



**City of Oakland**

\*\*\* Special Meeting \*\*\*

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)  
Monday, February 23, 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), 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:** Hunter Oatman-Stanford, Marchelle Huggins, Jia Wilson

**Other attendees:** Sheela Gunn, Brian Hollander, Keana Giles, Sam Marks, Melissa Getz, Shalamar Carliss, Dwayne McCarther

**Attendees on Zoom:** Lauren Reed, Raquel Amber Santiago

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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 5:31.

## **Exhibit A**

### **Roll Call**

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

<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Present (x)</b>
Anwar Baroudi (Chair)	X
Jia Wilson (Co-Vice Chair)	X
Fatimah Aure (Co-Vice Chair)	X
Benjamin Bartu	Absent (excused)
James Carter	X
Nadia Morales-Saleh	X
Cynthia Gutierrez	X
Lauren Reed	Excused; on Zoom
Emily Habansky	X

### **Open Forum:**

- Melissa Getz commented on the lack of sidewalks and blockage of sidewalks along Edgewater Drive, which prevents her from reaching the Alameda County Community Food Bank. She also noted that she had copies of the Save Transit petition available to sign.

### **Approval Of Minutes**

- The November minutes were approved 7-0. Motion by Wilson, seconded by Bartu.

### **Commissioner's Announcements**

- Comm. Carter noted that there are several new commissioners, and asked if they would be assigned to tasks within the strategic plan. He gave suggestions for community engagement that could be put in next year's plan, as well as education.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson said that she had made contact with many of the commissioners regarding the strategic plan.
- Chair Baroudi was pleased that Melissa Getz had the Save Transit petition with her, and noted that he and others had the forms as well.

## ***Exhibit A***

### **Vision 980 Final Report**

- Hunter Oatman-Stanford gave his presentation.
- Comm. Morales-Saleh asked about collaboration with stakeholders in the disability community. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that they would have a consultant in Phase 2 to work on targeted outreach. Comm. Morales-Saleh then asked where she could find the equity assessment data mentioned in the presentation. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that it should be on the website, and if not, he'd send it over.
- Co-Vice Chair Aure asked about traffic flow. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that there could be a boulevard built in the freeway's place, or that neighboring Brush and Castro streets could be reconfigured, or improvements could be made to the 980-880 interchange,
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked whether the truck ban on 580 increased traffic on 980. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that 980 was originally intended to connect to a second Bay Bridge, but eventually connected only to 880, providing several offramps downtown. He added that 980 does not have a direct connection to the Port. Co-Vice Chair Wilson then asked about short-term improvements. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that they would be similar to city projects like the one on 14<sup>th</sup> Street, focusing on streets that city doesn't plan to improve.
- Comm. Gutierrez asked why there was confusion between the three scenarios presented. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that people aren't familiar with freeway decks or covers, because there aren't many examples locally, other than Tunnel Tops Park in SF, so the Cover scenario in particular was confusing.
- Chair Baroudi asked about the fails in the Remove option. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that they weren't available in this phase. Chair Baroudi asked what feasibility meant. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that it includes market feasibility, public appetite for a lengthy construction project, and similar items. Chair Baroudi then asked about technical assessments, noting that the boulevard that replaced the Embarcadero Freeway in SF was wider than it needed to be. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that Caltrans' priorities have shifted from cars to all modes of transit, that the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit Model would be used to study traffic flow, and that an economic consultant would be brought on for Phase 2.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked whether Caltrans was working with OakDOT in terms of the city's general plan. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that there were three partner agencies: OakDOT, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and the Alameda County Transportation Commission. They meet regularly with staff, and there's also a technical advisory committee.
- Chair Baroudi asked if reduced capacity or a test closure might be possible. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that that would be complicated and expensive, though

## **Exhibit A**

possible. He added that the Federal Highway Administration had formed a group of communities that have had freeway closures.

- Comm. Habansky asked about access practices within Caltrans, like the length of time it takes to cross streets. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that it would be a while before all Caltrans ramps, streets, sidewalks, etc. would be accessible, but that they were making progress and working more closely with the city.
- Sheela Gunn mentioned that the island bus stops along 14<sup>th</sup> St. are dangerous, making it harder for them to get around. They expressed resentment that these designs are for wheeled vehicles rather than pedestrians.
- Shalamar Carliss asked about the source of funding for Vision980. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that Phase 2 was funded through a federal grant, but that the actual construction would require additional funding. He added that the city, not Caltrans, would be responsible for developing the land, and that the city's support was in the form of staff rather than funding. Ms. Carliss asked if the 1989 earthquake was responsible for this. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that it was not, but that that quake led to the demolition of the Cypress Freeway and its replacement by Mandela Parkway.
- Brian Hollander asked about access-specific input. He mentioned organizations like TheCIL and Disability Rights California and asked if input had been sought from them. Mr. Oatman-Stanford replied that that type of input would be included in Phase 2, and added that Caltrans has a statewide disability advisory committee and may eventually have one for each district.

**Action Items: Mr. Oatman-Stanford will send MCPD the equity assessment data.**

### **Access Improvement Program**

- Marchelle Huggins gave her presentation.
- Comm. Gutierrez asked where the buildings were located, the requirement for physician certification, and how informed the staff were on disability issues. Ms. Huggins replied that the properties were in the city of Oakland and owner-occupied with income-qualified homeowners. She added that the physician statement describes the applicants' needs. She also noted that staff included architects trained to do assessments, but the scope of work they provide doesn't always meet applicants' needs, that some requirements don't apply to single-family homes, and that they have spoken with people from TheCIL, Beyond

## **Exhibit A**

Access Consulting, Accessibility Housing Matters, and Alameda County Healthy Homes about how to support the disability community.

- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked if there was a time limit on the physician certification. Ms. Huggins replied that they provide accommodations to applicants as needed, including older certifications. Co-Vice Chair Wilson then asked if the program did community outreach. Ms. Huggins replied that their outreach efforts had been constrained by staff capacity, and that the program already has a lengthy waitlist. Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked if there were separate programs for homeowners and renters. Ms. Huggins replied that there were. Co-Vice Chair Wilson then asked about sensitivity training on disability issues to increase staff knowledge of disability issues. Ms. Huggins thanked her.
- Chair Baroudi asked about the budget for AIP. Ms. Huggins replied that the budget was \$287,000 per fiscal year. Chair Baroudi asked why so few projects were undertaken each year. Ms. Huggins replied that the program is understaffed, and added that they had contracted with Habitat for Humanity. Chair Baroudi asked whether the owner or the renter applied for programs in rental buildings. Ms. Huggins replied that the renter did. Chair Baroudi then asked if the landlord of a building that used AIP had to rent to the same disabled person for five years. Ms. Huggins replied that landlords could rent to another disabled person within the five-year time frame.
- Mx. Gunn asked why physician certification is required, given that most disabilities are permanent. They added that large HMOs generally require you to deal with clerks rather than with physicians directly, creating a barrier to application. They suggested that an SSI or SSDI award letter could be substituted. Ms. Huggins thanked them.
- Keana Giles asked about the five-year occupancy requirement, and if it applied to people who, for instance, had to vacate their building to go to the hospital. Ms. Huggins replied that there was language to that effect in the program agreement. Ms. Giles then asked about partnering with nonprofits to help with the application process. Ms. Huggins replied that the mortgage advisors pick up the applications. Ms. Giles clarified that she meant completing the application. Ms. Huggins replied that the mortgage advisors do that as well. Ms. Giles then suggested leveraging community resources rather than relying solely on city staff. Ms. Huggins thanked her.
- Ms. Carliss asked how people access the program. Ms. Huggins replied that applications are available on the city's website or via phone. Ms. Carliss clarified that she was talking about outreach. She then asked how long the waitlist was. Ms. Huggins agreed that the waitlist was too long and that the program was understaffed and underfunded. She added that Alameda County has a minor home repair program.

## **Exhibit A**

- Mr. Hollander asked whether the \$278,000 figure included administrative and staff costs. Ms. Huggins replied that those funds were for home repair and lead abatement. Mr. Hollander then asked whether the staffing losses would be filled. Ms. Huggins replied that that was up to departmental leadership. Mr. Hollander asked who made the financial decisions for the program. Ms. Huggins replied that that was handled at the director level. Mr. Hollander then asked about the physician certification, adding that physicians don't always know people's access needs. Ms. Huggins thanked him.
- Comm. Wilson noted that some people with disabilities have trouble leaving their homes due to access issues. Ms. Huggins thanked her.

### **2025 MCPD Survey**

- Jia Wilson gave her presentation.
- Comm. Gutierrez asked where the non-Oakland respondents were from. Comm. Wilson replied that most were from Berkeley. Comm. Gutierrez then asked which forms of transit were surveyed. Comm. Wilson replied that both bus and BART were surveyed. Comm. Gutierrez then asked if responses in future surveys could be broken out by neighborhood. Comm. Wilson replied that that was a great idea.
- Comm. Habansky noted that people often park in the red zone, blocking access. She added that including seniors, caregivers, and others. Comm. Wilson agreed.
- Comm. Carter expressed a desire to continue the annual survey.
- Mx. Gunn mentioned an upcoming ballot initiative to fund transit, and agreed that cars on sidewalks and at bus stops are a problem.
- Ms. Carliss mentioned that Oakland has poor streetlights, which impacts public safety. Comm. Wilson agreed, and proposed adding more public safety questions to future surveys.
- Ms. Getz mentioned that BPAC commissioners have their emails online, and wanted to email the commissioners about disaggregating survey data. Chair Baroudi mentioned that she could email staff, who would forward it to the commissioners.

**Action Items: Ms. Getz will email staff. Commissioners will share their contact info with her.**

## ***Exhibit A***

### **2025 Strategic Plan**

- Comm. Habansky moved to postpone the discussion to the March meeting. Comm. Carter seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

### **Staff Announcements**

- Mr. Romoser announced that the Oakland fire code had been updated, and that the film Crip Camp will be shown at the main library on March 14<sup>th</sup>, featuring discussion with the filmmakers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29.