



City of Oakland

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)
Monday, December 15, 2025 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 (Co-Vice Chair), Fatimah Aure (Co-Vice Chair), Jia Wilson, James Carter, Nadia Morales-Saleh, Cynthia Gutierrez, Lauren Reed, Emily Habansky

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

Presenters: Marjon Saulon, Michael Enslow

Other attendees: Sheela Gunn

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.

Chair Baroudi called the meeting to order at 5:35.

Exhibit A

Roll Call

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

Commissioners	Present (x)
Anwar Baroudi (Chair)	X
Benjamin Bartu (Co-Vice Chair)	X
Fatimah Aure (Co-Vice Chair)	X
Jia Wilson	X
James Carter	X
Nadia Morales-Saleh	Absent (excused)
Cynthia Gutierrez	X
Lauren Reed	X
Emily Habansky	X

Open Forum:

- There were no comments during Open Forum.

Approval Of Minutes

- The November minutes were approved 8-0. Motion by Wilson, seconded by Bartu.

Commissioner's Announcements

- Chair Baroudi noted that there was a new commissioner.
- Commissioner Habansky introduced herself.
- Comm. Wilson noted that the annual survey closed on December 12.

2026 Meeting Calendar

- Mr. Romoser proposed amending the calendar to reflect February 23 as the correct meeting date rather than February 22.
- Comm. Carter proposed to move the December 21 meeting up one week to December 14, as the third Monday in December is close to Christmas when folks may be busy traveling.
- The calendar was passed as amended 8-0. Motion by Bartu, seconded by Gutierrez.

Exhibit A

Election of Officers

- Comm. Wilson nominated Chair Baroudi for re-election as chair. Co-Vice Chair Bartu seconded.
- There were no further nominations for chair.
- Chair Baroudi was re-elected 8-0.
- Co-Vice Chair Bartu nominated Co-Vice Chair Aure and Comm. Wilson for co-vice chair.
- There were no further nominations for vice chair.
- Co-Vice Chair Aure and Comm. Wilson were elected co-vice chairs 8-0.

Arterial Roadway Improvements Project

- Marjon Saulon gave his presentation.
- Comm. Carter asked about the dedicated right at 3rd and Adeline. He noted that a similar intersection on Broadway has become a choke point for traffic, and has an island that pedestrians can get stuck on. Mr. Saulon clarified that the dedicated right was for traffic exiting 880. Comm. Carter then asked about the impact of construction on nearby bus stops. Mr. Saulon replied that there were no bus stops in the project area. Comm. Carter then asked about the impact on late-night businesses in Jack London Square. Mr. Saulon replied that construction would occur in phases so as to minimize the impact on businesses.
- Comm. Wilson advocated for a standardized game plan for construction. She noted that construction often presents obstacles for people with disabilities, of which they are unaware, and then asked if the 8- to 12-foot sidewalk width was all travel space, or if it included things like planting strips, utilities, trash cans, etc. Mr. Saulon replied that he believed it was travel space. Comm. Wilson asked how much of the budget will be put toward operation and maintenance. Mr. Saulon replied that they would have to work with OakDOT and other stakeholders to determine this. Comm. Wilson then noted that the curb ramps are directional, but recommended adding return curbs, which have ledges on both sides rather than wings. Mr. Saulon agreed that those were a good idea.
- Comm. Gutierrez asked about the timeline, with design completion in six months, and if that would be sufficient time to add a community advisory board. Mr. Saulon replied that he wasn't sure that the schedule would allow for that.
- Co-Vice Chair Bartu asked about the relationship of bulbouts to ramps, stating that the minimum length for ADA ramps is 6 feet. Mr. Saulon replied that he would have to check with the design team.

Exhibit A

- Comm. Habansky asked if accessible van parking was included in the design. Mr. Saulon replied that he would have to check with the latest design, but noted that ADA parking would be included.
- Chair Baroudi noted that paratransit-accessible parking was required, and asked whether the conversion to parallel parking would result in a 12-foot width, with 20-foot parking spaces becoming 7.5-foot parallel spaces. Mr. Saulon replied that there was another diagram that he could send us that showed the relevant measurements. Chair Baroudi then mentioned that the refuge islands proposed for Adeline are inhospitable to people with disabilities, and that if the crossing time requires people to stop on those islands, it needs to be increased. Mr. Saulon replied that they were working with OakDOT on this. Chair Baroudi then noted that the crossing at 3rd and Adeline had unusual geometry, and mentioned the importance of the ramps guiding people into the crosswalk. Mr. Saulon thanked him for that. Chair Baroudi then mentioned feedback from businesses but none from residents or pedestrians, and asked if there was more feedback. Mr. Saulon mentioned that there had been feedback from the pedestrian advisory committee, BPAC, and residences such as Phoenix Lofts, and that they are supportive of adding a sidewalk as well as four-way stops at Brush and Castro.
- Comm. Wilson noted that it was important for people with visual impairments to have a way to orient themselves while crossing streets, such as tactile paving. Mr. Saulon agreed.
- Chair Baroudi asked about the proposed bike lanes on 2nd St. He noted that BPAC and others want bike lanes on 3rd St. rather than 2nd, and that cyclists aren't necessarily using the bike lanes and may end up on sidewalks. Mr. Saulon replied that BPAC encouraged the installation of a bike lane on 3rd St., but that 3rd St. is a truck route. He also noted that bike lanes on 2nd St. complement OakDOT's 2nd St. transit hub.
- Sheela Gunn expressed concern about the safety of the proposed refuge islands, and mentioned that the ramps need to be fully directional. They also criticized bulbouts, which jut into the street near traffic, and expressed a need to hear parallel traffic for safety reasons. They expressed frustration that ADA issues were not being addressed, and advocated for inclusion of people with disabilities from the beginning of project design.
- Chair Baroudi mentioned that less than half of the existing parking in the project area is used, and asked how much parking is needed in the Jack London area. Mr. Saulon replied that he would check with the team for parking numbers, and with area merchants to ensure that their concerns about loss of parking are addressed. Mr. Baroudi expressed concern about the accuracy of Mr. Saulon's interpretation of BPAC's feedback.

Exhibit A

- Comm. Wilson mentioned that there are resources for accessible design. She recommended Alexa Vaughn's work and designwithdisabledpeoplenow.com, and agreed with Mx. Gunn that disabled input should be included from the beginning.

Action Items: Mr. Saulon will provide us with the parking diagram and the parking usage numbers.

Annual Report on Website Accessibility

- Michael Enslow gave his presentation.
- Comm. Wilson asked if there was a way to interact with the website through searching. Mr. Enslow replied that the keyword search feature works better on the new website, and added that they were exploring solutions for a chat interface, possibly driven by AI, and working with the vendor Granicus. Comm. Wilson added that it would be nice to have related services pop up. Chair Baroudi noted that the heatmapping feature might indicate that pages are closely related enough that they should link to one another, and added that multiple ways to navigate the website would be useful.
- Comm. Reed asked if they were tracking website user data to figure out who is and isn't using the website. Mr. Enslow replied that they don't get much demographic data from site visits, only from what people are willing to share through intake forms, etc. Comm. Reed added that she was trying make the resource guide outlined in the strategic plan accessible to those who don't use the city website.
- Chair Baroudi expressed appreciation for the heatmapping, and asked about scoring of pages. Mr. Enslow replied that he doesn't yet have data on the audience segment for each service, and added that he prioritized pages based on page views. He then gave examples of popular services and those that serve vulnerable communities. Chair Baroudi then asked if the trainings for content authors were developed in cooperation with ADA Programs Division staff. Mr. Enslow replied that that would be a good idea, and added that at present he offers three hours of office hours each week, as well as a basic training session weekly, and is looking to add more advanced trainings in the new year.
- Comm. Gutierrez mentioned that illegal dumping was included as a priority area, and that this was a pressing issue in her neighborhood. She then asked how the team planned to do outreach since its social media position has been cut. Mr.

Exhibit A

Enslow replied that there is a dedicated public information officer in Public Works who is responsible for posts related to illegal dumping.

- Mx. Gunn expressed excitement about the new website, since they give out resources as part of their work, but expressed caution about AI, specifically Gemini, which interferes with their work. They expressed appreciation for the study sessions.

Extension of 2025 Strategic Plan through 2026

- Chair Baroudi noted that there were some minor changes to be made involving commissioners assigned to each action, and asked how we should proceed. It was decided to extend the 2025 plan into 2026.
- A vote was taken to accept Chair Baroudi's proposal. The proposal to examine the 2025 strategic plan, then vote to extend it through 2026 in January, passed 8-0. Motion by Wilson, seconded by Bartu.

Action Item: Commissioners will contact officers and choose subgoals within the strategic plan to work on.

Staff Announcements

- Mr. Romoser noted that staff had no announcements for December.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17.