



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, November 10, 2021

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

ONLINE MEETING

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW LIVE](#) VIA Zoom at its scheduled time.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Wolford, Vice Chair Sieglen-Perry, Members Landon, Gibbens, Crisci, and Cooluris

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Arun Prem, Executive Director of FACT – Facilitated Access for Coordinated Transportation – introduced himself.
- 2.

Public Comment Testimony During Board Meetings

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Direction for Speaking During Public Comment

When the chair introduces the item you would like to comment on (or indicates it is time for Non-Agenda Public Comment), raise your hand by either tapping the "Raise your Hand" button on your computer, tablet, or Smartphone, or by dialing *9 on your phone.

You will be taken in the order in which you raise your hand. You may only speak once on a particular item.

When the chair indicates it is your turn to speak, click the unmute prompt that will appear on your computer, tablet or Smartphone, or dial *6 on your phone.

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Development of MTS Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Policy (Leonardo Fewell, For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager, San Diego Metropolitan Transit System)

Mr. Fewell discussed MTS and taxi regulations and processes. Taxi meters are a set fare for the year and governed under local and state regulations. Unlike Ubers and Lyfts, they are heavily regulated, and also can be flagged down by a passenger. MTS abides by ADA and other access laws and regularly reminds taxi drivers that they must allow service animals in their vehicle, among other regulations. Discussed history of general regulations and requested feedback from the Board regarding Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Arun Prem – FACT has 25 Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV) and serves all of San Diego County. FACT services 25,000 WAV trips per year. FACT is eager to be part of the collaboration to provide additional trips. FACT is applying to obtain additional 35-40 WAV vehicles. Stated you can have next-day service for a cost of between \$2.50 - \$10.00 by calling 888-924-3228.

Lily Irani – Issue is very important as several friends use wheelchairs and have difficulty accessing transit. Public infrastructure is supposed to work for everyone and it doesn't right now. Vena Duval wrote a paper how San Francisco treats taxis as a semi-public utility and understanding the regulatory role of having taxis that everyone can use, and I'm happy to see that is the direction we're going here.

Louise Hickman – Stated he uses a wheelchair and has lived in San Diego from 2012 to summer 2021. Taxis have been unreliable and difficult to find. Ubers and Lyfts cannot require drivers to abide by ADA or they become employees.

MEMBER COMMENT

Member Landon has spent hours over several days to find a WAV to the airport. Uber advertised they have WAVs, but non-existent. Transit services that do exist with WAVs, you have to plan ahead and they often deny your request.

Chair Wolford asked Mr. Fewell how many taxis are wheelchair accessible, he replied there are three in San Diego and can be accessed via USA Dispatch or Orange Cab Dispatch.

2. City of San Diego Bicycle Master Plan Implementation (Everett Hauser, Transportation Program Manager, Transportation Department, City of San Diego)

Everett Hauser discussed that the City is installing class 4 bike lanes, which means any on-street parking is now floating parking. He works with the ADA

Compliance and Accessibility team to place accessible spaces.

The latest Bike Master Plan is from 2015, and the Community Plans also include bikeway planning.

Chair Wolford – asked if there are increased complaints? Mr. Hauser stated there is not. Stated bike lanes can be confusing for people with disabilities.

Member Gibbens – asked that Mr. Hauser continues to work with the ADA Compliance and Accessibility team and her mobility experts at the San Diego Center for the Blind to design bike lanes and the accompanying roadway in the best manner possible for individuals who are blind.

Vice Chair Sieglen-Perry – asked about use and placement of the bike lanes. Mr. Hauser stated bike lanes are safer and networks are created in areas that are conducive to bike riding.

ACTION ITEM

1. Accessibility Advisory Board's Budget Committee PowerPoint Presentation for San Diego Mayor and City Council

Chair Wolford shared the Accessibility Advisory Board's Ad Hoc Budget Committee PowerPoint Presentation.

Vice Chair Sieglen-Perry motioned to authorize the Ad Hoc Budget Committee PowerPoint Presentation to revise letter and PowerPoint presentation and present to the Mayor and City Council. Seconded by Member Crisci. Passed unanimously with Chair Wolford, Vice Chair Sieglen-Perry, and Members Landon, Gibbens, Crisci, and Cooluris voting yes.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

1. October 13, 2021

Vice Chair Sieglen-Perry motioned to approve, seconded by Member Gibbens. Passed unanimously with Chair Wolford, Vice Chair Sieglen-Perry, and Members Landon, Gibbens, Crisci, and Cooluris voting yes.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Universal Design Ad Hoc Committee (Members: Kim Gibbens, Wayne Landon)
None

2. Increasing Accessible Housing Ad Hoc Committee (Members: Michelle Crisci and Wayne Landon)

Staff member Thyme Curtis stated that she and her team have worked to finalize the language of the Accessible Housing incentives. The incentives are provided if a developer includes an elevator in a 2-5 story development, as that will trigger all units built adaptable per California Building Code.

3. Budget Ad Hoc Committee (Members: Board Chair Sharla Hank, Mary Wolford, Patricia Sieglen-Perry)

None; update provided in above Action Item.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Wolford reminded Board that to serve on a City Board or Commission they must be vaccinated and update vaccination status to the Office of Boards and Commission.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Curtis stated that the Department of Justice has joined in a lawsuit against Uber alleging the company didn't allow extra time for passengers with disabilities to arrive at the car, as required by law; Mayor Gloria appointed a new member, Mary McKenzie, to the Accessibility Advisory Board, she still needs to be confirmed by Council and the Council date is unknown; Kristy Reeser is the new Deputy Director of the Mobility and Accessibility Division of the Sustainability and Mobility Department, and she is Ms. Curtis's supervisor. She comes from the Streets Division and is very knowledgeable about ADA Complaints in the public rights-of-way as it is her team that remediates curb ramp and other complaints.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Crisci stated that there is still work to be done on the letter to the director of the Office of Boards and Commission, Mathew Gordon, regarding the length of time members are serving on expired terms and length of time the board has vacancies. Chair Wolford created an ad hoc committee to work on the letter and appointed herself and members Crisci and Landon to the committee.

BOARD COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 12:06 PM

NEXT REGULARLY-SCHEDULED MEETING: January 12, 2021 at 10:30 AM

(Board is Dark in December)

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 Thyme Curtis at (619) 236-5979 or TCurtis@sanidiego.gov. Please provide as much advance notice as possible in order to ensure availability.