



**City of Oakland**

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)  
Monday, April 15, 2024 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.  
Hearing Room 2, First Floor  
One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza (City Hall), Oakland, CA 94612

**Minutes**

**Commissioners:** Anwar Baroudi (Chair), Benjamin Bartu (Vice Chair), Noah Smith, Marjorie Lynne, Fatimah Aure, Linda St. Julian, Thomas Cloyd, Linda Stevens

**Commission staff:** Anh Nguyen-ADA Programs Division Manager, Mark Romoser-ADA Programs Division Program Analyst I

**Presenters:** Bruce Curtis, Easy Does It  
Cathy DeLuca, OakDOT

**Other attendees:** Kaitlin Roh, Raven Foote, Lenore Gunst, Sheela Gunn

**Attendees on Zoom:** none

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Mark Romoser begins the meeting with a reminder of rules for in-person meetings:

- No food or open drink allowed in Hearing Room 2 to maintain a clean and professional environment.
- Drinks must be in a closed container to prevent any spills or accidents.
- When commissioners speak- please press the top red button that says "mic" and when you are finished, please press the button again.
- To ensure clarity and transparency, when commissioners speak, please state your name before speaking.
- When a member of the audience is speaking or commenting- please first state your name and any affiliations you may have.
- Restrooms are located outside Hearing Room 2, near the elevators.

## **Exhibit A**

Chair Baroudi called the meeting to order at 5:32.

### **Roll Call**

- At roll call, quorum was established with seven of eight commissioners present.

<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Present (x)</b>
Anwar Baroudi (Chair)	X
Benjamin Bartu (Vice Chair)	X
Noah Smith	X
Marjorie Lynne	Absent (excused)
Linda St. Julian	X
Fatimah Aure	X
Thomas Cloyd	X
Linda Stevens	X

**Open Forum:** Sheela Gunn from TheCIL had concerns about the AC Transit proposal to locate bus stops within streets. They want to do traffic calming in an organic, accessible way. They would like to get information from AC Transit about traffic calming. They were on San Pablo between 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup>. There are potholes in the sidewalks.

Lenore Gunst, chair of MCOA, had an update on the meeting at the East Oakland Senior Center. Chair Baroudi attended. About 60 people attended. Members of CBOs were represented. Supervisor Miley, OPL, OPD, CM Reid and staff were present. There were heart-rending stories about trash in East Oakland. There is a new aging and adult services coordinator, Ana Bagtas. She has worked in Marin and Alameda. Advocacy: The budget revision is underway. There is not enough money to deliver programs. The city will be setting up meetings with council. She will let Chair Baroudi know when this meeting takes place. There will be an updated needs assessment that would include listening sessions in each district in multiple languages at lots of locations.

TheCIL sent a letter to all four senior centers from their emergency preparedness team. The budgets for senior and disability services overlap and intertwine.

## ***Exhibit A***

Comm. Stevens mentioned that Regional Center of the East Bay should have been involved in MCOA's meeting as well.

Chair Baroudi was excited at getting feedback and praised Ms. Gunst for getting it organized. Crystal Wang from AC Transit assured him that center boarding would not be used elsewhere.

### **Approval Of Minutes**

- Vice Chair Bartu made a motion to approve the March 2024 minutes. Comm. Stevens seconded. Motion was approved 7-0.

### **Commissioner's Announcements**

Comm. Smith mentioned that the ad hoc committee on hybrid meetings (comprised of Comm. Smith, Chair Baroudi, and Vice Chair Bartu) met to discuss several options for hybrid meetings. AB 2449 allows commissioners to meet remotely but not count towards quorum. Advocacy: writing letters to the governor, legislature and city officials. He is following litigation between DRA and Berkeley over hybrid meetings.

### **Letter of Support For Quick-Build Traffic Calming Projects**

- Vice Chair Bartu has drafted a letter of support for the quick-build traffic calming projects discussed at the March meeting.
- Chair Baroudi recused himself from the discussion due to his involvement with Transport Oakland. Vice Chair Bartu assumed the duties of chair.
- Acting Chair Bartu instructed the commissioners to take a minute to read the letter. At the request of a member of the public, he then read the letter aloud.
- Member of the public Sheela Gunn stated their concern that when things change rapidly, access may not be included in it. They don't have time to do the work around access. They want to make sure that it is included. The city put slap-bang stuff at Brookdale and Fruitvale that did not work for them.
- Mr. Baroudi noted that the average person is not a traffic engineer. Specific guidelines and a toolkit are given to residents. It has been

## **Exhibit A**

made clear to DOT that we will have some input into the creation of these guidelines. People trying to make their areas safer could learn more about how to build access into these projects. We will invite them to present.

- Sheela Gunn mentioned that Caltrans has some good guidelines.
- Comm. Cloyd asked for a recap of last month's proposal. Mr. Baroudi gave the recap, giving an example of a 90-day pilot project at a school.
- Acting Chair Bartu asked for motions. Mr. Baroudi noted that city council is providing a report next week. Comm. Smith moved to support the letter. Comm. Cloyd seconded. Motion carries 6-0.
- Chair Baroudi resumed his duties as chair.

### **Easy Does It Services**

- Bruce Curtis from Easy Does It gave his presentation.
- Comm. Cloyd stated that EDI was an amazing program. He asked the following: 1) What are you doing in terms of outreach? 2) How much are these services used? 3) Do we have anything like this in Oakland? Mr. Curtis replied that the Oakland Transportation Commission is re-funding this for 4 or 5 more years, that the program started right before COVID, which resulted in usage being greatly reduced. He said that the number of people using the service is tiny. They have a community outreach person who goes to events and tables and hands out pamphlets and information. He estimated usage at 5 calls a month. He noted that Berkeley is funding TheCIL's wheelchair repair program and bringing new staff on, since the repairman's main job is building ramps. He held a meeting with TheCIL a couple of days ago. He pointed out that the attendant program is restricted to Berkeley residents. He believes that Oakland should consider joining it, but that financial difficulties make that unlikely.
- Chair Baroudi asked about the paratransit program. Mr. Curtis replied that it was based on a contract with Berkeley. Baroudi asked if the repair program be ongoing? Mr. Curtis stated that EDI has had to say no to requests from Oakland in the past, and he got a grant that will last through next year and will write more grants as needed.
- Member of the public Sheela Gunn stated that they will notify CRIL about the service being available in Hayward. They noted that Oakland paratransit uses paper vouchers for taxis, which don't work

## **Exhibit A**

for blind people. They mentioned the Oakland disabled listserv on Google Groups, and that they want to be of assistance.

- Chair Baroudi asked if we could get the contact information, and what number to use for non-urgent requests. Mr. Curtis replied that dispatchers work around the clock. Chair Baroudi then asked about wheelchair rescue. Mr. Curtis replied that it worked the same way, and that they try to keep response time under an hour.

### **Quick-Build Traffic Calming Pilot Projects**

- Cathy DeLuca from OakDOT gave her presentation.
- Comm. St. Julian asked if this was a bike lane. Ms. DeLuca replied that the path is for both walking and biking. St. Julian asked where the buffer was located. Ms. DeLuca replied that it was between the path and the street. St. Julian noted that bike lanes do not leave room to drive or park, and that people park on Telegraph in the middle of the street.
- Comm. St. Julian left at 6:45.
- Chair Baroudi mentioned sidewalk expansion.
- Comm. Smith expressed concerns about shared paths between bikes and pedestrians, particularly scooters and e-bikes. He expressed a desire to protect pedestrians from those users and noted that people with wheelchairs and those with vision impairments can't move out of the way as quickly.
- Comm. Cloyd noted that bike lanes are smother than sidewalks and less full of potholes, and that you can't move out of the way of a 60-pound e-bike.
- Chair Baroudi stated that the path is 10 feet wide. Ms. DeLuca confirmed that Phase 3 is 10 feet. Chair Baroudi asked if there were ways to have more space, noting that the lanes on Seminary are very wide. He suggested removing medians, getting off the shared-use path, and curb extensions. He noted that the small medians are not useful for pedestrians, and that flashing beacons aren't super reliable. He asked if there were planned crossings at every block. Ms. DeLuca replied that there would be a few key ones, with pedestrian hybrid beacons which function more like a traffic light.

Sheela Gunn asked about a stripe or detectable edge, noted that wider paths are scarier, and suggested trying to walk a straight line

## **Exhibit A**

when you're blind. They are ready to protest to stop sharing sidewalks with wheeled vehicles other than mobility devices. They noted that hoverboards and similar devices are soundless, that their riders won't stay in their lanes, that sighted people don't pay attention, and that wide pathways get them lost. They need to see a mockup. They want input from folks with different disabilities, as well as real lights and audible pedestrian signals.

### **Staff Updates and Announcements**

- The City of Oakland, in partnership with the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit), are working to design, analyze, and ultimately enhance transit and roadway safety along East Oakland's International Boulevard corridor.

AC Transit initially took the lead and spearheaded transit improvements, known as the International Boulevard Quick Build project, primarily along the corridor's Tempo-Line 1T Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes. Commonly referred to as "Quick Build," the project now spans from 14th to 107th Avenues and has been a close collaboration with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Oakland Fire Department (OFD), Oakland Police Department (OPD), and the Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT).

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Comm. Cloyd asked if there would be an opportunity to brainstorm things like responses to proposals or outreach relating to Easy Does It, and whether that could be a future agenda item for discussion. Chair Baroudi replied that we can schedule discussions and, if needed, form committees. Anh Nguyen noted that, depending on the topic, commissioners formed ad hoc committees such as social media, community engagement, and hybrid. He added that ad hoc committees may include members of the public. Chair Baroudi opined if, on top of advocacy for aging services, there was advocacy that ADA Programs Division staff is doing around the budget.
- Sheela Gunn asked if, once the committee is formed, people talk, then report back from committee to commission? Anh Nguyen replied that that was correct. Baroudi: members of the public Comm. Cloyd: asked if there could be an ad hoc committee for Easy Does It

***Exhibit A***

outreach. Chair Baroudi suggested we agendaize this for our next meeting. Staff to follow up with officers.

Chair Baroudi asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Comm. Smith so moved, and Comm. Aure seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07.

DRAFT