



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Myrna Cabanban
David Wolf
Iran Hopkins
Dr. Robert Bitonte
Richard Rothenberg
Alisa Schlesinger
Candace Cable
Robert Williams
Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability.

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney III, City Attorney's Office.

GUESTS:

Adam Stephenson, Senior Director, Los Angeles METRO.

Anne Flores, Los Angeles METRO.

Benjamin Alcazar, Director, Armando Roman, Accessibility Program Manager,
Office of Civil Rights, Racial Equity & Inclusion METRO.

**ITEM NO. (1): FINDINGS TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS
PURSUANT TO AB 361**

Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, this commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Action Taken: The Commission on Disability approved the teleconference meetings pursuant to AB361.

**ITEM NO. (2): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the November 2021 meeting and vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for November 10, 2021.

ITEM NO. (3): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): METRO – SB 1376: “ACCESS FOR ALL”

Guest speakers provided the Commission with an update on the Commission on Disability the ACCESS FOR ALL program, as well as the fund allocation process.

- I. Adam Stephenson, Senior Director, Los Angeles METRO, will discuss the progress and approach for the ACCESS FOR ALL program, as well as the fund allocation process. SB 1376 created an access fee of \$.10 for every passenger trip that goes into an access fund at a state level, which get funneled down to the access-fund administrators. Metro is the access fund administrator for L.A. County. SB 1376 also established a category of access providers, such as contractors and operators, that will be applying for these funds on a competitive basis and it needs to be recomputed annually to increase the availability and kind of to equalize the response time for TNC and on demand trips. The program is authorized for six years and for this first year, we have about six and a half million that has been allocated to Los Angeles County. Since the funding is based on ridership and usage of the TNC and the ridership is now because of the pandemic, METRO not quite sure exactly what to expect for our next year allocation. METRO has been working very closely with the CPUC and working group with other administrators throughout California. In May 2021 they applied to the CPUC, they accepted their application and selected Metro to be the fund administrator in early July. Then METRO had a board action in early July to really commit to and resolve to be the fund administrator and to roll out this program throughout the county. And then in August, they received their first funds, the 6 and a half million from CPUC. The next steps for the program and who should be access providers, the process for allocating the funds, and setting up guidelines. METRO hope to solicit proposals form access providers in the winter or spring of 2022 to be able to award next summer.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (5): METRO – ACCESSIBILITY

Guest speakers provided the Commission with an update on the Commission on Disability’s ongoing recent Accessibility Pilot Projects.

- I. The Benjamin Alcazar, Director, Armando Roman, Accessibility Program Manager, Office of Civil Rights, Racial Equity & Inclusion METRO, will review and present on recent Accessibility Pilot Projects. METRO tested three cellphone applications (WayMaps, WayFinder, and NaviLens) that provides audio instructions and prompts through their smart phone to let riders know what is inside a station. WayMaps show customers where are ticket machines, platforms, and where they need to go to get their train or bus. Wayfinder uses a software algorithm that takes signals from beacons that are placed throughout and the smart phone reads signals. It can calculate the customers locations and provides audio instructions to reach their corresponding determined location to where they need to go in that station. NaviLens uses a similar style of indoor navigation that uses digital tags and pinpoints places of interest. The testing was done at Union Station to determine what they can do with the application going forward and how to make it best usable for the people to use the application or technology. METRO had people from different organizations come down and test the application that used canes, crutches, service animals. After testing the applications in different METRO areas, they realized that tactile pathways by themselves and digital technologies by themselves are not the answerer because everybody has a cell phone and not everybody's comfortable with tactile pathways. METRO found that a hybrid digital analog solution where we have both installed in our stations, would be optimal for getting folks to and from their trains and their buses and an analog like the tactile pathway so they can work in conjunction and get our customers to where they need to be in the system.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): LA28

Guest speakers provided the Commission with an update on the Commission on Disability regarding the upcoming 2028 Olympic and Paralympic games.

- I. Corine Taylor's presentation is going to be postponed for another Commission date.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ongoing update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability and/or other department staff. The department presentation will be postponed for another Commission date.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests, as well as follow-up items from this or previous commission meetings to be presented at the next meeting. Commissioner Wolf suggested advisory boards from METRO speak before the commission and Commissioner Rothenberg suggested another presentation from the ride share entities on the quantitative data of the rides that have been delivered and the amount requested. Commissioner Williams attended the WORLD AIDS DAY at Wall Las Memorias, where the Mayor and councilmember Gil Sedillo, Senator Maria Elena Durazo and many other elected officials. Chris Lee would like to remind the Commission we will need to have a mandated meeting within the 30 days and their next meeting will be scheduled for 12 of January. To continue to hold our meetings online, the Commission will need a special meeting to take care of that issue either by having a separate meeting or moving the January COD meeting to January 5th. Since it is holiday season, I want to make sure we arrange it soon enough to have a quorum and hold the meeting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:36 P.M.