**SACRAMENTO COUNTY DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION (DAC)**

**PHYSICAL ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES for October 18, 2022** (Draft for Approval)

**Members Present:** Gene Lozano, Chair; Bill Fallai, Scott Harger, Randy Hicks, Carol Moss, Kathy Sachen, Jeff Tardaguila

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests**: Mikki McDaniel, Ben Rady, Department of Transportation (SacDOT)

**Staff:** Cori Stillson and Cheryl Bennett, Disability Compliance Office (DCO)

**Call to Order and Introductions**

The Chair called the meeting to order and those present introduced themselves.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes for the September 20 meeting were approved with a minor correction.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public were present.

**Department of Transportation Report**

Ben Rady provided some brief updates on projects currently underway. The Arden Way Phase I design is complete. Based on the Subcommittee’s recommendations, SacDOT decided to make the sidewalk and bike lane at street level, and using the trapezoidal delineators. Construction will begin in late 2023. Gene Lozano expressed concern about the use of the trapezoidal delineators across commercial driveways, as they could break or become less visible with continuous deposits of tire grime. Mikki McDaniel stated she would follow up. Three Active Transportation Plan projects are moving forward – Stockton Blvd. Complete Streets, Elkhorn Blvd. from Watt Avenue to Don Julio Blvd and Bell Street from Edison Avenue to Hurley Way. These projects will include Class IV Bike Lanes and sidewalk infill and Bell Street will require construction of some curb ramps. Gene Lozano inquired about the sidewalk improvements on Bell Street at Irma Way, adjacent to the planned Empowerment Park. Mr. Lozano wanted to recommend a design change that would address non-perpendicular angle of the crossing due to the driveway on the west side. Mr. Rady noted that this falls outside of the scope of the sidewalk improvement project. He stated he will find out who is now responsible for overseeing this effort, formerly handled by Bill Irving, who has retired.

Mikki McDaniel presented an overview of the PathVu wayfinding app for smart phones. Members asked Ms. McDaniel, questions as to the function of the PathVu app and how the DOT will evaluate, fund, and monitor a pilot project for the app, if approved. They also wanted to learn what would be the methodology used to detail the research approach that the DOT will follow to ensure objective, reliable, and valid results that address aims and objectives of the pilot project. This should encompass the collected data and where from, as well as how the DOT collects and analyzes it. The data collected should include but not limited to locations of sidewalk obstructions, benches for seniors, curb ramps, accessible pedestrian signals, and temporary construction sights.

The Subcommittee expressed support for the concept for an integrated mobile app pilot and could see the benefit for people with mobility and vision disabilities. They strongly recommended that part of the project team include, as one of the researchers, someone with an extensive background in conducting wayfinding research for pedestrians with vision disabilities, as well as possessing a certification as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP). Also, the Committee recommended for Ms. McDaniel to acquire a researcher/COMS referral from Billie Louise (Beezy) Bentzen, Ph.D., Director of Research, Accessible Design for the Blind, 3110 Judge Arend Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99709, telephone (978) 549-8393, or by email, bbentzen@accessforblind.org. Ms. McDaniel thanked the Subcommittee for their support and pledged to bring back updated information when available.

**Review Subcommittee Work Plan, Consider Topics for 2023**

Members briefly reviewed the 2022 Work Plan and discussed potential topics to take up in the coming year. This item will be considered again next month.

**Proposed Topics for Next Agenda**

The next Agenda will be focused mainly on developing the Work Plan for the coming year.

**Unfinished/New Business, Announcements**

There was no unfinished or new business. Members made announcements of interest to the disability community.

**Subcommittee Member Comments**

Members had no additional comments.

**Adjournment**

It was moved (Hicks) and seconded (Harger) to adjourn the meeting. Approved, unanimously.