



MEETING MINUTES

City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee

Date: 03/26/2026

Start Time: 1:00 PM

Livestream: [March 2026, Recording](#)

Facilitator: John Heylin, Chair

City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee

1. Called to order at 1:12 p.m. by roll call and where they attended:

- 1.1. John Heylin, Chair, Chambers
- 1.2. Amanda Hamer, Vice Chair, Absent
- 1.3. Aaron Rivers, Zoom
- 1.4. Andrew Caruana, Absent
- 1.5. Carl Burnett, Zoom
- 1.6. Ian Isaacson, Chambers
- 1.7. Liz Diether-Martin, Zoom
- 1.8. Liz Woodfin, Absent
- 1.9. Stephanie Utzman, Zoom, lost reception.
- 1.10. Whitney Bennett, Absent
- 1.11. Robert Townsend (ex officio status pending), Absent

City of Bend Staff:

- Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella, Accessibility & Equity Manager / COBAAC Staff Liaison. (Zoom)
- Ariel Méndez, He/Him, City Councilor & COBAAC Liaison, (Zoom)
- Derek Hofbauer, He/Him, Mobility Programs Manager, (Chambers)
- Lisa Larsen, She/Her, Administrative Support Specialist, (Chambers)

2. **Minutes:** Approval of February 26, 2026, Draft Minutes. John Heylin, Chair. **Timestamp 2:37**

February 26, 2026, meeting minutes approved unanimously at today's meeting:

The voice vote passed 6-0:

Yes: Rivers, Burnett, Isaacson, Heylin, Diether-Martin, Bennett, Utzman.

No: none.



3. Public Comment: **Timestamp 3:18**

- Timothy Gorbold is asking for COBAAC to approve a letter of support for a grant application with the Bend Cultural Tourism Fund.
- Motion to support the Bend Cultural Tourism Fund grant application. Approved by Diether-Martin, Isaacson seconded; passed unanimously The voice vote passed 6-0.

4. COBAAC 2026-27 Workplan Feedback: **Timestamp 8:52**

COBAAC: Draft Workplan Review:

- Members reviewed the workplan calendar.
 - Breaking Barriers Conference presentation, April 21, 2026.
 - Sprout Film Festival, May 6, 2026. **Add: Rivers, Utzman, and Diether-Martin.**
 - Trauma Informed Lunch + Learn, Spring 2026.
 - 2026, COBAAC Walk + Roll, Spring 2026. **Add: Diether-Martin (tentative)**
 - 2026 Welcoming week, September 10-19, 2026. **Add: Chair Heylin, Diether-Martin, and Utzman (tentative).**

COBAAC 2026-27 Initiative and Advocacy:

- Programmatic / Policy:
 - No member additions.
- General COBAAC Advocacy:
 - No member additions.
- Transportation and Infrastructure:
 - BPD: Deschutes River Trail South Project Refinement Study Stakeholder Group. **Add: Rivers.**
 - Increased enforcement of ADA parking spaces/ access aisles. Exploring enforcement actions and awareness campaigns to curb wrongful parking. **Add: Chair Heylin.**
 - Explore opportunities for greater sidewalk connectivity programming, possible cost sharing initiatives with property owners and the City of Bend, in addition to snow-removal responsibilities related to sidewalk connectivity. **Add: Diether-Martin.**
- COBAAC Assigned Initiatives:
 - No member additions

Members discussed formalizing a letter of support guide on the requirement needed for their letter of support.

Due to member Utzman losing internet connection via Zoom, COBAAC lost quorum, and could not conduct COBAAC business. The Motion to approve the 2026-27 COBAAC



Workplan with the modifications that have been cited thus far was tabled until their next meeting.

Utzman was not able to reconnect to the meeting via Zoom and was put aside for now.

Accessibility Manager Kehoe asked COBAAC members to review the COBAAC Charter before the April meeting. COBAAC is looking to update the formal language, including an alternate within the membership, and adding ex-officio and potential IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) positions.

5. COBAAC Charter Membership Review:

COBAAC did not have quorum to proceed with this item.

6. 3D Intersection Models Update, Veo E-Bikes, Derek Hofbauer, Mobility Programs Manager. Timothy Gorbold, Kittleson & Associates.

- **3D Intersection Model Update Timestamp 32:00**
- **Veo E-Bikes Timestamp 41:46**

Hofbauer gave a recap of the focus group held at the Kittleson office. This group consisted of City staff, Accessibility Manager Kehoe, Kittleson consulting, and two community members, who are blind.

The community member mentioned: The simpler the better. The smaller versions of the roundabouts were challenging for them to understand, adding higher features. Adding the orientation to the North or South direction, letting them have an idea of what street the roundabout connects to.

Hofbauer thanked COBAAC for the letter of VEO-Bikes. Hofbauer mentioned that with the addition of the Veo E-Bikes the number of car trips reduced by 11K.

Hofbauer wants to address the problem of bike parked sidewalks with education encouragement, with creating flyers with the requirements to discourage the users from parking on sidewalks and parking them at bike racks.

Manager Kehoe confirmed that Hofbauer will invite COBAAC to the second 3D Intersection Models focus group meeting, for their feedback.

7. COBAAC Draft Letter Review: Timestamp 49:32

- a. VEO E-bikes, Author John Heylin.
- b. CET Fares, Author John Heylin.

Not meeting quorum requirements.

8. Roundtable: COBAAC Members shared the Roundtable input at **Timestamp 1:00:44**, Agenda item 10,

Council Méndez City Council Update during this Agenda Item (8): **Timestamp 50:55**

- Conversation about vehicles for hire is ongoing.



- Conducted a Southeast Bend town hall: Concerns about wildfire evacuations, defensible space, and building codes. He will look into wildfire evacuation routes depending on the emergency. A big part of that is elderly folks or people with mobility challenges.
- Franklin Corridor will go undergoing construction. Primarily to fix periodic flooding and the faulty water line that runs through the underpass and will address safety concerns in that corridor.
- Council talked about Urban Tree Canopy: Do we want to regulate Junipers differently, Do we want different standards for industrial zone land, and do we want to include considerations for trees in defensible space codes?
- Councilor Méndez – shared thoughts about COBAAC’s letters: The emphasis is helpful when describing the problem. Most helpful when they provide information about a problem.

9. Accessibility + Equity Manager Update: Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella. **Timestamp 56:32**

- a. Lunch and Learn Invitation from an Employee Research Groups (ERG)
Pride in Public Service (an ERG at the City of Bend) is planning a Lunch & Learn in Fall of 2026 and wanted to extend an invitation to collaborate to interested COBAAC members. Contact Lindsay Wengloski at:
lwengloski@bendoregon.gov.
- b. Upcoming COBAAC Recruitment – 1 or 2 potential new members. **COBAAC Applications are due April 30, 2026, by 5:00 pm.**

10. City Council Update: Ariel Méndez, City Councilor, He/Him. Councilor Méndez shared his update during agenda item 8 Round Table: **Timestamp 50:55**

COBAAC Roundtable agenda item (8) was share at **Timestamp 1:00:44:**

- Rivers: was interviewed by KTVZ about his advocacy regarding off leash dogs, and another interview with Central Oregon Daily News tomorrow.
- Isaacson: River access projects and adjacent projects. After the successful launch of Miller's Landing last summer, he would like to announce they will be constructing the Columbia Park River access project starting in October. That access project point itself will be access point number two at Miller’s Landing with 90% being bank restoration.

In conjunction with the construction at Columbia park, the park district and the city of bend signed an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) last week to replace Gilchrist Footbridge. When complete will be ADA compliant and meet multimodal transportation standards for bridges.



- Diether-Martin: She's going to be attending the Bend Transportation Safety Advisory Committee on April 7th.
- Burnett: He is part of the BPD (Bend Parks Department): Deschutes River Trail South Project Refinement Study Stakeholder Group, with the need to build a bridge across that section; representing COBAAC.

11.Thank you all. As a reminder, our next COBAAC meeting will take place on April 23, 2026.

12.Adjourned: 2:18 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Lisa Larsen, (she/her), Administrative Support Specialist, Accessibility



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