

SEATTLE DISABILITY COMMISSION (SDC) MINUTES

LOGISTICS

Date: January 16, 2025 | **Time:** 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Location: Hybrid (City Hall, 600 4th Ave, Room 370, Seattle, WA 98104 | Zoom)

Zoom Details:

Meeting ID: 849 2240 2966 | Passcode: SDC

Call-in: 253-215-8782 | Passcode: 801521

ATTENDANCE

Present Commissioners: Co-Chair Shelby Dey, Co-Chair Jessica Lo, Kaitlin Skilton, Jackie Peguero

Nominated (Pending) Commissioners: JJ Jensen, Bianca Gallegos

Excused Absence: Logan Drummond

Quorum Met: Yes

OPENING

Call to Order: 4:02 PM

- **Opening Statement:** “We believe in a world where disability is celebrated as an integral part of human diversity, inclusivity, and equity.”
– *Stanford Medicine Alliance for Disability Inclusion and Equity*
- **Introductions:** Commissioners, OCR Staff (Janet Stafford, Sebastian Wilson, Meredith Stone), and Guest Speakers.
- **Interaction Agreements and Universal Design Principles:** CART provided, font size 22, describe appearance, state name before speaking.

GUEST SPEAKERS & UPDATES

ADA Title II Updates – Autumn Harris and Holly Delcambre | Email: adacoordinator@seattle.gov

1. Wheelchair Charging Stations:

- Portable charging stations are nearing deployment at City Hall and Municipal Towers.

2.ADA Customer Service Training:

- Two pilot training sessions for city employees (focused on providing accessible services to the public) have been completed.
- Two additional sessions are scheduled.

3.Doj Ruling on Website Accessibility:

- An interdepartmental team meeting is scheduled to address accessibility requirements outlined in the DOJ ruling.
- An executive order from the Mayor's office is anticipated following this meeting.

4.35th Anniversary of the ADA:

- The ADA Compliance team is not planning a commemorative event.
- Holly encouraged the SDC to consider organizing an event and offered their full support.

Next Steps

- Commissioner Kaitlin proposed hosting a legal screening of the *Crip Camp* documentary to commemorate the ADA anniversary.
- Two additional commissioners agreed this would be a meaningful initiative.
- **Action Item:** Discuss event planning and logistics at the next meeting. Assign roles to support implementation if approved.

Seattle Parks – Kyle Bywater | Email:
kyle.bywater@seattle.gov

1. Charging Stations:

- Priority installation of wheelchair charging stations at emergency shelters, with plans for expansion to additional facilities.

2. Accessibility Projects:

- **Pathways Park:** Recently opened with features such as adult changing stations and accessible playgrounds designed for inclusivity.

- **Garfield Campus Improvements:** Planned enhancements include creating accessible pathways and fields, with work expected to progress over the summer.

Seattle Public Library– CJ Glenn | c.j.glenn@spl.org

1. Central Library Accessibility:

- A wheelchair charging station has been installed at the Central Library. Information about the station will soon be updated on the library's website.

2. New Accessibility Equipment:

- **Assistive Technology:** Includes Dragon Naturally Speaking software and video magnifiers.
- **Da Vinci Pro Detective:** This device, capable of text-to-speech conversion for printed materials, was recently donated to replace a previously nonfunctional unit.
- **Tactile Zines Collection:** Designed for deafblind patrons, this collection includes accessible, tactile materials for creating and engaging with zines.

3.Strategic Plan (2024–2033):

- Accessibility is a central focus of the newly adopted strategic plan.
- Library staff have shown increased interest in and engagement with accessibility initiatives, signaling positive progress and implementation of the plan.

Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)
Updates - Tom Hewitt | Tom.Hewitt@Seattle.gov
Additional Information: [2024](#)
[Seattle Transportation Levy](#)

1.Pedestrian Access Advisory Committee:

- The committee is finalizing its 2025 meeting schedule.
- First meeting: **Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 2:30–4:00 PM**, Seattle Municipal Tower.
- Key topic: ADA Transition Plan updates.

2.ADA Transition Plan:

- **Purpose:** Federally mandated evaluation of services, programs, and activities to identify and eliminate accessibility barriers.

- **Current Version:** December 2020 (available on the SDOT website).
- **Updates:** Revising existing sections, including curb ramps, sidewalks, accessible parking, and passenger loading areas.
- **Community Feedback:**
 - A public website with a survey will launch in **Q2 2025**.
 - Feedback will be collected through **September 2025**, followed by analysis and prioritization with advocacy groups.
- **Timeline:** Comprehensive updates completed by early 2028.

3. Seattle Transportation Plan and Levy:

- The new levy funds accessibility improvements aligned with the Seattle Transportation Plan.
- The updated ADA Transition Plan will enhance coordination with the Transportation Plan.

4. Pilot Projects:

○ **Tactile Walking Surface Indicators:**

- Testing directional and warning tactile elements to improve accessibility for individuals with vision impairments.
- Locations: Areas near UW Light Rail Station and other key sites.
- Public feedback is being gathered, with compensation for participants.

5. Collaboration with King County Metro:

- Joint efforts to improve transit stops and overall accessibility.
- SDOT's focus: Built infrastructure such as bus stops, lighting, and curb ramps.
- **Concerns Raised:** Training for King County Metro bus operators on wheelchair safety was flagged as inadequate (limited to video instruction with no hands-on practice).
 - Tom and Holly committed to providing contact information for key Metro staff.

- **Action:** Commissioners were encouraged to document specific issues and follow up with SDOT to facilitate communication with Metro.

Key Discussion Points

- **Wheelchair Safety on Metro Buses:**
 - Commissioner Kaitlin reported inconsistent wheelchair training among Metro operators.
 - SDOT clarified that Metro operations fall under King County's jurisdiction but acknowledged opportunities to influence practices through advocacy.
 - **Next Steps:** SDOT will provide contacts for Metro's ADA Coordinator and equity leadership. Kaitlin will summarize concerns in writing for follow-up.

Digital Kiosks in Public Sidewalks – Presentation by SDOT and Partners

Presenters: Amy Gray (SDOT), Mark Brands, Jessica Burton, Jack Wanner

Contact Information: amy.gray@seattle.gov

Overview

- **Purpose:** To introduce the digital kiosk program designed for public sidewalks, discuss its benefits, and provide an update on permitting and city processes.
- **Key Points:**
 - 1.Permits:** The permitting process for digital kiosks ensures they are safely and thoughtfully integrated into public spaces while prioritizing accessibility and community benefits.
 - 2.Locations:** Initial deployment in four neighborhoods: West Seattle, Ballard, SODO, and U-District.
 - 3.Compliance:** SEPA (State Environmental Protection Act) approval is mandatory before City Council legislation.

Partnership Details

- **Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) and IKE Smart City** are managing the kiosks, not the city.
- Revenue from advertisements:

- Shared between DSA and Business Improvement Areas (BIAs).
- BIAs reinvest in local neighborhood activities.
- Estimated revenue: \$1.1M annually, with excess funds going to the city.

Kiosk Features and Benefits

1.Public Benefits:

- Public safety: 911 call button with two-way communication to dispatchers.
- Interactive wayfinding and promotion of local businesses, events, and public art.
- Free Wi-Fi access.

2.Accessibility Features:

- ADA-compliant design with built-in accessibility tools.
- Braille plaques with instructions for accessing QR codes linked to mobile versions.
- Talk-back and voice-over tools for users with low vision or blindness.

3. Customization:

- Passive Mode: Displays public art and community content.
- Engagement Mode: Offers an interactive suite of apps, including steep-street navigation for individuals with mobility challenges.

Phased Implementation

- **Phase 1:** Metropolitan Improvement District (MID) area – 30 kiosks.
- **Phase 2:** Expand to 50 kiosks across Ballard, West Seattle, SODO, and U-District.
- **Maintenance:** Kiosks are weatherproof and vandal-resistant, with repairs handled immediately.

Discussion and Questions

1. Accessibility Feedback:

- Commissioner Jessica raised concerns about using kiosks for wayfinding in challenging areas of Seattle. She suggested leveraging University of Washington's (UW) accessibility maps.

- Presenter Mark Brands expressed interest in accessing UW's data to improve kiosk features.

2. QR Code Accessibility:

- Pending Commissioner JJ inquired about visual elements for QR codes and usability for blind individuals.
- Member of the Public, Jessica Burton, explained that each kiosk has a braille plaque with QR code access instructions, developed in collaboration with the National Federation of the Blind.

3. Closest Cities with Kiosks:

- Currently, kiosks are not available in Washington. The nearest installations are in Berkeley and Oakland, CA.

Action Items and Next Steps

- **Community Feedback:** SDOT will continue seeking input from the disability community to refine kiosk features.

- **Commission Involvement:** Commissioners are encouraged to share additional ideas on how kiosks can better serve people with disabilities.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Accessibility of Presentation Materials

- **Co-chair Jessica** emphasized the importance of providing materials (e.g., PowerPoint presentations) in advance for better preparation and accessibility.
 - Suggested ensuring all presentations for meetings are sent out via email beforehand to commissioners for review.
 - Encouraged adherence to accessibility guidelines, particularly for digital materials.
 - Commissioners were invited to share suggestions and ideas for improving accessibility in commission materials.

Upcoming Retreat

Date and Time: February 20, 2025, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: City Hall (in-person), with a hybrid option available for virtual participation.

Retreat Goals

1. Capacity Awareness and Prioritization:

- Acknowledge the commission's capacity and set realistic priorities for the year.
- Focus energy efficiently on key initiatives, such as transportation projects.

2. Team Dynamics and Collaboration:

- Revisit and refine interaction agreements to foster respect and productivity.
- Discuss clear steps for addressing violations of these agreements.

3. Reflect on Achievements:

- Celebrate past successes and recognize contributions from commissioners.

4.Strategic Planning:

- Develop a forward-thinking, multi-year work plan to guide future efforts.

5.Community Engagement and Recruitment:

- Explore strategies to enhance outreach and expand commissioner participation.

Discussion Highlights

- **Acknowledgment of Contributions:**

- Kaitlin's feedback on meeting times and term limits was discussed and recognized as a priority for inclusion in the retreat agenda.

- **Interaction Agreements:**

- Revisit previous discussions to clarify what should be kept, updated, or added.
- Develop actionable steps for handling any breaches of these agreements.
- Consider specific tools like countdown exercises to de-escalate tense moments.

- **Committees:**

- Shelby raised the need to evaluate existing committees (e.g., Employment, Advocacy, Transportation) and determine whether changes or new focuses are needed.

- **RSVPs:**

- **In-person attendees:** Jackie, JJ, Shelby, Kaitlin, Bianca (5)
- **Online attendee:** Jessica (1)

Budget for Food

- **Proposal:** Allocate \$300 for retreat food (\$25 per person for 12 attendees).
 - **Motion:** Kaitlin
 - **Seconded:** Jackie
 - **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

Action Items / Next Steps

- 1. Finalize Food Vendor:** Janet to coordinate vendor selection within the approved \$300 budget.

2.Refine Agenda: Ensure the retreat covers key topics such as interaction agreements, team dynamics, and recruitment strategies.

3.Follow Up on Kaitlin's Suggestions: Include discussion points from her December email.

Get Engaged Commission Member Introduction – Sunny King

- Sunny King (They/Them pronouns) introduced themselves to the commission members.
- Background: Recently applied to doctoral programs in Political Science at the University of Washington.
- Engagement: Mentioned attending Human Rights Day and seeing Bianca there.
- Future Participation: Expressed interest in joining the upcoming commission retreat.

Co-Chair Terms

Motion: Extend Shelby Dey's term as Co-Chair for an interim period of six months.

- **Proposed by:** Jackie
- **Seconded by:** Jessica

- **Outcome:** Unanimously approved.

OCR UPDATES

Reappointments and New Appointments

- **Reappointments:** Shelby Dey and Jessica Lo were reappointed for additional two-year terms.
- **New Appointment:** Jackie Peguero joined as a newly appointed commissioner.
- **Pending Appointments:** Bianca and JJ are pending confirmation by the Council's Committee next month. Updates will be provided as the process progresses.

Human Rights Day (December 2024)

- Special thanks to Bianca for representing the commission by tabling at the Seattle Center event. The event offered opportunities to engage with the community and share resources.

Legislation Training Recap

- **Date:** Held 1/15/25 with over 20 commission members attending.

- **Highlights:** Great turnout, insightful questions, and valuable discussions.
- **Next Steps:**
 - A recording will be shared for those who missed it.
 - Future trainings scheduled, starting with **Advocacy 101** on February 12, 2025. Look out for an email with details.

Upcoming Meetings

- **5-Chair Meeting:** Scheduled for February 12, 2025, with the Seattle Office for Civil Rights.
 - Specific to Co-Chairs, this meeting provides an opportunity to collaborate with other commissions.

REVIEW OF MINUTES AND NOTES

Motion: Approve the November 2024 meeting minutes.

- **Proposed by:** Jessica
- **Seconded by:** Jackie
- **Outcome:** Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comment by Robert Canamar (Founder of the Commission):

- Praised Maralise and her team for their work with the commission.
- Raised a concern about the lack of awareness among people with disabilities about the commission's work.
- Suggested increasing outreach efforts, including hosting in-person meetings in low-income housing community rooms.
 - Emphasized that in-person meetings provide important nuances that cannot be captured in virtual settings.

CLOSING

Adjournment: 5:55 PM

Next Meeting: February 20, 2025, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM | **Location:** City Hall (in-person), with a hybrid option available for virtual participation.