



Commission
on
Disability

Commission on Disability DRAFT Minutes re October 14, 2026 meeting

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

Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order by Chair Fischer at 5:04pm
2. Land Acknowledgment recognizing Berkeley as the ancestral, unceded home of the Ohlone People.
3. Roll Call by Secretary
Commissioners present: Rena Fischer, Mina Sun, Bonnie Lewkowicz, Jae Mann, Fred Nisen, and Valerie Coleman
Commissioners on a Leave Of Absence: Helen Walsh and Kathi Pugh
Staff present: Thomas Gregory
Public members present: Odile Lavault (liaison from Commission on Aging), Kelly Hammargren, Maria Sol, and Steven Schuyler
4. Public Comments
Sol praised a local program called Cycling Without Age, and she stated that she, as a disabled pedestrian, frequently is almost collided into by bikes, e-bikes, and scooters while on the sidewalk. She also stated that her path is frequently impeded by scooters that have been mis-parked on sidewalks.

Schuyler reported his extreme disturbance regarding the City's reportedly inadequate response to his recent Public Records Act request regarding the accessibility of the PROW on west side of Oxford between Center and Allston (i.e., next to the proposed development at 2128 Oxford).
5. Approval of draft minutes: September 9, 2026 meeting
"...to approve September's draft minutes." Moved by: Lewkowicz. Seconded by: Sun. Ayes: unanimous. The motion passes.
6. Approval: Order of Agenda
"...to approve the agenda." Moved by: Sun. Seconded by: Fischer. Ayes: unanimous. The motion passes.

Discussion/Action Items

7. Existing ad hoc committees on Micromobility, PROWAG, WCAG: review, extend (if needed) and add target dates for reporting back to the CoD

Fischer proposed establishing target dates by when CoD's various ad hoc committees should wrap up their work and issue final reports to the full commission. Regarding the WCAG committee (i.e., Fischer, Sun, and Nisen):

Nisen proposed that this committee continue its work at least through May of 2027. Sun concurred with Nisen and also suggested that this committee schedule additional meetings with staff to monitor progress toward achieving WCAG compliance City-wide.

A motion was made "...that the ad hoc committee on WCAG be constituted with Sun, Nisen, and Fischer for a term through 5/31/27." Moved by: Fischer. Seconded by: Nisen. Ayes: unanimous. The motion passes.

Regarding the PROWAG committee (i.e., Fischer, Pugh, Lewkowicz, and Coleman): Lewkowicz advised waiting to see how Council votes on CoD's PROWAG recommendation on 10/27/26.

Regarding the Micromobility committee (i.e., Sun, Mann, Nisen, and Coleman): Coleman suggested revisiting the topic of this committee's duration at a subsequent meeting.

8. Ad hoc committee reports: Micromobility, PROWAG, WCAG

Micromobility report:

Coleman reported that this recently created committee has met to discuss objectives, resources, and committee members' respective roles. The committee is scheduling its next meeting.

PROWAG report:

Fischer reported that she has worked with the City's Transportation Mgr. on a document to be included in contractors' packets. The guidance contained in this document is clear; however, the concern is the City's ability to consistently enforce the guidance. The committee is also exploring the possibility of using the City's 311 system to better serve constituents lodging complaints regarding the public right-of-way.

Nisen stated that outreach will be critical to educate the community about processes for reporting access barriers.

WCAG report:

Sun reported that, since the committee's last update, the City has contracted with the Blind Institute of Technology (BIT) to conduct an independent audit of the City's website. Via that audit, BIT identified 176 accessibility issues. Rolling Orange, the vendor who supports the website, has so far remediated 53 of the 176 issues that BIT flagged. The City also retained BIT to assess vendors' VPAT reports and to conduct a series of City-wide trainings to help staff master WCAG compliance when creating digital documents; two of the trainings in this series have already been conducted.

The City has purchased Cognito, which is software designed to create fillable forms that could be posted to the website instead of PDFs. The City is considering also purchasing Doc Access, which is software that creates an "accessibility overlay" for

PDFs.

9. Report to Council: Using the Report & Pay webpage (AKA 311 Online) to report eScooter/micromobility devices

Fischer directed commissioners' attention to the draft recommendation contained in the meeting packet regarding using the 311/Report & Pay system to allow constituents to easily and effectively report micromobility-related barriers within the public right-of-way. Fischer invited commissioners to provide input, with the hope of settling on a final draft at CoD's November meeting. Fischer also emphasized the value of seeking individual Councilmembers' support prior to sending a formal recommendation to Council.

10. Disaster Preparedness: CoD input and the public comment process

Fischer directed commissioners' attention to the Chair-drafted document distributed at the meeting regarding the emergency-preparedness content of the City's draft update to its Safety Element component of its General Plan. Fischer invited commissioners' input, noting that 11/15/26 is the deadline for comments on this draft. Fischer stated that CoD should seek a meeting with the Planning Dept staff developing the draft.

Public comment

Sol stated that emergency preparedness for people with disabilities is a topic critical to the disability community.

11. Work Plan Updates and Developments

Commissioner Reports/Announcements

Nisen announced that anyone experiencing access barriers while trying to cast a vote in November's election is encouraged to call Disability Rights California's voting hotline at (888) 569-7955.

Staff Updates

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

Adjournment at 6:55pm

Minutes approved by CoD vote on: _____

Thomas Gregory, Secretary to Commission