



City of Oakland

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)

Monday, May 18, 2026 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), Jia Wilson (Co-Vice Chair), Fatimah Aure (Co-Vice Chair), Benjamin Bartu, 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: Ruth Meza, Chelsea Boon

Other attendees: Brian Hollander, Sheela Gunn, Kevin Dalley, Philip Byrdsong, Bryan Culbertson

Attendees on Zoom: Laura Yau

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.

Roll Call

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

Exhibit A

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

*Just Cause rule was used

Open Forum:

- Sheela Gunn mentioned that there were red flag warnings in various parts of the states, which have caused emergency preparedness groups to be activated.
- Kevin Dalley expressed concern that Oakland is violating an ADA consent decree by freezing parking dispatch positions, resulting in poor response time.
- Philip Byrdsong compared the restrictions placed on passengers on group trips assisting other passengers to a potential evacuation of the hearing room, pointed out that this is an ADA violation, noted that Human Services is consulting with both Risk Management and the City Attorney's office, and called for a stay of the policy until that consultation is complete.

Approval Of Minutes

- The April minutes were approved 8-0. Motion by Co-Vice Chair Wilson, seconded by Comm. Gutierrez.

Commissioner's Announcements

- Co-Vice Chair Wilson noted that she has been working with Comm. Habansky and Co-Vice Chair Wilson on reviewing strategic plans, the general plan, and design standards with an eye towards drafting testimony. She added that she and Comm. Gutierrez have been working on service navigation, and the she and Brian Hollander had been working on next year's survey.

Exhibit A

- Chair Baroudi noted that he and Co-Vice Chair Wilson had been working on the annual report to the Life Enrichment Committee on May 26 at 9:30 AM.

Chelsea Boon had issues getting on Zoom. Comm. Bartu moved to modify the agenda, seconded by Co-Vice Chair Wilson. Motion passed 8-0.

2nd Street Transit Hub

- Ruth Meza gave her presentation.
- Comm. Carter asked about the demographics of the survey respondents. He added that the new bus stop would be farther from the ferry terminal than the current one, and asked if the location of the bus stop could be revisited. Ms. Meza replied that the demographic information would be posted as part of the summary, and added that the proposed stop at Broadway and 3rd was two additional blocks away from the ferry, due to concerns expressed by AC Transit about congestion along the railroad tracks and the narrow width of 2nd St. Comm. Carter added that inconvenient connections like this could impact transit usage.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked if the pedestrian route from the ferry to the new bus stop could be improved, asked what the sidewalk width was on 2nd, and asked if pavers could be used to break down the space. Ms. Meza replied that DOT has another project on Broadway that would improve the pedestrian route, that the sidewalks along 2nd were mostly 15 feet wide, and that stamped concrete might be a possibility. Co-Vice Chair Wilson then asked about planter strips. Ms. Meza replied that there were none in the plan currently.
- Comm. Carter then asked about the utilization of parking in the Jack London area. Ms. Meza replied that they had done a parking study, which showed that parking was readily available away from Broadway, but not so much in the produce market area.
- Chair Baroudi asked where the produce market was located. Ms. Meza replied that it was bounded by Broadway, Webster, 2nd and 4th.
- Comm. Habansky asked about curb management in the Jack London area. Ms. Meza replied that this would be done along 2nd and 3rd between Broadway and Webster, and on Franklin between 2nd and 3rd. Comm. Habansky then asked how the city decides which streets need this work. Ms. Meza replied that curb management entails placement of loading zones, disabled parking zones, etc. in cooperation with the Parking and Mobility Division. Comm. Habansky replied that she was most interested in the ADA curb cuts, and added that many people without disabilities use curb cuts as well. She also suggested lengthening the red zones so as to reduce conflicts with accessible van parking, etc.

Exhibit A

- Chair Baroudi asked if the Embarcadero West project would improve the traffic situation. Ms. Meza replied that that project would focus on areas east and west of the project area.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked if the curb cuts would have raised curbs, which are easier for orientation and mobility, if there was space to walk in front of the bus shelters, and if there was wayfinding usable by people with visual disabilities. Chair Baroudi added that he approved of wayfinding, and noted that he had heard concerns about placing the bike lane on 2nd St.
- Sheela Gunn mentioned that they would ride the ferry more as an alternative to BART if it were easier to get to, and expressed concern at the loss of the bus stop at Amtrak.
- Comm. Wilson suggested that 2nd St. might be made into a slow street so as to reduce conflicts between vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Comm. Carter agreed that the bus-ferry connection is difficult.
- Brian Hollander mentioned that projects like this are meant to encourage increased use of transit, and asked if the design had been developed with that in mind. Ms. Meza replied that conversations with the reroute had been held with AC Transit, and that the reroute was intended to improve reliability on Line 12. She added that the 72 line would still stop on 2nd St. between Clay and Washington. Chair Baroudi added that detours can be confusing for people with disabilities.
- Bryan Culbertson mentioned that his group had done a parking utilization study for the area which showed 75 percent use at peak hours and 46 percent use at off-peak. He added that BPAC wants the bike lane moved to 3rd St., which would leave space for the bus to go down 2nd, and asked if the pedestrian connection between the 72 line terminus and the ferry would be improved. Ms. Meza replied that this project would improve the curb ramps along Broadway, and the Embarcadero West project would provide additional wayfinding.
- Chair Baroudi expressed desire to have a conversation with the city about wayfinding strategies in general.
- Mr. Dalley mentioned that he rides the ferry, and that passengers on the 72 bus have to cross the railroad tracks to reach the ferry. He asked if pedestrian access to the ferry could be improved.

Department of Rehabilitation

- Chelsea Boon gave her presentation.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked whether DoR could assist with service navigation in schools and provide a list of resources and scholarships. Ms. Boon replied that DoR tells students to apply for available funding, and that they have services available for students. Co-Vice Chair Wilson then asked if DoR funding came

Exhibit A

from the state. Ms. Boon replied that their funding pool was limited, but they would assist with education if a client was unable to find suitable work.

- Chair Baroudi asked for a brief description of DoR. Ms. Boon replied that DoR is a state agency that helps people with disabilities find vocational rehabilitation, that is, employment.
- Comm. Gutierrez asked about how DoR works with the regional centers. Ms. Boon replied that regional center clients also qualified for DoR services, such as supported employment.
- Chair Baroudi asked how people found out about DoR. Ms. Boon replied that most people apply for services online, although the forms can be mailed in or dropped off. Chair Baroudi then asked what the biggest bottlenecks were for DoR. Ms. Boon replied that the Oakland office was understaffed, with a year-long waiting list. Chair Baroudi then asked if DoR's funding came from the state. Ms. Boon replied that some of it was federal, which has caused the lack of funding for education.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked if DoR had statistics about placement success rates at various levels of education. Ms. Boon replied that she'd have to look into that.
- Comm. Gutierrez asked about services for students who got certificates rather than high school diplomas. Ms. Boon replied that they look for suitable employment and that there are suitable positions for these people.
- Mx. Gunn asked about the possibility of an order of selection at DoR. Ms. Boon replied that she had heard of the possibility, but that it was not in place yet. She added that people in supported employment or who receive SSI are given priority in those circumstances.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson encouraged DoR to share statistics with MCPD so that we can better support DoR. Ms. Boon replied that she wished she had such statistics.

2026 Meeting Calendar

- Comm. Bartu moved to adopt the revised calendar. Co-Vice Chair Wilson seconded. Motion was approved 8-0.

Staff Announcements

- Mr. Romoser announced that the City of Oakland Department of Housing and Community Development is hosting a number of events for Affordable Housing Month, AC Transit is conducting a survey on equity in its services, and the 211 Coalition is looking for supporters to increase funding for the state's beleaguered 211 system.

Exhibit A

Meeting adjourned at 6:48.

