



City of Oakland

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)
Monday, August 19, 2024 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Hearing Room 1, 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, Raven Foote, Brittaney Creswell, Kaitlin Roh

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

Presenters: Maria Henderson and Michael Eshleman, AC Transit
Darin Ranelletti, Link21
Katharine Wolf, UC Berkeley

Other attendees: Sheela Gunn, James Carter

Attendees on Zoom: none

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

- No food or open drink allowed in Hearing Room 1 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 1, near the elevators.

Exhibit A

Chair Baroudi called the meeting to order at 5:31.

Roll Call

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

Commissioners	Present (x)
Anwar Baroudi (Chair)	X
Benjamin Bartu (Vice Chair)	X
Noah Smith	X
Marjorie Lynne	X
Linda St. Julian	X
Fatimah Aure	Absent (excused)
Thomas Cloyd	Absent (excused)
Linda Stevens	Absent (excused)
Raven Foote	X
Brittaney Creswell	Absent (excused)
Kaitlin Roh	X

Open Forum: Dan Lee sent a comment about how ADA lawsuits are affecting his and other small businesses in Oakland. His suggestions included a website explaining Title III to small business owners, expedited permitting, allocating funds for access upgrades as San Francisco does, a list of consulting and construction companies, and drawing attention to the lawsuit issue.

Sheela Gunn mentioned that the construction at Fruitvale BART has impeded their access from the bus stop to the station, and that only one gate in each direction was functioning. They need MCPD to get this addressed. They later mentioned that the fire in Chinatown has left one person without housing after November.

Approval Of Minutes

- Comm. Lynne made a motion to approve the July 2024 minutes. Comm. Bartu seconded. Motion was approved 7-0.

Commissioner's Announcements

Exhibit A

- Comm. Smith mentioned that the elevator ordinance passed on July 30. He thanked Chair Baroudi and Comm. Cloyd for testifying before council, and the city attorney's office, and attorney Celia McGuinness. Also, there has been a recent AG opinion about hybrid meetings stating that remote participation is allowed as an ADA accommodation. Comm. Lynne then thanked Comm. Smith.
- Chair Baroudi participated in UC Berkeley focus group meetings around strategic planning for access.

AC Transit ReAlign Project

- Maria Henderson and Michael Eshleman from AC Transit gave their presentation.
- Comm. Lynne asked how they're spreading the word. Ms. Henderson replied that they attend community events with materials. Comm. Lynne asked if they were engaging local community leaders. Ms. Henderson replied that elected officials and other leaders were given take-one handouts. Also, social media and e-news.
- Chair Baroudi asked about paratransit coverage. Mr. Eshleman replied that the board hasn't made that decision.
- Comm. St. Julian asked about frequency. Mike replied that all lines in Oakland were 30 minutes or better except for the 46L. Comm. St. Julian praised the schedules posted at bus stops.
- Comm. Roh said it would be helpful to have maps of the various paratransit coverage areas.
- Comm. Smith asked if they were looking for support for keeping the 2019 map. Mr. Eshleman replied that staff has no official position.
- Chair Baroudi asked if the changes to paratransit would not go into effect. Mr. Eshleman replied that it hasn't yet been in a staff report, and that the board would determine the cost to provide the service. Baroudi asked whether Realign+ was aspirational. Mr. Eshleman replied that it is part of the plan. Baroudi asked about retention and break times. Mr. Eshleman replied that issues included commute times, pay, breaks, etc. Chair Baroudi asked whether the public comment period could be extended after the last meeting. Ms. Henderson replied that the period opened on Aug. 7, and the plan has been posted on their website and otherwise publicized. Mr. Eshleman added that the board had set that date.

Exhibit A

- Sheela Gunn mentioned that they were a bus rider and that 70% of PWDs were unemployed or underemployed. “If the buses don’t work, neither do I.” They have lost Tempo to poor access and BART has reduced service. They mentioned that the 28 in Castro Valley runs hourly and doesn’t stop near their destination. They agreed with Chair Baroudi about the comment period. They mentioned that a bond measure for transit funding might not pass.
- James Carter asked for information about where disabled ridership is located and asked for an extension of the comment period.

Link21

- Darin Ranelletti from Link21 gave his presentation.
- Chair Baroudi asked how Link21 was organized. Mr. Ranelletti replied that it’s managed by BART and Capitol Corridor and that Caltrain, Amtrak’s San Joaquins, etc. could be brought in and a joint powers authority formed.
- Vice Chair Bartu asked about environmental goals. Mr. Ranelletti replied that a reduction of greenhouse gases was expected, and that 100-year flood levels would be taken into account; for instance, Jack London station might be moved.
- Comm. Lynne asked if they were building underground because of wildfires. Mr. Ranelletti replied that it’s mostly within urban areas so there’s little wildfire risk, but people don’t want train lines at or above grade.
- Comm. Roh brought up crossings and safety, then asked about affordability of transit. Mr. Ranelletti replied that Capitol Corridor is more expensive than BART, and that Link21 fares would emulate BART’s.
- Chair Baroudi asked if West Oakland BART station would be abandoned. Mr. Ranelletti replied that there would still be service to West Oakland; the new crossing would be a second crossing. However, West Oakland station would not be connected directly to Jack London.
- Sheela Gunn mentioned that Salesforce Transit Center is difficult to use. They asked if Link21 could be designed for access from the start. They mentioned that wildfire risk might increase in urban areas. They mentioned that Tempo was poorly designed.

Exhibit A

- Chair Baroudi asked about connections to high-speed rail. Mr. Ranelletti replied that high-speed rail would terminate at Salesforce and connect to Link21 there, since HSR is standard gauge.

Chair Baroudi called for a two-minute recess.

Prop 1 and other behavioral health legislation

- Katharine Wolf gave her presentation.
- Motion made by Comm. Lynne, seconded by Vice Chair Bartu, to extend the meeting until 7:40. Passed with no opposition.
- Comm. St. Julian asked about the age groups affected. Ms. Wolf replied that all ages were. Comm. St. Julian then asked about seniors.
- Comm. Lynne asked about the assets of those conserved and if they can be seized to pay for care. Ms. Wolf replied that she didn't know, and that there are two types of conservatorship: probate and Lanterman-Petris-Short.
- Comm. Foote mentioned that she is a probate examiner and reviews conservatorship cases, and that conservatorship accounting is required.
- Chair Baroudi asked about the expansion of the definition of "gravely disabled" to include substance use. Ms. Wolf replied that it did not apply elsewhere. Chair Baroudi then asked about flunking out of CARE Court. Wolf replied that different counties have different approaches. If you miss a hearing date or don't complete your treatment plan, you can be reclassified to a higher level of care.
- Comm. St. Julian stated that laws need to be changed so that family members can't abuse people.
- Comm. Roh asked about finding a stable place for people to go. Ms. Wolf replied that people are sometimes held in jail because of the lack of suitable places for them.

Staff Updates and Announcements

- Anh Nguyen announced that, in the interest of time, staff announcements will be emailed to the commissioners.

Exhibit A

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.