



**Commission on Disability**  
**Meeting Agenda, September 10, 2025 at 5pm**

**North Berkeley Senior Center, Aspen Room**  
**1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709**

**Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order by Chair Pugh
2. Land Acknowledgment recognizing Berkeley as the ancestral, unceded home of the Ohlone People
3. Roll Call by Secretary
4. Public Comments  
The public may comment about any item not on the agenda. Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item. Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker.
5. Approval of draft minutes: July 9, 2025 meeting\*
6. Approval: Order of Agenda\*

**Presentation**

None

**Discussion/Action Items**

7. CoD-City staff WCAG process
8. CoD-City staff PROWAG process
9. Recommendations: City meeting accessibility and meeting accessibility statement
10. Work Plan Updates and Developments
  - a. Review Work Plan draft\*\*
  - b. Schedule of presentations to advance Work Plan

**Commissioner Announcements**

11. As needed

**Staff Updates**

12. Log of Access Complaints\*
13. Email and voicemail sent to the Commission\*

**Adjournment**

- \* **Written material included in packet.**
- \*\* **Written material to be delivered at meeting.**
- \*\*\* **Written material previously distributed.**

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Agenda posted: 1) on the bulletin board at Old City Hall (2134 MLK Jr. Way); 2) North Berkeley Senior Center (1901 Hearst Avenue); 3) City of Berkeley website ([link](#)). Click the chevron (i.e., the blue V-shaped symbol) to the right of the monthly meeting date for a link to the agenda.

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### **Secretary:**

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## Commission on Disability DRAFT Minutes re July 9, 2025 meeting

North Berkeley Senior Center, Aspen Room  
1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709

### Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order by Vice Chair Fischer at 5:05pm.
2. Land Acknowledgment recognizing Berkeley as the ancestral, unceded home of the Ohlone People
3. Roll Call by Secretary

Commissioners present: Commissioner Walsh, Vice Chair Fischer, Chair Pugh, Commissioner Lewkowicz, Commissioner Paz, Commissioner Mann, and Commissioner Nisen.  
Commissioner on Leave Of Absence: Commissioner Sun.  
Commissioners inexcusably absent: none.  
Staff present: Thomas Gregory, Guillermo Campos, Crystel Hadley (presenting), Wahid Amiri (presenting), Matthai Chakko (presenting), Terrence Davis (observing), and Mary Triston (presenting).  
Public members present: Kelly Hammargren, Kitt Saginor (member of Open Government Commission), Anonymous, Erik Knaresboro, and Carole Marasovic (member of Homeless Services Panel of Experts).
4. Public Comments

Two members of the public made comments.  
In response to a public comment on the lack of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at specific intersections, the CoD asked that the ADA Program Coordinator keep a list of requests for APS installation sites.
5. Approval of draft minutes: May 14, 2025 and June 11, 2025 meetings\*

No motion was made regarding the May 2025 draft minutes.

“...to approve draft minutes re June.”  
Moved by: Vice Chair Fischer; seconded by: Commissioner Lewkowicz.  
Ayes (via roll call vote): unanimous. Nays/abstentions: none.  
The motion passes.
6. Approval: Order of Agenda\*

“...to approve tonight’s agenda as drafted.”  
Moved by: Vice Chair Fischer; seconded by: Chair Pugh.  
Ayes (via roll call vote): unanimous. Nays/abstentions: none.  
The motion passes.

## Discussion/Action Items (with City Staff)

7. Improving WCAG Compliance on the City of Berkeley Website:  
CoB Digital Communications Coordinator Crystal Hadley; CoB Public Works Director Terrance Davis; CoB Public Works Deputy Director Wahid Amiri; CoB Communications Director Matthai Chakko,

Commissioners and staff discussed the importance of achieving full WCAG compliance. Staff indicated that this would happen no later than April 2025. Staff reported that the website pages themselves are fundamentally compliant and that there is a system in place to ensure that page updates are also WCAG compliant.

Staff acknowledged that attached documents, e.g., City forms, plans and approx. 16,000 PDFs are mostly not compliant, nor is there currently a system in place to ensure compliance. The CoD pointed out that the City was currently legally required to follow WCAG, but could be sued in May 2025 if the site was not compliant. Staff indicated that, during the following week, they would provide CoD with a timeline by which City leadership staff and CoD will collaborate on developing a roadmap positing steps to be taken to achieve WCAG compliance.

Two members of the public made comments.

8. Berkeley Rides for Seniors and the Disabled: Mary Triston, CoB Transportation Services Coordinator\*

Commissioners and staff discussed how to equitably distribute BRSD program benefits among participants, particularly at a time of a reduction in ride vouchers. Staff spoke to the need to cut the number of vouchers per person due to the rapid increase in the number of people needing transportation services. CoD addressed the unique transportation challenges faced by people with disabilities, raising objections to a new restriction that permits advance reservation of a wheelchair accessible van only for medical appointments. The Commissioners and public both noted anecdotal evidence of a black market in taxi scrips that might be undermining effective use of the program's budget.

Two members of the public made comments.

## Discussion/Action Items (Commissioners)

9. Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) CoD contract clause recommendation next steps.

The following committee will meet with City staff to discuss the CoD recommendation to City Council on inclusion of a Public Right-of-Way contract clause in related contracts, as well as other ways to ensure safe, accessible public rights-of-way.

“...to establish a PROWAG-related ad hoc committee consisting of Vice Chair Fischer, Chair Pugh, and Commissioner Lewkowicz.”

Moved by: Vice Chair Fischer; seconded by: Commissioner Lewkowicz.

Ayes (via roll call vote): unanimous.

Nays/abstentions: none.

The motion passes.

10. Active Icon recommendation next steps

Vice Chair Fischer will continue budget discussions with PW Analyst Noah Budnick.

11. Work Plan Updates and Developments

a. Review of priorities

b. Brainstorm next steps and timelines

c. Schedule of presentations to advance Work Plan priorities

The following committee will meet with City staff to discuss the CoD recommendation to City Council on inclusion of a Web Content Accessibility Guideline (WCAG) contract clause in related contracts, as well as other ways to ensure a WCAG-compliant City website.

“...to form an ad hoc committee regarding WCAG consisting of Vice Chair Fischer, Commissioner Nisen, and Commissioner Sun.”

Moved by: Commissioner Lewkowicz; seconded by: Commissioner Walsh.

Ayes (via roll call vote): unanimous.

Nays/abstentions: none.

The motion passes.

**Staff Updates**

12. Log of Access Complaints\*

13. Email and voicemail sent to the Commission\*

The secretary directed Commissioners' attention to the July log of complaints, to communications contained in the meeting materials, and to a communication not included in the meeting materials (but shared via email prior to meeting and shared in hard copy during the meeting), inviting questions and comments.

Commissioners recommended that the ADA Program Coordinator log complaints about access even when such complaints do not allege a specific failure to comply with any controlling legal standard. The CoD expressed interest in broadly increasing accessibility—and not simply tracking violations or potential violations of legal mandates.

**Adjournment** at 7:40pm.

Minutes approved by CoD vote on: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thomas Gregory, Secretary to Commission

September2025 - Log of Unresolved Access-related Complaints

Subject matter key:

1 = built environment (facilities and their adjacent paths of travel)

2 = built environment (pedestrian rights of way)

3 = digital content

4 = effective communications/signage

5 = programs, services, and activities

An asterisk in the Date Complaint Lodged column indicates that the complaint was a formal ADA Grievance.

Date Complaint Lodged	Lack of Access Pertaining To	Date the City deemed a solution was implemented	Nature of solution	Solution's level of compliance with law	Complainant's level of satisfaction with solution
6/8/23	3 – Concern that much more content (in addition to the Commissioners' Manual, which was non-compliant but which has been remediated) on City website could be out of compliance with WCAG.	6/14/23	On 6/14/23, the City's Digital Communications Coordinator wrote that all City-generated web content meets WCAG standards. Re content on the City's website generated by third parties (e.g., Granicus), the City will insist that this third parties ensure that their content meets	Assuming solution is implemented consistently on an ongoing basis, it is compliant. However, as of May2025, the website itself is not fully compliant and	Unknown (but likely not very satisfied).

			WCAG, and specific City staff are responsible for ensuring that these third parties cure any identified instances of non-compliance.	there are non-compliant PDFs uploaded to the website.	
8/28/23	1 – constituent complained that The Stegmann Trail at Cesar Chavez Park is too bumpy and out of compliance.	9/5/23	PRW staff informed complainant of existing plans to render the trail ADA compliant tentatively scheduled to commence in Sep2024.  7/30/25 update from PRW: The Cesar Chavez Park Perimeter Pathway project has paused indefinitely due to issues of contamination at Cesar Chavez Park. We had the design completed and had gone out to bid. We may potentially reconstruct the perimeter pathway at a later date when the issue of contamination has been resolved. Currently, there is no	Site is not yet complaint but the solution, once implemented, will be compliant.	Likely unsatisfied.

			ETA on when construction may start, potentially 2 to 3 years.		
12/1/23	1 - Complaint that STAIR Center was not ADA-compliant.	Not yet.	<p>I explained the situation in much detail to complainant, acknowledging that the site was not compliant in 95 different ways. I explained that the issues would not be remediated until after the site's trailer-based structures were replaced with pallet-based structures, which was scheduled to happen in late FY2023-24. This complainant was part of a coalition of advocates concerned about this particular site, and on 12/20 I spent two hours at CIL discussing the issues with the coalition.</p> <p>Update: the "late FY2023-24" ETA re replacing trailers with pallet-based structures has been abandoned, and the new ETA is:</p>	No compliant solution yet implemented.	Unsatisfied.

			October - Jan 2025.  Update: the new ETA is that work (which should take roughly four months) will begin in late May2025.		
1/28/24	2 – complaint about non-compliant sidewalk near NE corner of MLK and Derby.	Not yet	Confirmed that this violation was already documented in database (it was)...asked Transpo/Engineering staff if this issue could be prioritized.	No compliant solution yet implemented.	Unsatisfied.
6/20/2024	3 – complaint that the City’s website does not comply with WCAG 2.0.	Not yet	The City collaborating with CoD ad hoc committee to develop roadmap toward compliance by April2026.	Once implemented, the solution will be compliant.	Unsatisfied.
6/30/2024	2 – overgrown hedge on 1600 block of Acton Street is obstructing sidewalk.	Not yet.	PW staff referred the matter to Code Enforcement staff, who will inform property owner that hedges must be trimmed back.	Once the hedges have been trimmed to create at least 4’ of unobstructed sidewalk, the site in question will be compliant.	Unknown.
8/2/2024	2 – Lack of curb ramps at Claremont Ave/Avalon Ave.	Not yet.	Curb ramps to be installed at Claremont/Avalon in Nov2024.	Not yet.  3 of the 4 curb ramps at this	Unsatisfied.

				intersection have remediated and are now compliant. The fourth curb ramp at the site has not yet been remediated and will hopefully be addressed by Nov2025.	
8/22/24	2 – construction site on Shattuck between Francisco and Delaware violates PROWAG.	Not yet.	ADA staff has informed Transpo staff of what is needed to remediate this situation; Transpo staff is working with the contractor in question to implement an ADA-friendly design of an alternate pedestrian pathway at the site.	Not yet.	Unsatisfied.
1/17/25	2 – two curb ramps at Euclid and Crystal Way lack required detectable warning surfaces.	Not yet.	Detectable warning surfaces will be installed at these two curb ramps.	Once implemented, the solution will be compliant.	Unknown.
3/24/2025	2 – Alternate pedestrian access route on north side of Kittredge between Shattuck and Harold not compliant with PROWAG.	Not yet.	PW staff will cause the relevant contractor to make the site PROWAG-compliant.	Once implemented, the solution will be compliant.	Likely unsatisfied.
4/28/2025	3 – Request for Administrative Review	Not yet.	Remediate form for WCAG compliance, and	Once implemented, the	Unknown.

	form, posted to City website, does not have fillable fields and thus is presumably not WCAG compliant.		then replace non-compliant version with remediated version.	solution will be compliant.	
5/2/2025	3 – Berkeley Rides for Seniors and the Disabled application form, posted to City website, does not have fillable fields and thus is presumably not WCAG compliant.	6/30/25	Remediate form for WCAG compliance, and then replace non-compliant version with remediated version.	Compliant.	Unknown.
6/3/2025	2 – PROW on west side of Shattuck between Ward and Derby not PROWAG-compliant.	6/5/25	No compliance issues.	Compliant	Unknown
6/4/2025*	5 – Staff allegedly engaged in disability-based discrimination.	8/18/25	Investigation of grievance resulted in no findings of any discriminatory conduct.	Compliant.	Unknown
6/18/2025	2 – accessible parking spot at Milvia/Derby not PROWAG-compliant.	Not yet	Staff are considering remedial options.	Not currently compliant with PROWAG.	Likely unsatisfied.
7/29/2025*	5 – Staff at City-sponsored shelter program allegedly engaged in disability-based discrimination.	Not yet	Grievance currently being investigated.	n/a	n/a
8/6/2025*	5 – Berkeley Wellness Center staff allegedly engaged in disability-based discrimination.	8/13/25	City has no authority or duty to address potential discrimination in non-City programs.	Compliant.	Unknown.

8/20/2025	1 – no accessible parking at Strawberry Creek Park	Not yet	A PROWAG-compliant blue spot will be installed on Addison at northern border of park.	No...will be once remediated.	Unknown
8/22/2025	3 – 2025 Bike Plan Update docs posted to web not WCAQG-compliant.	8/26/25	Non-compliant docs were replaced with compliant versions.	Compliant	Unknown.
9/3/2025	2 – approx. 1” unbeveled elevation within crosswalk near east side of University Ave at Grant St.	Not yet	Staff have instructed EBMUD to shave the elevation until it’s PROWAG-compliant (i.e., to ¼” or less if unbeveled, or to ½” or less if beveled).	Not currently compliant	Likely unsatisfied.
9/4/2025	2 – sidewalk closure on south side of Bancroft, west of Ellsworth, not PROWAG-compliant; also, temporary bike lane at that site not accessible to wheelchair users as required.	Not yet	Staff, before 9/4 is over, will instruct the relevant contractor to render the sidewalk blockage compliant with PROWAG rules re signage and to also build a temporary ramp so that wheelchair users can access the temporary bike lane.	Not currently compliant	Likely unsatisfied.

The above list does not reflect accommodation requests that were promptly approved and met the requester’s satisfaction.

Sept 3, 2025

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this letter is to reach out to you on behalf of 100+ elder ceramic artists of the South Berkeley Senior Center with a matter of great concern and heartfelt urgency.

We were deeply shaken to recently learn that the South Berkeley Senior Center will soon close for renovations, with no plan to relocate what is, to our knowledge, the only equitable, ongoing, and entirely free art program for seniors in Berkeley.

In just two short years, volunteers have breathed new life into what was an essentially abandoned, desolate ceramics studio, turning it into a vibrant sanctuary where both lifelong artists and first-time creators come together to learn, grow, and belong. The response has been overwhelming: the studio is at full capacity, and the waiting list for our free classes continues to grow. This demand speaks volumes about the essential needs our program fulfills.

Though the City has never provided funding, we've sustained the program through the generosity of our members, who are so grateful for all it provides. The Berkeley Senior Center contributes the studio—the room, kiln, and electricity—while we ensure that the instruction, experience and supplies remain completely free and accessible to all.

Creative expression is a powerful tool for healthy aging. For seniors, participating in art offers far-reaching cognitive, emotional, and physical benefits. It can sharpen memory and mental agility, boost mood and emotional resilience, and support fine motor skills and dexterity. Just as importantly, it creates opportunities for social connection, fosters a sense of purpose and accomplishment, and helps ease stress and anxiety.

What makes this studio truly remarkable is not only the creativity it inspires, but the deep human connections it cultivates. At a time when seniors are facing an unprecedented crisis of loneliness, our members—who reflect a wide range of ethnic and economic backgrounds—have built a vibrant, tightly woven community. With nearly 20% of Berkeley's residents over the age of 65, the impact of such a program is both profound and far-reaching.

Yet **this is the only arts program of its kind for seniors in Berkeley, and possibly across the Bay Area—fully inclusive, equitable, and accessible to all.** Losing this program would be a painful and unnecessary setback for our senior community, to equitable programming, and to the Arts. We ask for your support to urge the City to honor and protect what has been built by helping us find a temporary home during the renovation.

In case there is any question, squeezing into the North Berkeley Senior Center is not a viable option. The facility lacks adequate space for our sizable program, has declined to make modifications to accommodate us, offers insufficient parking, and is located too far from most of our members. With the West Berkeley Senior Center permanently closed, our city's large and growing senior population is in urgent need of thoughtful, creative solutions and your

recommendation to the City of Berkeley that they provide a temporary or permanent location for our studio.

If any program embodies the mission of the Berkeley Commission on Aging—to enhance the quality of life for people 55 years and older in Berkeley, and to increase public awareness of their contributions and needs by actively promoting their health, safety, independence and participation in our community.—it is this one. Supporting our studio directly advances that purpose.

Why Frances Albrier?

Berkeley is facing a senior center crisis. Once we had three centers, now we have two, and with the South Berkeley Senior Center closing for renovations, seniors will effectively have just one. Yet, seniors make up over a third of Berkeley's population—about 27,000 people. By comparison, Emeryville, with just 1,500 seniors, has two senior centers. Oakland has ten. Berkeley elders deserve better.

Right now, the Frances Albrier Recreation Center's Art Room is used for a preschool that serves a maximum of 18 children for two and a half hours a day, four days a week. That's, at best, 45 hours of weekly use. Our ceramics studio, by contrast, serves about 30 seniors in a seven hour a day (approximately 84 people hours daily, or 420 hours weekly), a 933% better use of city space.

Berkeley already has countless preschools and 23 after-school programs. But there's only one free ongoing art program for seniors—and only one kiln in the entire city.

This program is not just recreation—it is a lifeline. It keeps seniors connected, creative, and healthy. Without a temporary home, it risks being lost forever.

We respectfully ask the Commission on Disability to urge the Berkeley Parks and Recreation to allocate the Frances Albrier Art Room to the SBSC ceramics studio during renovations. This is the most responsible and equitable use of city resources—and it honors the seniors who built this community.

With gratitude,

The volunteers and members of the Ceramics Studio