and unrelated to vehicle traffic), including data on whether parties involved are disabled as recommended in the Vision Zero Action Plan,<sup>5</sup> prior to implementing Complete Street projects, as required by the city’s Complete Streets policy.<sup>6</sup> The Vision Zero Action Plan calls for “shifting away from state crash data and toward use of BPD police report data.” However, not all injuries are reported to BPD or involve a traffic collision. Rather, many people are injured solo due to poor sidewalk conditions and new street designs where public reports are not taken. Therefore, special outreach to vulnerable communities and targeted data collection efforts are needed.

We would be happy to provide more detailed recommendations and would welcome the opportunity to meet with each of you and share our perspective on the needs of seniors and people with disabilities on Berkeley’s public rights-of-way.

Sincerely,

Michai Freeman  
Systems Change Advocate  
Center for Independent Living

Erik Knaresboro and Michaela Tszto  
Founders  
Streets of Equality

Helen Walsh  
Accessibility-Inclusion Advisor  
UCC Disaster Ministries  
-and-  
Vice-Chair  
Berkeley Disability Commission\*  
\*for identification purposes only

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<sup>4</sup> Federal law requires cities to consider accessibility when redesigning its streets to add protected bike lanes. *Sarfaty v. City of Los Angeles*, No. 2:17-CV-03594-SVW-KS, 2020 WL 4697906, at \*5 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 12, 2020), as cited in ADA Update: [https://ada-update.com/2020/08/19/bike-lanes-can-create-disability-barriers/#\\_ftn2](https://ada-update.com/2020/08/19/bike-lanes-can-create-disability-barriers/#_ftn2).

<sup>5</sup> The Vision Zero Action Plan calls on the City to, among other things, “perform a robust assessment of other key gaps in safety datasets as part of the first update to this plan; and elevate community voices to understand the perception of safety and personal security in our most vulnerable communities.”

<sup>6</sup> Berkeley’s 2012 Complete Streets Policy. See <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Berkeley%20Complete%20Streets%20Policy.pdf> at PDF-p. 9.

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

Rev. Kelly Colwell  
Rev Molly Baskette  
Co-Senior Ministers  
First Congregational Church of Berkeley

Rev. Hannah Turner  
Minister for Youth, Young Adults, &  
Emerging Ministries

Bab Freiberg  
Executive Director  
Ashby Village

cc: Commission on Aging  
Commission on Disability

INDIVIDUALS IN SUPPORT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF BERKELEYANS FOR ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY  
*As of February 5, 2025*

Mary-Ellis	Adams	Nathan	Hood	Anne	Rowe
James	Anas-Benson	Jennifer	Hu	Helen	Rubardt
Leonard	Ash	Jun	Hu	Linda	Sawyer
Rick	Ayer	Margaret	Kavanaugh-Lynch	Susan	Shome
Birtukan	Beyenssa	Kathleen	Keller	Rebecca	Smith
Stanley	Boghosian	Katia	Kiefaber	Steven	Spielman
Jonathan	Bradshaw	Yuka	Kobayashi	Laura	Spielman
John	Brockett	Kara	Korbel Chinula	Jeanne	Strauss
Katharine	Brooks	Nick	Kukulan	Sharla	Sullivan
Sharonda	Chappel	Annis	Kukulan	Sara	Tanenhau
Lee	Cher-Weinstein	Lorenzo	Llanillo	Charles	Taylor
Lisa	Chow	Jonell	Lucas	Bella	Vavra
Alice	Clark	Dorris	Lynch	Martha	Vognar
Jim	Coates	Julia	Madore	Charles	Webb
Carolyn	Cox	Janet	McDonald	Morris	Wright
Alex	Cruz	Marcy	McGaugh	Jelle	Zijlstra
Chloe	Faison	Laura	Monroe		
Jeremy	Fish	Charles	Monroe		
Elizabeth	Forsyth	Melissa	Moss		
Mary	Fujii	Ann	Naffziger		
Susan Leslie	Gleason	Jennifer	Nixon		
Barbara	Grady-Ayer	Nancy	Rader		
Mack	Griffith	Helga	Recke		
Kerrie	Hein	Matthew	Reed		
Barbara	Hollinger	Althea	Rosales		