



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 Crystel 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