



City of Oakland

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)
Monday, February 26, 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, Barry Robinson, Linda St. Julian, Thomas Cloyd, Linda Stevens

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

Presenters: Joanna Winter and Michelle Matranga, OakDOT
Marchelle Huggins, Housing and Community Development
Cathy DeLuca, OakDOT

Other attendees: Monica Davis, Kaitlin Roh, Raven Foote, Andrea Mok, Sheela Gunn

Attendees on Zoom: Brittaney Creswell, Kevy Patricio

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.

Chair Baroudi called the meeting to order at 5:36.

Roll Call

- At roll call, quorum was not established with five of nine commissioners present (X).

Commissioners	Present (x)
Anwar Baroudi (Chair)	X
Benjamin Bartu (Vice Chair)	X
Noah Smith	Absent (excused)
Marjorie Lynne	Absent (excused)
Linda St. Julian	X (arrived 5:50)
Fatimah Aure	X
Barry Robinson	Absent
Thomas Cloyd	X
Linda Stevens	X

Open Forum: Deputy city administrator Monica Davis introduced herself and noted that part of her job is to oversee boards and commissions such as MCPD.

Approval Of Minutes

- Minutes could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

Commissioner's Announcements

- Commissioners Cloyd and Stevens introduced themselves.
- Chair Baroudi said that he had been following the Upper Telegraph project. He also mentioned a traffic safety workshop in West Oakland.
- Vice Chair Bartu spoke about Proposition 1, a state ballot measure that would change the way mental health funding is distributed.

Downtown Oakland Specific Plan and Universal Design

- Joanna Winter and Michelle Matranga from OakDOT gave their presentation.

- Commissioner St. Julian arrived at 5:50.
- Commissioner Cloyd asked three questions: What is the definition of disability and of universal design? Do you have success measures for these projects? How can we partner with you? He suggested that it should start with mobility. Sidewalks and curbs are often not accessible. Ms. Winter said she did not have definitions but has worked with ADA Programs Division and conducted a survey. She has no definition of universal design or success measures yet for specific policies. As for partnering, they will be bringing programs to MCPD.
- Chair Baroudi asked about impact fees funding services. Ms. Winter mentioned three impact fees, which are not meant to fund existing services but to address the impacts of new development (affordable housing, transportation, other capital improvements). He then asked about the timeline for the plan and zoning amendments. Ms. Winter said the plan would be published in a month or so, planning commission around May, adopted by council before summer recess. Baroudi asked if the draft and zoning amendments be unveiled at the meeting? Winter: zoning amendments about a month after. Baroudi: Will this interact with Vision 980? Winter: We interact with DOT and Caltrans. Baroudi: Renderings of Victory Court and other projects are speculative? Winter: Those are examples of what could be developed there. There are no specific plans yet. Baroudi: Stricter standards for accessibility on new designs? Winter: We've heard ideas like visitability.
- Member of the public Sheela Gunn works for TheCIL. Their first question was about the need for a strong assurance that the ADA will be a floor and not a ceiling, and that that commitment will not be eroded. On playgrounds, they asked if Ms. Winter had spoken with The Looking Glass at Ed Roberts Campus, and added that when talking about transportation, please put in info boxes with speech. They need descriptions of maps. Plazas like Frank Ogawa are nightmares. Straight paths are better. Ms. Winter agreed with the ADA as a floor and with Looking Glass, and said that the other comments will be passed on to DOT.
- Commissioner Stevens left at 6:25.

Residential Lending Programs

- Marchelle Huggins from Housing and Community Development gave her presentation.
- Commissioner St. Julian asked what program this was. Ms. Huggins replied that it was a city program but that they partner with agencies like Habitat. Are they grants or loans? Huggins: Two loan and three grant programs. St. Julian is having a problem with one of her buildings. Discussion of lead abatement.
- Chair Baroudi noted that sidewalks are the responsibility of homeowners. He asked which program sidewalk repair would fall under. Ms. Huggins replied Access improvement. Chair Baroudi asked about renters. Ms. Huggins said that the landlord would consent to the repairs.
- Ms. Huggins returned to her presentation.
- Member of the public Sheela Gunn said that they were in Section 8 and was curious about grab bars and similar access improvements. Commissioner St. Julian suggested contacting the landlord. Ms. Huggins said that those were eligible for the Access Improvement Program with landlord's consent. Commissioner St. Julian asked about interest rates. Ms. Huggins replied they were 0-3%, and that the loan was not due until property is sold.

Upper Telegraph Project

- Cathy DeLuca gave her presentation.
- Commissioner St. Julian mentioned that all the parking on Shattuck is gone, making it difficult to get to local stores. She did not want to see that on Telegraph.
- Chair Baroudi asked how much space is needed for bus boarding islands: Ms. DeLuca said that we don't have specific measurements yet. Chair Baroudi said that the ramp on the bus has to fit. They should be at least 6 feet. Bus lanes would serve as a right-turn lane. Bus-only lanes are not worth the safety hazards. Will paving

programs going forward reflect the new daylighting law? Ms. DeLuca replied that the law is new and that they're figuring out how to implement it. The plan is to do it incrementally with projects. This project probably will include them. Chair Baroudi said he was in favor of the plan without bus lanes.

- Commissioner Cloyd mentioned accessible parking, and that it can be difficult to get out with an accessible van. If you're let out directly onto the street, it becomes dangerous. He asked how we get people onto the curb. Ms. DeLuca replied that a senior housing development on Martin Luther King Jr. Way has dedicated paratransit spaces.
- Sheela Gunn said they hate flashing lights at crosswalks. They do nothing. They gave the example of Brookdale and Fruitvale, especially at rush hour. It took people about a year to learn that the flashing light meant stop. They were hit by a car years ago. They never want to stand on a bus island in the middle of a street. The Tempo islands are too narrow as it is. They favor Plan 1, but we're losing our main thoroughfares. They need access to the curb.
- Chair Baroudi asked if there were any preliminary results from the survey. Ms. DeLuca replied that there was an even split between the two options.
- Commissioner St. Julian asked if they were looking to change Telegraph and noted that they've taken all the parking away in Temescal.
- Sheela Gunn noted that bulbouts don't work for blind people.
- Commissioner St. Julian asked if they were going to change Telegraph. Chair Baroudi replied that there would be a quick build for the first phase in June. Ms. DeLuca added that there would be posts surrounding bus lanes.

Strategic Planning

- The strategic plan was tabled due to lack of quorum.

Staff Updates and Announcements

- Mr. Romoser read the staff announcements.

Future Agenda Items

- Commissioner Cloyd called for better recruiting, better access in City Hall, and mentioned access issues for presenters.
- Chair Baroudi wants to hear back from AC Transit.

Chair Baroudi adjourned the meeting at 7:31.