



## ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

WEDNESDAY, April 12, 2023

**In-Person** Meeting, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

[Location: Civic Center Plaza – 1200 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue,  
San Diego, CA 92101, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor – Conference Room](#)

**Chair:** Mary Wolford | Vice Chair: Patricia Sieglen-Perry

**Members:** Elaine Cooluris, Jacqueline Jackson, Diane Koczur, Wayne Landon, Kasey Markoski, Victor Roosen

**Staff Liaison:** Thyme Curtis

**Public Comment on an Agenda Item:** If you wish to address the Board on an item for today's agenda, please complete and submit a speaker form before the Board hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard.

Laurentius Melsen (Netherlands) and Fani Sourla (Greece) introduced themselves. They are both interning with the Sustainability Division of the Sustainability and Mobility Department for one month through the 2023 Young Transatlantic Innovation Leadership Initiative Fellowship via the San Diego Diplomacy Council.

**Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda:** You may address the Board on any matter not listed on today's agenda. Please complete and submit a speaker form. However, California's open meeting laws do not permit the Board to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Board may add the item to a future meeting agenda or refer the matter to staff or committee. Individuals' comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. At the discretion of the Chair, if a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, comments may be limited to a set period of time per item.

- Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call  
10:36 Present: Chair Wolford, Vice Chair Sieglan-Perry, Members Cooluris, Jackson, Koczur, Landon, Markoski, Roosen
- Item 2: Non-Agenda Public Comment
- Item 3: Action: Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2023. Vice Chair Sieglan-Perry motioned to approve, with member Jackson seconding. Passed unanimously.
- Item 4: Information Item: Presentation on Access for All Program (Wheelchair Accessible On-Demand Transit) by Arun Prem, Executive Director, and Meagan Schmidt, Director of Operations, [Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation \(FACT\)](#)

*Related documents:* <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/regulatory-services/licensing/transportation-licensing-and-analysis-branch/transportation-network-companies/tnc-accessibility-for-persons-with-disabilities-program>

Arun Prem, Executive Director for FACT, provided background on FACT. Stated that most of their clients are in City of San Diego, but they operate in the County of San Diego. FACT was created to compliment MTS Access, and serve those who are not served by MTS. FACT serves any seniors (60+ years) irrespective of disability and no documentation of age is required. FACT's total funding last year was \$1.5M which isn't sufficient to cover all services FACT would like to provide. FACT provides approximately 40k rides per year and they've created a brokerage service to provide the rides.

New program with separate grant funding is Access for All. FACT is waiting on detailed agreement from SANDAG; once agreement is signed they are prepared to launch with two weeks notice and plan to launch in May 2023.

Meagan Schmidt stated that the new Access for All program is tentatively named Ride FACT Now. This service is for any purpose and is based on First Come, First Served. Reservation call hours and operations hours is 5:00 AM to 10:00 PM with last pickup 9:00 PM, all seven days a week. CPUC rules set on-demand definition to mean a ride within 24 hours of ride request; SANDAG on-demand definition set requirement to ride arrival within 12 hours of request. FACT will provide ride within 60 minutes of request. FACT has accessible vehicles they will share and now can have dedicated vehicles for this service.

In addition to wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV) currently offered by brokerage service contractor providers, FACT is purchasing 12 new WAV vehicles. If successful in next year's grant FACT will purchase additional 25 WAV vehicles.

Current programs receive local county tax and federal funding, and new Access for All program is through SANDAG's specialized transportation grant. FACT has emphasized to SANDAG they need to make FACT sustainable.

Chair Wolford suggested the Accessibility Advisory Board write letter of support for future grant or funding opportunities.

Mr. Prem invited everyone to tentative program kick-off media event on May 31 @10:00, at the Linda Vista Bayside Community Center.

- Item 5: Information Item: Overview of the City's Mobility Master Plan by Phil Trom, Program Manager, and Christine Mercado, Sr. Traffic Engineer, Sustainability and Mobility Department, City of San Diego

Phil Trom and Cristine Mercado provided an overview of the Mobility Master Plan.

Public Comment:

Carina Contreras from Climate Action Campaign commented on metrics for Mobility Master Plan as they relate to the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Members Cooluris and Markoski commented that they'd like to see significant more opportunity for people with disabilities to collaborate with City staff on draft and final plans; senior population is aging and City needs to have plans that reflect increase people with disabilities; parking and maneuvering on sidewalk in Little Italy is so difficult they'd stopped going to that area.

Chair Wolford commented that the Climate Action Plan, Mobility Master Plan, and specifically the installation of bike lanes reduce accessibility for people with disabilities. She Requested bike lanes be moved one block off commercial corridors to allow for mid-block curbside accessible parking.

Mr. Trom commented that the intention of coming before AAB today is to begin the collaboration dialog for the MMP. Previous plans such as the Bike Master Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, and others were siloed; MMP is a new approach with much more thoughtful development and implementation. Will work with Thyme Curtis to set up workshop specific to people with disabilities now and for final plan.

- Item 6: Information Item: Inclusive Public Engagement Program by Anisha Gianchandani, Program Manager, Planning Department; Helen Weldeghiorgis, Office of Race and Equity, City of San Diego

Discussed project to create an engagement guide for City staff and how engaging with people with disabilities is important part of that guide. Stated that inclusion is a process, equity is an outcome. Public outreach means one-way where City provides info to community; public engagement is two-way where City requests feedback from community. Stated they have seen overrepresentation from certain groups including homeowners, older residents. Want to receive feedback from this board to incorporate into a guide for all City staff.

[Due to time constraints, were not able to engage in meaningful feedback and will come to future meeting].

**MEETING ADJOURNED 12:15 pm**

- Item 7: Ad Hoc Committee Updates
- a. Budget Ad Hoc Committee (Members: Wolford, Sieglen-Perry, Markoski, Koczur)
  - b. Increasing Accessible Housing Ad Hoc Committee (Members: Landon, Roosen)
  - c. Universal Design Ad Hoc Committee (Members: Landon, Jackson)
  - d. MTS Access Policy Ad Hoc Committee (Members: Jackson, Roosen)
  - e. Disability Advocates – Outreach & Recruit Ad Hoc Committee (Members: Markoski, Wolford, Jackson)
  - f. Day with a Disability Ad Hoc Committee (Members: Landon, Roosen)
  - g. Data Collection Ad Hoc Committee (Members: Markoski, Landon)
- Item 8: Chair Report
- Item 9: Liaison Report (Thyme Curtis)
- Item 10: Old Business
- Item 11: Board Comments or Announcements
- Item 12: Adjournment

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: May 10, 2023, at 10:30 AM**

Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for auxiliary aids, services, or interpreters may be requested by contacting Judit Havens at (619) 236-5979 or [adacompliance@sandiego.gov](mailto:adacompliance@sandiego.gov). Please provide as much advance notice as possible in order to ensure availability.