



City of Oakland

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)
Monday, May 20, 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: Colin Dentel-Post, Alameda County Transportation Commission
Jane Mei, OakDOT
Ruth Meza, OakDOT

Other attendees: Sheela Gunn, Noombi Hasan, Matthew Bomberg, Patricia Schader, Manuel Corona, Luis Dominguez, Ross Gibson, Acacia Dupierre

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.

Exhibit A

- Restrooms are located outside Hearing Room 1, near the elevators.

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

Roll Call

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

Commissioners	Present (x)
Anwar Baroudi (Chair)	X
Benjamin Bartu (Vice Chair)	Absent (excused)
Noah Smith	Arrived 5:38
Marjorie Lynne	X
Linda St. Julian	Absent
Fatimah Aure	X
Thomas Cloyd	X
Linda Stevens	Absent (excused)
Raven Foote	X
Brittaney Creswell	X
Kaitlin Roh	Absent (excused)

Open Forum: Sheela Gunn from TheCIL mentioned that the city of Oakland has released its annual Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) progress report for public comment. Comment is due by May 28. Also, Fire Safety Week is upcoming. Listos, a project of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, has new information about pets and fires. They noted that heat events are not considered emergencies, and expressed willingness to do a presentation for MCPD.

Approval Of Minutes

- Chair Baroudi made a motion to approve the April 2024 minutes. Comm. Aure seconded. Motion was approved 7-0.

Exhibit A

Commissioner's Announcements

Commissioners Creswell and Foote introduced themselves. Chair Baroudi mentioned that he wrote an annual report to be presented to the City Council's Life Enrichment Committee, and attended a series of meetings between MCPD commissioners and city staff. Comm. Cloyd added that he had attended the meeting specific to Goal Area 4 of MCPD's strategic plan. Comm. Smith mentioned that he had attended two of these meetings.

San Pablo Avenue Multimodal Project

- Colin Dentel-Post from Alameda County Transportation Commission gave his presentation.
- Comm. Lynne asked how many accessible parking spaces would be lost to the project. Mr. Dentel-Post replied that there would be very few, that they could be relocated around the corner onto side streets, and that ACTC is working with city staff on the issue. Comm. Lynne mentioned that drives with placards should be allowed to stop in bus lanes, particularly those with fatiguing disabilities.
- Comm. Cloyd seconded the idea of drivers with placards stopping in bus lanes or paratransit positions. He also noted that bike lanes are better maintained than curb ramps, and that there needs to be space for loading at the bottom of bus ramps.
- Comm. Creswell asked about the distance between bus stops after some are removed. Mr. Dentel-Post replied that the additional distance would be a block or two, with two stops being combined to one in the middle, and that the additional distance would average one-sixth of a mile.
- Chair Baroudi asked if this project was tied in to AC Transit's Realign project. Mr. Dentel-Post replied that it was not, but rather an infrastructure project that would alter the stop pattern. Chair Baroudi asked how a blind person would know where the mid-block crossings are located. Mr. Dentel-Post replied that features could be added to the design. Matthew Bomberg from ACTC mentioned a detectable edge that would have a break in it to mark the crossing, and that domes and color contrast could also be used. Chair Baroudi pointed out the situation where cyclists have to shift lanes mid-intersection, which can make crossing tricky as it is on International. He noted that

Exhibit A

blind people can't make eye contact with cyclists, and that benches are preferred to leaning platforms. He also asked if San Pablo was a heavy trucking route. Mr. Dentel-Post replied that truck usage was lower than they had anticipated. Chair Baroudi asked about reducing the lane width to 10 feet. Mr. Dentel-Post replied that the portion of San Pablo north of 580 is a state highway and is thus subject to Caltrans' minimum width of 11 feet, which ACTC is trying to get reduced to 10 and a half, and that there may be pinch points where this is necessary. Chair Baroudi mentioned that he'd love to talk more about Page 13 of the presentation, which he described as a massive mess for blind or low-vision people trying to distinguish between bike lanes and the rest of the street.

- Sheela Gunn said that they did not want to share the sidewalk with bikes, that cyclists often act as if they had the right of way, and that wheeled vehicles other than mobility devices should not be on the sidewalk. They pointed out that T intersections are difficult because they can't tell where to go, they don't trust the lights, and flashing beacons are useless because drivers don't pay attention to them. They suggest consulting with the San Francisco and Bayview chapters of the California Council of the Blind. They can't picture the design without 3D models.

Action item: Mr. Dentel-Post replied that ACTC can work with staff to make the presentation accessible, has talked to other disability organizations, and may flesh this out later in the design process.

73rd Avenue Project

- Jane Mei from OakDOT gave her presentation.
- Comm. Smith questioned the design of the median path and wants ways to separate cyclists and pedestrians, not only creating separate lanes but enforcing them. Ms. Mei replied that they are looking for ways to separate the two.

Exhibit A

- Comm. Foote asked if the project would include fixing potholes, noting that East Oakland has more of them than other parts of the city. Ms. Mei replied that the project would include repaving the street.
- Comm. Lynne asked about sidewalk access, and suggested that OakDOT talk to residents about their sidewalks. Manuel Corona from OakDOT replied that they will be updating the sidewalk, which will be rebuilt for both slope and brokenness.
- Chair Baroudi stated that the mixed-use path looks like a bike path which does not benefit pedestrians. He asked if the bike path could be on the side of the road rather than in the middle. Ms. Mei replied that a lot of the benefits were for cyclists, but that they were also trying to make things easier for pedestrians. She noted that crossings of 73rd, a very wide street, would be reduced in length. Chair Baroudi said it was dishonest to call it a multi-use path when it's primarily a bike path. Ms. Mei replied that they were working towards separation of bikes and pedestrians, and that expanding sidewalks would double the price of the project. Manuel Corona added that the images in the presentation were concept-based, and that OakDOT would be working on this over the next 18 months, and that there were driveway conflicts along the side of the road. Chair Baroudi asked if the lane width could be reduced from 11 to 10 feet. Mr. Corona replied that it could not, because an AC Transit route runs along it and it's part of a national system of roads. Chair Baroudi then asked if it needed to be a two-lane street. Mr. Corona replied that residents were worried about traffic backups.
- Sheela Gunn asked about landscaping as separation, and noted that they frequently run into obstacles, and follow edges rather than middles. Comm. Lynne asked if there would still be sidewalks. Ms. Mei replied that there would be.

Embarcadero West Rail Safety and Access Improvements

- Ruth Meza gave her presentation.
- Comm. Cloyd mentioned that the sidewalks in the Jack London area were beat up. Ms. Meza replied that they would be fixed. Comm. Cloyd stated that mixed-use implied that everyone was able-bodied.
- Chair Baroudi noted that able-bodied people could navigate around the railroad crossing gates, but people with disabilities could be trapped.

Exhibit A

- Comm. Smith pointed out that the various presentations all have different plans, and asked if there could be ideas that were uniform across the city. Ms. Meza replied that Embarcadero West is unique because of the railroad tracks in the street, and added that there was some coordination across projects but that it could be better.
- Chair Baroudi mentioned that it wouldn't be possible to get a letter of support ready by May 28th. Ms. Meza replied that it would be OK to submit the letter in June.
- Sheela Gunn pointed out that there must be some standards, and recommended that OakDOT consult with an expert at Caltrans. They went on to mention that bulbouts confuse them because traffic is telling them to do one thing but the bulbouts are telling them to step into the street.

Staff Updates and Announcements

- A series of introductory meetings has been held between the ADA staff, MCPD Commissioners and the city dept staff who work on their chosen goal areas. So far, we've covered Goal 1 (other than EMSD), Goal 3 (broken up into two separate meeting DOT and everyone else because it covers a large area), Goal 4 and Goal 5. For Goal 2, we've been waiting for a second commissioner to choose this goal so that it is manageable before a meeting is set up.
- StaceyFest: Disability Love and Legacy Celebration, a project of Disability Justice Culture Club, is the first disability culture festival ever held in Oakland and an opportunity to celebrate the ongoing legacy of disability justice advocate Stacey Park Milbern. It is intended to be a transformative community gathering. Disability resources and mainstream views tend to focus on a medicalized and limited view of disability, rather than on the complex and dynamic experiences that make up the disability community. StaceyFest will shift the focus to powerful disability networks and culture, through storytelling, performance, art and more.

The event is planned to be on Saturday, July 20, 2024 at Frank Ogawa Plaza.

- The City of Oakland is excited to share the draft annual progress report for the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Exhibit A

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) strives to inventory potential hazards that the City of Oakland is most vulnerable to, assess risks to the city's residents, buildings and critical facilities, and develop a mitigation strategy to reduce the risk of exposure and allow a swift and organized recovery should a disaster occur. This mitigation strategy is reflected in an Action Plan. In the past year, the City of Oakland has been busy working efforts to mitigate hazards, including:

- * Development of a Vegetation Management Plan to reduce wildfire hazards, scheduled to be approved in May 2024
- * Declaration of wildfire management as a Citywide priority
- * Successful fundraising for a Municipal Resilience Hub at the Lincoln Community Center, including a \$9.25 million grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture
- * Development of conceptual project which would construct bioretention facilities around Raimondi Park, which would treat 4 acres of impervious roadway and remove PCBs from stormwater from a 43-acre drainage area using high-flow biofilters.

Each year, City staff develop a LHMP Annual Progress Report describing the progress on the LHMP Action Plan. Our 2024 LHMP Annual Progress Report is now available and will be open for public comment from May 13 – May 28, 2024. The actual plan and additional resources are available here: <https://cao-94612.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/documents/2024-LHMP-Annual-Progress-Report-for-Public-Comment-5.10.24.pdf>

- AC Transit has released its Realign plan for public comment, which is due by June 5. Details at [AC Transit Realign | Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District](#) .

Future Agenda Items

- There was no discussion of future agenda items.

Chair Baroudi asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Comm. Smith so moved, and Comm. Creswell seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17.