



Minutes | Regular Meeting | Final City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC)

Thursday, May 26, 2022, 1:00 to 2:30 pm

Held virtually via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Radon (He/Him) called the virtual meeting of the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC) to order at 1:04 PM.

COBAAC Meetings will now be live-streamed on YouTube.

Watch the [COBAAC May 26, 2022 - Regular Meeting - YouTube Live Stream](#).

Members Present: Chair Nick Radon (He/Him/His) | Kori Sparks (She/Her) | Amanda Hamer | Whitney Bennett (She/Her/Hers)

Members Absent: Vice-Chair John Heylin | Asley Schahfer (She/Her)

Kittelson & Associates:

Karen Swirsky (She/Her) | Associate Planner | Kittelson & Associates

City of Bend Staff:

- Cherissa Alldredge (She/Her) | Accessibility & Equity Manager | COBAAC Liaison | DEIA
- Barbara Campbell (She/Her/Hers) | COBAAC Councilmember Liaison
- Dana Wilson (She/Her) | Utility Business Manager
- Lisa Larsen | Administrative Support Specialist | Accessibility & Equity | DEIA

2. Land Acknowledgement

Cherissa Alldredge (She/Her) | Accessibility & Equity Manager | COBAAC Liaison | DEIA

City of Bend Land Acknowledgement:

We would like to acknowledge that the beautiful land, known as Bend, Oregon north of the Columbia River is the original homelands of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The Confederated Tribes ceded this land in the Treaty of 1855 while retaining regular and customary hunting, fishing, and gathering rights. The Wana Łama ([Warm Springs](#)), Wasq'ú (Wasco), and Northern Paiute people inhabited this area in certain seasonal times that clearly established their presence. It is also important to note that the Klamath Trail ran north through this region to the great Celilo Falls trading grounds. This trade route expanded the impact of commerce between Tribal nations. We acknowledge and thank the original stewards of this land. It is our hope that guests continue to honor and care for this land.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2022, COBAAC Regular Meeting

Member Sparks moved to approve the April 28, 2022 meeting minutes. Member Hamer seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously with the members present.

4. Public Comment

Carol Burnett: Just learned about the committee, is a Bend resident with a disability and applied for membership for COBAAC.

Rachel Zakem: Works for Cascade East Transit (CET) and is a Transit Planning Specialist; and a colleague who used to serve on the committee. Rachel is interested in seeing what she can see and learn now that CET has no representation on the committee.

5. COBAAC Business

Chair Nick Radon (He/Him) | and/or | Vice-Chair John Heylin

- Recruitment Update:
Current applicant interviews will be held in mid-June after City Manager Eric King's approval.
- Stipend Update:
Accessibility & Equity Manager Alldredge: The final reading of the change in the city code to allow stipends for committees and commissions took place on May 4th. DEIA Director Allen is working on finalizing what language will be around the stipends.
- COBAAC members' business items:
Member Hamer is the Executive Director of Diversity Inc. and has a team working on a conference research website and would like to discuss how, if, or would it make sense, or look like to add COBAAC to the resource list for adults. Currently, the focus is on the community of individuals experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities.

6. Pedestrian Master Plan Discussion

Karen Swirsky (She/Her) | Associate Planner | Kittelson & Associates

Slide 1 City of Bend Pedestrian Plan

Slide 2 Agenda

- Project Background & Purpose
- Areas of high pedestrian need
- Interviewing interested groups & stakeholders
- Inventories
- Project development
- Schedule & next steps

Slide 3 Project Background & Purpose

Bend adopted a **Transportation System Plan in 2021** that called for creating a complete & low-stress system for people walking or using mobility devices.

The purpose of this **Pedestrian Plan** is to:

- Determine the areas of greatest need;
- Identify gaps; and
- List & prioritize key projects needed to complete the system.

Slide 4 Starting with a Data-Based Approach

- Sidewalk inventory – presence/absence
- Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ) – jobs & housing data
- School and park walksheds
- Transit routes & proposed hubs
- Transportation Safety Data (known crash locations, number of lanes, posted speed)
- Transportation Disadvantaged Population Index

Slide 5 Transportation Disadvantaged Population Index

- Elderly populations (65 +)
- Youth populations (under 18)
- Non-white & Hispanic populations
- Limited English proficiency population
- Low-income populations
- Households without access to a vehicle
- People with a disability
- Crowded households

Slide 6 Two Map Examples

Maps were not available to present due to technical difficulties. Karen will email the maps and I will add them as slides 12 and slides 13 through 17 when received. When you see the map, you see bright spots where there are greater areas of need.

- Map 1- Transportation Preliminary HPN (High Pedestrian Needs) Analysis Priorities:
 - Very High
 - High
 - Medium
 - Low
 - Very Low

This map will show the layers altogether, without any weighting. It should also be noted that it does not include the sidewalk presence/absence layer -- we wanted to see what showed up without that.

- Map 2- Transportation Disadvantage Index - Equity Layers in 5 areas:
 - Northeast
 - Northwest
 - Southeast
 - Southwest
 - Core

They include the elderly (65 +), youth (under 18), non-white & Hispanic, limited English proficiency, low-income, households without access to a vehicle, people with a disability, and crowded households.

Outreach after the maps are completed will be done and inventory areas of need. They will reach out to some of the groups mentioned on slide 7, in the summer.

Slide 7 Confirming Areas of High Pedestrian Need

- City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Bend LaPine School District
- Bend Parks & Recreation District
- Bethlehem Inn
- Cascade East Transit
- Central Oregon Black Leadership Assembly
- Central Oregon Coalition for Access
- Oregon Council on Aging
- Homeless Leadership Coalition
- Housing Works
- Latino Community Association
- NeighborImpact
- Opportunity Foundation

Slide 8 Inventories

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) roughness standard and route accessibility index is an engineer-grade pathway measurement tool. PathMeT is a tool capable of measuring the standard and the index used to help prioritize improvements.

PathVu technology measures and gives you:

- Width
- Condition (pavements also)
- Other attributes (i.e., curb-tight or setback; landscaping)

This is expensive. They want to start the process by doing inventory in those areas that ate of the highest pedestrian need first, and eventually, hopefully, the whole city.

Slide 9 Project Development

Examples of types of projects:

- New sidewalks
- Reconstructed sidewalks
- Crossings (new or improved)
- Signage/ striping

Slide 10 Next Steps

- Verify mapping with City
- Review proposed Areas of High Pedestrian Need with stakeholders
- Determine which areas should be inventoried
- Conduct inventory
- Develop project lists
- Project concludes in February 2023

Slide 11 Questions and Comments

Discussion about engineering before or after the inventory and February 2023; and is there a system in place for the presence, absence, or disrepair of sidewalks. Engineering is not clear due to not knowing how many areas of high need they will identify. And what is known is they know where there are and are not sidewalks mostly on the bigger streets on collectors and arterials. The PathVu technology should give more information about the usability of the sidewalks.

7. Review and Approval of Updated COBAAC Charter

Cherissa Alldredge (She/Her) | Accessibility & Equity Manager | COBAAC Liaison | DEIA

The January temporary modification and the proposed May update to the COBAAC Charter were sent to committee members to review for today's meeting.

The charter revision working group comprised of Vice-Chair Heylin, member Hamer, and member Mohni met in April to update the COBAAC charter. This includes language with an appropriate assurance and up-to-date, elevating the role of COBAAC as being more active than passive, driving a lot of the changes or recommendations at the city level; focusing more on advocacy, not just meeting legal minimums.

With positive feedback from the 2 absent members at today's meeting to the May proposed charter update, there were no remaining additions to the charter as written and a committee vote. The May proposed COBAAC charter updated draft will be sent to City Manager King for approval.

Chairperson Radon (He/Him) made a motion to elevate the changes to the charter to the City Manager. Member Hamer moved to approve elevating the charter changes to the City Manager. Member Bennett seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously with the members present.

ACTION ITEM: The elevated changes to the COBAAC Charter will be sent to City Manager King for approval. On May 31, 2022. Completed and new COBAAC Charter posted on the COBAAC site on June 21, 2021.

8. Information on Resuming Water Service Shutoff

Dana Wilson (She/Her) | Utility Business Manager | City of Bend

Utility Business Manager Wilson is here to talk about resuming the water shut-off notices in July. Manager Wilson wants COBAAC's input on how to get this information out to the community members that may not know about the City of Bend resuming its water shutoff notices. They want to assure this information is shared with the community members that may need this information and realize the impending deadline is close.

The payment plan deadline is June 30, 2022. Anyone on a payment plan, making their payments, will not be subject to shutoff or collections.

Manager Wilson stated they have engaged with the local and new media, and the city's social media platforms but know this doesn't reach every customer and realize that there are certain communities impacted more than others.

Manager Wilson asked for COBAACs to help share this information. Steps to follow for assistance and payment plans:

- Seek assistance through [NeighborImpact](#) and if you do not qualify for assistance
- Call the Utility Billing Division at 541-388-5515 and ask for a [Utility Assistance Program\(s\)](#), and/or
- Apply online or download an application for one of the [COVID-19 Recovery Payment Plans](#).

Committee members asked if the above documents were bilingual and snail mail and Manager Wilson said yes.

9. Public Comments

Carl Burnett: Does the COBAAC have the power or ability to influence or assist with the accessibility of local businesses in Bend?

- Member Sparks: The committee cannot influence business owners to comply with city codes. COBAAC is run under the guidance of the City Manager King, not under the City Council, and makes suggestions to City Council.
But COBAAC has a yearly Winter Access Awarded to business owners for adhering to the City of Bend snow and ice ordinance when there is measurable snowfall, assuring access on and adjacent to their business property.
- The City of Bend has no jurisdiction over business owners to comply with accessibility, they can file a complaint with the Department of Justice.
- Chair Radon: The City's Barrier Removal Request Reporting Program allows citizens with disabilities to report physical or structural barriers located in the City right-of-way that impede or obstruct travel. Common barriers in the City right-of-way can include sidewalk or curb ramp deficiencies. COBACC does take part in making accessible suggestions to different presenters that bring their future projects to COBAAC.

10. Accessibility and Equity Manager Update

Cherissa Alldredge (She/Her) | Accessibility & Equity Manager | COBAAC Liaison | DEIA

Information:

- Reminder that July is Disability Pride Month, the ADA Celebration. The city will put information out internally for employees and externally on social media.
- The City does do proclamations and they often coincide with important social or cultural events. They are typically driven by community organizations that reach out to the city. If you know of an organization that may have interest in a proclamation for disability pride month around the 32nd anniversary of the ADA, please reach out to Accessibility & Equity Manager Alldredge.
- COBAAC will start their hybrid meetings in August. Hybrid meetings will be accessible to everybody. More information coming soon.

- City Manager King or someone from the city manager's office will attend the COBAAC meetings on a semi-annual basis. He and Accessibility & Equity Manager Alldredge would like COBAAC to drive the discussions.

The City Manager King wants COBAAC members to know that his door is open for any feedback, comments, or concerns; he is always available and happy to listen and be a support to the COBAAC membership.

Comments and Feedback:

COBAAC members shared their appreciation for Accessibility & Equity Manager Alldredges' leadership and being a strong liaison between the community and the city.

11. COBAAC Councilmember Liaison Comments

Barbara Campbell (She/Her/Hers) | COBAAC Councilmember Liaison | City of Bend

Councilmember Campbell expressed that she is grateful for COBAAC members and happy to take part in the meetings. The Pedestrian Master Plan presentation will be good for all and leaves us on a high note.

Councilmember Campbell announced there are two vacancies on the city council and is accepting applications for another week.

12. Future COBAAC Meeting Agenda Ideas

Accessibility & Equity Manager Alldredge will talk to member Hamer about adding member Hamer to the COBAAC June agenda to present her disability village website and the logistics of adding COBAAC to the website.

Rachel Zakm a Transit Planning Specialist for Cascades East Transit (CET) is interested in taking on the role of liaison but not becoming a COBAAC member for the (CET). In the future, she would like to share the mobility hub study when it goes live.

13. Adjourn

Chairperson Radon adjourned the meeting at 2:36 PM

The Next COBAAC Meeting is on Thursday, June 23, 2022, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Lisa Larsen

Administrative Support Specialist for Accessibility & Equity Program



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. To request accommodations for this meeting, please email accessibility@bendoregon.gov; call (541) 693-2198; Relay Users dial 7-1-1.