



## **COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

### **MINUTES**

Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 1:00P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

#### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Myrna Cabanban

David Wolf

Dr. Robert Bitonte

Robert Williams

Candace Cable

Iran Hopkins

Richard Rothenberg

Alisa Schlesinger

#### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Betty Wilson (excused)

#### **DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:**

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director

#### **OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:**

Chris Lee, City Attorney III, City Attorney's Office

**GUESTS:**

Traci Lee, Senior Public Policy Manager, Lyft

Cassie Halls, Transportation Planner, LA Metro Office of Extraordinary Innovation

**ITEM NO. (1): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

The Commission will review the minutes of the November 2020 meeting and vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for November 18, 2020.

**ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (3): ACCESS FOR ALL FUND, SENATE BILL SB1376, AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES (TNCs); ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PART 1)**

Updates on SB 1376, The Access for All Program, and various aspects of Mobile based accessible transportation. Presentation is by Traci Lee.

- I. In 2018, California Senate Bill SB 1376 was sponsored by Senator Jerry Hill to encourage Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) to increase wheelchair accessible vehicle service on their platforms. The bill imposes a fee of 10 cents per ride, which are pooled into an access fund to help fund wheelchair accessibility solutions across California. The funds can be administered in three ways: offsetting costs, exemption from the fee, or funding other access providers. Lyft has applied to have costs offset and intends to use the funds for reinvesting into continued wheelchair access vehicle (WAV) service. Lyft is partnered with First Transit for its WAV pilot program. Drivers are employees of First Transit who undergo background checks, specialized ongoing training, and performance evaluations. In Los Angeles County, passengers can only be picked up and dropped off within the county. However, in San Francisco County, passengers are picked up within the county but can be dropped off

anywhere. Over 7,600 rides have been completed in L.A. County since the start of the program in the summer of 2019.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

#### **ITEM NO. (4): METRO: BETTER BUS STOP INITIATIVE**

Presentation expanding on the current initiative and work undertaken to ensure all bus stops are technologically advanced and accessible for all Angelenos. Presented by Cassie Halls.

- I. The Better Bus Stop Initiative's intention is to create a better bus riding experience that is fast, safe, easy, and comfortable for all riders. Out of current Metro riders, 74% use the buses. Many of these riders are low-income and heavily reliant on the transit system. Metro is working toward a model of updated bus stops with universal design features, starting with a pilot of a few stops. They are collaborating with cities to develop regional standards for these bus stops. Some features being looked into are octagonal posts, tactile pavement markers, braille signs, realtime information displays, and text-to-speech digital signs. Solar lights can help power the new stops, easily identifying their location at night and providing more safety to riders. Another option being researched is the addition of a seat attached to the bus post. Other bus pilot programs have utilized digital beacons such as WAYFINDER that provide auditory trip information. Metro is seeking to do some demonstrations of the pilot stops in January 2021 for feedback.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

#### **ITEM NO. (5): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Discussion on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon.

The second Financial Status Report was released by the Office of the City Administrative Officer. It projects that the City is facing a shortfall of \$600 million, with an additional \$75 million borrowed from Public Works that needs to be repaid within the budget cycle. The City is targeting areas to address this gap. These include budget reductions not related to layoffs, capital projects, 3% cuts

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per department, and exploring additional furloughs. Furloughs will begin mid-January and continue until the last pay period in June. Some layoffs will be required for departments that cannot meet their necessary reductions. DOD will not experience layoffs at this time. However, a proposed 10% cut to contractual services budget will significantly impact the services DOD provides, such as Sign Language Interpreting, Communication Access Real-time Translation, 508 compliance, and Video Remote Interpreting. The AIDS Coordinator's Office HIV/AIDS prevention programs would also be affected by this cut. As part of the ongoing response to COVID-19, DOD continues to run the Meal to Angelenos with Disabilities program, scheduled to end December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Department has also coordinated personal protective equipment drive-thru distribution events.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (6): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Suggested items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests, as well as follow-up items from this or previous commission meetings to be presented at the next meeting.

DOD is following up on the Mobile Social Security program. The Department is also finalizing the letter to CVS Pharmacy regarding the COVID-19 test application process, and will keep the Commission informed on when it is complete. Additionally, DOD is following up on addressing the topic of medical impacts of COVID-19 on people with disabilities.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (7): ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:56 P.M.