

Draft AAC Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive an update on the recent activities and achievements of the Access Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION:

In 1988, the City recognized the importance of accessibility in design and construction and started an ad hoc advisory committee to assist the Architectural Board of Review and the Historic Landmarks Commission with accessibility related items. In 2001, this ad hoc committee became a standing committee known as the Staff Advisory Access Committee under Council Resolution 01-034. In 2008, under Resolution 08-095, it was officially renamed the Access Advisory Committee (AAC).

Per the AAC's governing Resolution 08-095, and the updated Resolution 21-061, the City's American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator will report annually to Council regarding the activities and achievements of the AAC. This update provides a brief history of the AAC, outlines the AAC's role, discusses future goals and objectives, and highlights recent achievements.

AAC Purpose

In 2021, Resolution 21-061 revised the scope of the Committee's purpose, function, membership requirements, term length, meeting frequency, and procedures. The revised resolution defines the purpose and function of the AAC as assisting and advising staff on public disability issues by:

- a. Actively promoting the total integration and participation of persons with disabilities into all areas of economic, political, and community life.
- b. Serving as a coordinating body for the purpose of receiving input from citizens on the needs and concerns of the disabled community, formulating and recommending solutions to these identified needs and concerns, and conveying such recommendations to the appropriate City departments.
- c. Working with City staff to create conditions to establish policies and practices, and to develop programs and services, which will facilitate the full integration and participation of persons with disabilities into all areas of economic, political, and community life.
- d. Serving as a stakeholder in the design, planning, and implementation of City projects and programs to facilitate accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- e. Providing oversight for monitoring compliance with such codes, ordinances, and statutes that affect access to, or use of, City facilities, programs, and services by persons with disabilities.
- f. Providing advice regarding the setting of priorities for projects to remove barriers and improve access within the City's public rights-of-way.
- g. Identifying opportunities to educate the public about disability and disability access issues within the community.

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Recent Achievements

Over the past year, the AAC has actively engaged in a variety of areas related to accessibility. One key area of ongoing interest and concern is ADA compliance of temporary outdoor business facilities operating within the City's right of way, as authorized under the City Council's Economic Recovery Extension and Transition Ordinance (ERETO) through December 31, 2023.

In the past year, achievements related to accessibility included:

- Provided guidance and feedback to City staff on accessibility for the City's Outdoor Dining Program;
- Performed a walk-through of the State Street Promenade with City staff to assess ADA compliance of temporary outdoor business facilities;
 - City staff, with support from a Certified Access Specialist (CASp) consultant, performed ADA compliance inspections of temporary outdoor business facilities within the State Street Promenade.
 - First round of inspections found 12 of 44 outdoor business facilities were ADA compliant.
 - Performed multiple outreach and education sessions, in group settings and one-on-one meetings, with business owners and operators regarding ADA compliance standards and requirements.
 - Through outreach, education, and enforcement efforts, XX of XX are in compliance as of XXX;
- Advocated for the addition of six additional Accessible Parking Zones in the Downtown Plaza area, which were installed by City staff;
- Notified City staff of a non-compliant parklet on private property infringing on required disabled parking spaces, which have now been restored for use;
- Prioritized sidewalk barrier removals, such as missing access ramps, sidewalk uplifts due to tree roots, miscellaneous street furniture within the path of travel, etc.; (include list from J. Dewey);
- Advanced aspects of a Blue Curb Parking Initiative;
- Participated as a stakeholder in the City's Website Application Replacement Project and provided guidance and feedback on accessibility of the City's new website for the blind and visually impaired;
- Reviewed and provided feedback on the City's draft Housing Element update;
- Passed a Resolution at the June 2022 AAC meeting requesting that Council allocate sufficient funding, resources, and direction to resolve the lack of accessibility of temporary outdoor business areas operating in the City's right of way;
- The completion of Capital Improvements that included:
 - 89 new and retrofitted access ramps
 - 140,000 SF of new sidewalk
 - Completion of Cabrillo Pavilion Renovation

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- Completion of Las Positas and Modoc Roads Multiuse Path
- Completion of Intersection improvements at W. Carrillo/San Andres and W. Carrillo/San Pascual intersections and W. Carrillo lighting corridor
- Started construction of the Central Library Plaza Renovation and ADA Elevator Project
- Continued design of City Hall Restroom Remodel and ADA Elevator Projects

Future Goals, Objectives, Priorities, and Challenges

The future goals, objectives, priorities, and recognized challenges for the City and the AAC include:

Goals:

- Improve accessibility throughout the City;
- Raise awareness of ADA deficiencies on private property that are open to the public;
- Encourage community collaboration;
- Full, citywide compliance with accessibility standards for outdoor dining facilities (parklets), through outreach, education, and enforcement;
- Develop and provide professional in-service training for City ADA Liaison staff and AAC members;
- Provide input on design, development & execution of key capital projects in the preliminary design phase.

Objectives:

- Explore capacity and resources to establish a full-time ADA Enforcement Officer;
- Form an AdHoc Committee to review and develop a scope of work to update the ADA Transition Plan by June 2023;
- Draft ADA Transition Plan for the Public Right of Way **by June 2023**; and
- Draft new AAC Member Orientation Manual by June 2023.

Priorities:

- ADA Transition Plan Update;
- Accessibility of outdoor dining facilities (parklets);
- Blue Curb Parking Initiative;
- ADA parking enforcement;
- Professional in-service training for City ADA Liaison staff and AAC members;
- Develop outreach and education tools for local businesses and the public; and
- Sidewalk barrier removal.

Challenges:

- Competing for limited staff resources amongst other City high priority commitments and requirements; and
- Identifying funding sources for activities, programs, and services.

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Since the inception of the ADA in 1990, the City has worked to ensure equal opportunities to those with disabilities. The AAC is a valuable community stakeholder that assist City staff with identifying needs and suggestion solutions to improve access to programs, services, and facilities within the City.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Several of the goals and objectives identified above have future unbudgeted costs associated with them. For example, potential future unfunded costs include: addition of a full time ADA Enforcement Officer, professional in-service training for ADA Liaison staff and AAC members, ADA Transition Plan updates, and increased ADA inspection and enforcement (potentially via consultant).

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