



**Commission on Disability**  
**Special Meeting Agenda: January 21, 2026 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: November 12, 2025 meeting\*
6. Approval: Order of Agenda\*

**Discussion/Action Items**

7. Accessibility Guidelines: City Meetings, City-Sponsored & City-Permitted Events\*\*
8. Reports from Commission subcommittees meeting with City staff:
  - a) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
  - b) Public-Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)
9. Vision Zero (2026 Update) Advisory Committee: report from and input to
10. Work Plan Updates and Developments

**Commissioner Reports/Announcements**

**Staff Updates**

11. Log of Access Complaints\*
12. 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) On the Commission on Disability webpage 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

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including remote participation, auxiliary aids or services, please contact the **ADA Program Coordinator at (510) 981-6418 (V), (510) 981-6347 (TDD)** or [ada@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:ada@berkeleyca.gov) at least 72 hours before the meeting begins. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

## PUBLIC RECORD INFORMATION

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 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 webpage of [the City of Berkeley website](#).

### Secretary:

Thomas Gregory  
Public Works Department  
(510) 981-6418  
E-mail: [tgregory@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:tgregory@berkeleyca.gov)

### Mailing Address:

Commission on Disability  
c/o Thomas Gregory  
1947 Center Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704



## Commission on Disability DRAFT Minutes re November 12, 2025 Meeting

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

### Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order by Chair Pugh at 5:04pm
2. Land Acknowledgment recognizing Berkeley as the ancestral, unceded home of the Ohlone People
3. Roll Call by Secretary
  - Commissioners Present: Helen Walsh, Rena Fischer, Kathi Pugh, Bonnie Lewkowicz, Richard Paz, Jae Mann, Fred Nisen, and Valerie Coleman.
  - Commissioners Absent: Mina Sun.
  - Staff present: Thomas Gregory and Mary Triston (presenter).
  - Public present: Maria Sol, Carole Marasovic, and Erik Knaresboro.
4. Public Comments
  - Maria Sol said they appreciate CoD's service.
  - Carole Marasovic said that the elevators in the building at Acton/Grant were frequently not working, making the building inaccessible for disabled tenants. They believe residential buildings should have accessible units on the ground floor, rather than dedicated commercial spaces. The City should ensure that AI technology is not used to the detriment of people with disabilities, low-income people, and others.
  - Erik Knaresboro reported on dangerously deep potholes in the east-west crosswalk at Shattuck/Durant.
5. Approval of draft minutes: October 8, 2025 meeting
  - "...to amend Item #10 of the draft minutes to reflect the motion as passed: '...to request that the City use materials generated by CoD for use at its January 2026 meeting as an "HTML-first" pilot project and that an update on progress toward the January 2026 goal be brought to the commission at the November meeting.'"
  - Moved by: Fischer; seconded by: Lewkowicz.
  - Ayes: Unanimous. The motion passes.
  
  - "...to approve the draft minutes as amended."
  - Moved by: Lewkowicz; seconded by: Coleman.
  - Ayes: Unanimous. The motion passes.
6. Approval: Order of Agenda
  - "...to approve the agenda as drafted."
  - Moved by: Fischer; seconded by: Lewkowicz.
  - Ayes: Unanimous. The motion passes.

## Presentation

7. Mary Triston, CoB Transportation Services Coordinator, on Berkeley Rides for Seniors and the Disabled (BRSD) informed CoD that:

- Easy Does It, the provider of rides for wheelchair users enrolled in BRSD, will once again accept advance reservations for non-medical rides.
- The BRSD first recertification process resulted in a 40-47% reduction in current participants. Mary thought that people had moved, passed away, or otherwise no longer used the program. This will increase capacity for new enrollment.
- Other city ride programs for seniors/disabled people in Alameda County require co-pays of about \$4/ride. BRSD is considering the same.
- BRSD may move toward relying on GoGo Grandparent for riders who do not need EDI vans. Riders would not pay GoGo Grandparent fees.
- Chair Pugh noted that BRSD does not collect email addresses or use online resources and strongly recommended that BRSD provide admin services online, in addition to mail and in-person. CoD indicated that this both improves service to people with disabilities, as computer use increases accessibility, and would result in efficiencies for BRSD. Commissioners strongly suggested collecting user email addresses, use of online satisfaction surveys, and accepting applications to enroll online.

Public Comment: They have had bad experiences with taxi scip and would like BRSD to use GoGo Grandparent more.

## Discussion/Action Items

8. Draft recommendations for CoB accessibility statements, captioning (meetings/events); accessibility enforcement at CoB-permitted events.
- Boilerplate accessibility statements: Commissioners discussed the need to develop consistent statements for City meetings and events. Accessibility statements are currently inconsistent, sometimes inaccurate, and in conflict with one another. Different statement length and content is needed depending on the type of meeting/event and the type of communication—a longer statement vs. a single line.
  - Hybrid rollout: Policy committees are already hybrid; quasi-judicial boards are expected to follow, with full hybrid rollout for all commissions targeted for mid-2026. Captions should be on by default for hybrid meetings. CART/ASL must be provided when needed as an accommodation.
  - Checklists and toolkits: Commissioner Coleman suggested adapting SF's accessible public event checklist and SFMTA's event kit to create a Berkeley accessible event toolkit (checklists, sample wording, signage) for staff and event partners.
  - City-permitted events: Even when plans are accessible when the City permit is given, implementation on the ground can fail (e.g., booths setup facing a median curb). Commissioners stressed the need for enforcement in real time.

Public comment: Many deaf people don't participate at civic events because they believe that events will not be accessible. Providing captioning as standard practice is

a good idea.

#### 9. WCAG meetings with City of Berkeley staff — update

Vice Chair Fischer reported that important steps have been taken by City staff to achieve WCAG compliance, reading from Commissioner Sun’s comment, “I think we’ve made incredible progress, especially in communicating the rationale, urgency and necessary steps toward compliance.”

City communications staff have ramped up significant initiatives, including an active Task Force; internal (intranet) digital accessibility info for staff; meetings with critical City staff and vendors; inclusion in the UC Berkeley Civic Innovation Challenge where students will pitch solutions to improve digital accessibility. However, the subcommittee remains convinced that funding must be committed to achieve compliance by April 24, 2026.

#### 10. PROWAG meeting with staff — update

Commissioner Coleman reported on the PROWAG subcommittee’s first meeting with Public Works (PW) staff. Discussion focused on identifying documents, as early in the PW contracting process as possible, where contractors are informed that PROWAG compliance is mandatory. There are multiple official documents that contain City and PW guidelines, that should (and some do) include PROWAG mandates and guidance.

The subcommittee believes that the signed contract, including a PROWAG contract clause, should be among these documents—and would most effectively support enforcement. This is under review by the City Attorney’s office. The subcommittee expects additional information on this at the December meeting with PW staff.

#### 11. Work Plan Updates and Developments

- a. Review of priorities
- d. Schedule of presentations to advance Work Plan priorities

#### **Staff Updates**

- 12. Log of Access Complaints
- 13. Email and voicemail sent to the Commission – None.

**Adjournment** at 7:18pm

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

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Thomas Gregory, Secretary to Commission

January2026 - 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
11/12/2025	2 – Impermissible changes in elevation existing within the east-west crosswalks at Shattuck and Durant.	Not yet	Staff will remediate violation...no ETA available at this time.	No...will be once remediated.	Unknown.
10/9/2025*	5 – Rent Board staff purportedly impermissibly refused to satisfy a request to postpone a hearing as an ADA accommodation.	Not yet.	Staff will investigate grievance and report findings.	Compliant.	Likely unsatisfied.

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 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.  Update: PW no longer considering building temporary ramp due to safety concerns.	Compliance not yet verified.	Likely unsatisfied.
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.	11/21/2025	Curb ramps to be installed at Claremont/Avalon.	Compliant	Unknown.
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	No compliant solution yet implemented.	Unsatisfied.

			<p>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: 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	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.	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</p>	Not compliant as of Nov2025.	Unsatisfied.

			compliance by April2026.		
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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:

<b>Issue</b>	<b># of complaints since 9/10/25</b>
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	4
Scooters blocking the sidewalk are not removed quickly enough.	15
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.	2
The wifi installation the City has approved to be installed near North Branch Library will, due to electro-sensitivity, render that library branch, as well as a nearby gas station I typically use, inaccessible to me.	1
The City should offer a program that helps constituents vindicate their ADA-Title III rights vis a vis public accommodations, at least those that are located within Berkeley.	1
The medical office building at 2300 Dana is not compliant, and so the City should make it compliant.	1



## Open Government Commission

Date: November 20, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Kitt Saginor, Chair

**Subject: City of Berkeley compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)**

The Open Government Commission (“OGC”) is concerned that many documents provided on the World Wide Web to the members of the public are not accessible to persons with low vision. This includes documents that are crucial to understanding issues coming before City Council, instructions and requirements for candidates for elected office, and even the agenda for the Commission on Disability. This is not only unfortunate, but also it is out of compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Version 2.1, Level AA<sup>1</sup>. Last year, the U.S Department of Justice issued a final rule<sup>2</sup> requiring compliance by April 24, 2026 for local governments which represent 50,000 or more persons.

It is our understanding that City staff have been working with the Commission on Disability to develop and implement the changes needed to bring Berkeley into compliance with the new standards.

I have been directed by OGC to write to you recommending that you prioritize this work and urging you to provide additional resources as needed to bring success to these efforts. Providing relevant information to all persons, including those with low vision, is crucial for Berkeley’s commitments to open government. We look forward to full implementation of these Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

Sincerely,

Kitt Saginor  
Chair, Open Government Commission

cc. Commission on Disability

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<sup>1</sup> Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1. <https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/>

<sup>2</sup> Fact Sheet: New Rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps Provided by State and Local Governments <https://www.ada.gov/resources/2024-03-08-web-rule/> and Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities: A Rule by the Justice Department on 04/24/2024 <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/24/2024-07758/nondiscrimination-on-the-basis-of-disability-accessibility-of-web-information-and-services-of-state>