



Commission  
on  
Disability

## Commission on Disability Meeting Agenda: November 12, 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: October 8, 2025 meeting\*
6. Approval: Order of Agenda\*

### Presentation

7. Mary Triston, CoB Transportation Services Coordinator, on Berkeley Rides for Seniors and the Disabled

### Discussion/Action Items

8. Draft recommendations for CoB accessibility statements, captioning (meetings/events); accessibility enforcement at CoB-permitted events\*\*
9. WCAG meetings with staff — update
10. PROWAG meeting with staff — update
11. Work Plan Updates and Developments
  - a. Review of priorities
  - d. Schedule of presentations to advance Work Plan priorities

### Commissioner Reports/Announcements

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.

## PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA

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

A link to the complete monthly agenda packet is available for public review by clicking the chevron (i.e., the blue V-shaped symbol) to the right of the monthly meeting date on the [Commission on Disability webpage](#). Physical agenda packets are reviewable during business hours at the Berkeley Central Library (2090 Kittredge St.) and at 1947 Center Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor



## ADA ACCOMMODATIONS

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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 1947 Center Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, during regular business hours. The Commission Agenda and Minutes may be viewed on the Commission on Disability page of the [City of Berkeley website](#).



**Commission on Disability**  
**DRAFT Minutes re October 8, 2025, meeting**  
**North Berkeley Senior Center, Aspen Room**  
**1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709**

**Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order by Chair Pugh 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 Sun, Commissioner Lewkowicz, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Nisen, and Commissioner Coleman.
  - Commissioner on a Leave Of Absence: Commissioner Paz.
  - Staff present: Thomas Gregory and Guillermo Campos.
  - Public members present: Kelley Hammargren and Erik Knaresboro.
4. Public Comments
  - Kelley Hammargren expressed appreciation for CoD and its public meetings.
5. Approval of draft minutes: September 10, 2025 meeting
  - "...to approve the September minutes as drafted."
  - Moved by: Commissioner Lewkowicz; seconded by: Commissioner Sun.
  - Ayes: Commissioners Sun, Lewkowicz, Mann, and Nisen, Chair Pugh, and Vice Chair Fischer.
  - Nays: none.
  - Abstentions: Commissioners Walsh and Coleman.
  - The motion passes.
6. Approval: Order of Agenda
  - "...to approve tonight's agenda."
  - Moved by: Vice Chair Fischer; seconded by: Commissioner Nisen.
  - Ayes: unanimous. The motion passes.

**Commissioner Announcements**

7. Welcome to new Commissioner Valerie Coleman. Introductions by commissioners present.

**Discussion/Action Items**

**9. Vote on 2026 CoD meeting schedule**

"...to approve CoD's 2026 schedule as reflected in the materials accompanying this meeting (assuming that such schedule does not conflict with any religious or cultural holidays)."

Moved by: Chair Pugh; seconded by: Vice Chair Fischer.

Ayes: unanimous. The motion passes.

### **10. Update: CoD/City staff WCAG process**

Commissioner Sun updated on the CoD's ad hoc committee and City staff's efforts to achieve compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1-AA. There have been two committee/staff sessions so far. A third is scheduled for October 16. The City is gathering a list of its publicly-used, online applications, as well as forms and documents that are essential to a constituent seeking to access City services. This list will help assess and prioritize the scope of work. The CoD committee again reiterated that compliance could not be achieved without dedicated staff/consultant hours and recommends .25 FTE of staff, plus .5 FTE of a WCAG/technology experienced consultant to achieve compliance. Vice Chair Fischer is drafting a description of the proposed responsibilities and tasks of these positions.

The committee is advocating for an HTML-first approach, minimizing the amount of info communicated via PDFs. For WCAG, this benefits users of screen readers. It also benefits the 50% (and growing) share of current City website users who access the site with phones/tablets. Vice Chair Fischer is researching options available for creating HTML-ready docs. To test implementation, Vice Chair Fischer suggested that the CoD pilot the HTML-first approach beginning with its agenda packet for the January 2026 meeting.

"...to request that the City use materials generated by CoD for use at its Jan2026 meeting as an "HTML-first" pilot project by which materials posted online re public meetings be provided in HTML format rather than PDF format and that an update on progress toward the Jan2026 goal be brought to the commission at the November meeting."

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

Ayes: unanimous. The motion passes.

### **11. Update: CoD/City staff PROWAG process**

Vice Chair Fischer updated on the CoD/Public Works meeting group with the goal of reaching an effective approach to implementing and enforcing Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). The process was at the direction of the City Council's FITES policy committee in an attempt to reconcile the CoD PROWAG recommendation and the City's negative companion report. The secretary noted that Public Works emailed their meeting participants: Transportation Manager Mark Helmbrecht, Assoc. Traffic Engineer Nhat Phan and ADA Program Coordinator Thomas Gregory. A first meeting will be scheduled shortly.

"...to add Commissioner Coleman to CoD's ad hoc committee re PROWAG compliance."

Moved by: Vice Chair Fischer; seconded by: Chair Pugh.

Ayes: unanimous. The motion passes.

### **12. Recommendations: City meeting accessibility and meeting accessibility statement**

The secretary informed CoD of the City's recent instruction to add "For questions or to request an accessibility accommodation, please contact [contact info]" to all new event pages on the

City's website. He noted that this new policy would not include PDF attachments or flyers. Commissioners discussed how making public meetings hybrid would enhance access for many. The secretary stated that the City plans to make all commission meetings hybrid in early-ish 2026. A commissioner noted that a recently enacted state law, SB707, seeks to require cities to offer public meetings in hybrid format.

Vice Chair Fischer indicated that City-sponsored/approved events must be ADA compliant. She noted her experience of Saturday, 9/27/25 when a street fair that closed Oxford Street from Center St. to University Ave. was set-up with half of its booths inaccessible to wheelchair users. While oversight of the Health Code was conducted by a health inspector prior to opening, nothing similar is done to ensure ADA compliance. Since these CoD recommendations intend to cover events, this issue should be considered for inclusion.

### **13. Work Plan Updates and Developments**

#### a. Review Work Plan draft

Commissioners Coleman and Walsh expressed interest in working on the Work Plan's ADU-related item. Commissioner Coleman volunteered to serve as the CoD's liaison/monitor to the Commission on Aging.

#### b. Discuss useful presentations to advance the Work Plan.

The commission discussed extending an invitation to a member of Mayor Ishii's staff to present on approaches to advance meeting and event accessibility and ADA compliance.

### **Staff Updates**

#### 14. Log of Access Complaints

Chair Pugh asked that the complaints be listed in reverse chronological order so that the more recent complaints appear first.

#### 15. Email and voicemail sent to the Commission

**Adjournment** at 7:35pm by unanimous vote.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Gregory, Secretary to Commission

November2025 - 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
9/18/2025	2 – west side of Oxford, between Addison and University, not PROWAG compliant due to construction.	Not yet	Staff will cause the relevant contractor to make the site compliant.	Compliance not yet verified.	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	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	Compliance not yet verified.	Likely unsatisfied.

	wheelchair users as required.		build a temporary ramp so that wheelchair users can access the temporary bike lane.  Update: PW no longer considering building temporary ramp due to safety concerns.		
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).	Compliance not yet verified.	Likely unsatisfied.
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
7/29/2025*	5 – Staff at City-sponsored shelter program allegedly engaged in disability-based discrimination.	10/24/25	Investigation of grievance yielded no findings of any ADA violations.	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.
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

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.	Currently not compliant.	Likely 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.	Currently not compliant.	Unknown.
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.	Compliance not yet verified.	Unsatisfied.
8/2/2024	2 – Lack of curb ramps at Claremont Ave/Avalon Ave.	Not yet.	Curb ramps to be installed at Claremont/Avalon.	Not yet.  3 of the 4 curb ramps at this intersection have remediated and are now compliant. The fourth curb ramp at the site has not yet been remediated and will hopefully be	Unsatisfied.

				addressed by Nov2025.	
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.	Compliance not yet verified.	Unknown.
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.	Not compliant as of Nov2025.	Unsatisfied.
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.
12/1/23	1 - Complaint that STAIR Center was not ADA-compliant.	Not yet.	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	No compliant solution yet implemented.	Unsatisfied.

			<p>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: October - Jan 2025.</p> <p>Update: the new ETA is that work (which should take roughly four months) will begin in late May2025.</p>		
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.	Site is not yet complaint but the solution, once implemented, will be compliant.	Likely unsatisfied.

			<p>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 ETA on when construction may start, potentially 2 to 3 years.</p>		
6/8/23	<p>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.</p>	Not yet	<p>CMO has established an all-dept Digital Accessibility Task Force, members of whom collaborate monthly with CoD’s ad hoc subcommittee re WCAG compliance. The task force’s goal is to achieve WCAG compliance by April2026.</p>	Not compliant as of Nov2025.	Unsatisfied.

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

Access-related complaints **not** involving purported non-compliance received since previous CoD meeting:

Issue	# of complaints since previous CoD meeting
The intensity of the flashing lights on City vehicles affects me negatively neurologically and needs to be reduced so that I can safely access the City's public rights-of-way	1
Scooters blocking the sidewalk are not removed quickly enough.	6
The amount of time to cross a crosswalk should be increased by 50%, especially at LeRoy/Hearst.	1
Every intersection with pedestrian signals should have Accessible Pedestrian Signals.	1
The amount of time afforded to pedestrians to cross crosswalks on the "Walk" signal should be increased by 50%, especially at the intersection of Leroy/Hearst.	1
The City should install APS at every intersection that features pedestrian signals.	1
The medical office building at 2300 Dana is not compliant, and so the City should make it compliant.	1