



**COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
**MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 22, 2025, CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM 391**

The regular meeting of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities was called to order at 6:30 PM.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Mullings, Commissioner Schmitz, Commissioner Roloff, Commissioner Bonsmith, Commissioner Beehler, Commissioner Hall

Absent: None

Staff: Secretary Sarah Henry

**2. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Speakers Erin Smith, Public Works Director, and Lilian Jewell, new ADA Coordinator, City of Alameda introduced to Commission

**3. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS (labeled as on Meeting Agenda)**

**4-A Recommendation to Endorse the Concept Designs for the Estuary Adaptation Project and the Bay Farm Island Adaptation Project and to Discuss a Status Update of the Subregional Adaptation Plan**

- Presented by Gail Payne, Senior Management Analyst, City of Alameda
- Early funding phases for design of three sea-level rise projects, focusing on Estuary and Bay Farm Island projects
  - To include water retention, erosion solutions, pump stations, nature-based solutions, and pedestrian elements incorporated
- Clarifying Questions and Comments
  - Commissioner Roloff asked what insight from this Commission would be most helpful to projects' development
    - Speaker Payne stated that equity is top of mind as well as how community might engage with the projects
  - Commissioner Hall asked why exemption from Environmental Quality Act; Speaker Payne clarified that just this design stage is exempt
  - Commissioner Schmitz expressed concern that the wooden pedestrian bridge is not included in the project
    - Speaker Payne stated that Mayor Ashcraft had the same concern; due to grant funding, the bridge cannot be included in the near term and would require more support from Transportation and East Bay Regional Parks

- Commissioner Schmitz affirmed that lookouts along the proposed trails would be valuable for variety of mobility aid users
- Chair Mullings encouraged investment in multimedia approach to accessibility for signs, trails, etc.
- Commissioner Bonsmith asked about ten-year flood level being used as baseline
  - Speakers Payne and Erin Smith clarified predictive modeling and possible flood levels used in designing
- Commissioner Roloff asked about dependence on grant funding
  - Speaker Payne stated that grant is nearly out and future funding is still needed

#### **4-B Presentation by the Social Service Human Relations Board**

- Presented by Jim Means
- Adaptation of AARP presentation, Age-Friendly Alameda: Livable Communities for People of All Ages
  - Assesses the Built and Social Environments and within them:
    - Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Transportation, Civic Participation and Employment; Communication and Information, Respect and Social Inclusion, Social Participation, Health Services and Community Supports
  - Next steps: community outreach and creation of SMART Goals for continued city improvement
- Speaker Means requests Commissioner involvement by subscribing to info list, participating in conversation
- Clarifying Questions
  - Commissioner Roloff stated that collaboration would be helpful in providing adults with developmental disabilities more opportunities for activities, especially with less job availability
  - Chair Mullings encouraged sensitive and inclusive messaging in order to cast a wide net for resident engagement
  - Commissioner Bonsmith encouraged inclusion of mental health
- Public Comment
  - Speaker Andy Wang wanted to be sure public comment was solicited
  - Speaker Jim Strelow shared that Pacific Pinball Museum is always open to visits and volunteering from the elderly and could form a relationship with local adult day programs

10-MINUTE RECESS

#### **4-C Review and Discuss Draft Final Design Concepts for the Fernside Traffic Calming & Bikeways Project**

- Presented by Lisa Foster, Transportation Planning Manager, City of Alameda and Jimmy Jessup, Project Consultant
- Feedback from this Commission will be included in Staff Report for Council
- Project Location: 1.3-mile corridor project from Tilden to San Jose; could include near-term upgrade from Tilden to Fernside
- Goals: to improve safety, to slow speeds; part of Vision Zero
  - Improved pedestrian pathways, bikeways, street parking, accessible bus stops
- Considerations: lane width, locations of curb or raised bikeway, additional blue zones (disabled street parking), accessible loading zone at Nursing Center, design for medians
- High-Gibbons-Fernside intersection's initial design will receive more public comment
- Public Comment
  - Speaker Jim Strelow indicated that trees will always affect sightlines, whole design is pedestrian- and bike-oriented but not resident-oriented, nor will it reduce speed; no stop signs, dips, or bumps to slow speeds; confused about bus stop placement
  - Speaker Andy Wang asked that plan be considered as part of 2026 Gibbons restriping and resurfacing project, instead of being delayed several years; design issues such as narrow medians, unclear crosswalks; emphasize safety on Gibbons with 1.3-mile corridor as secondary project
  - Speaker Ken Fagel addressed lack of public parking
  - Speaker Kevis Brownson expressed concern over current crossings and safety; appreciated long-term plan as proposed
- Commissioner Questions
  - Commissioner Roloff asked about rapid-flashing beacons or stop signs as alternatives to proposed pathways
    - Speaker Jessup noted that stop signs are not a traffic calming measure, but rapid-flashing beacons may be considered
  - Commissioner Hall asked about traffic light being red longer at High St bridge entering Alameda from Oakland
    - Speaker Jessup said long-term project includes intersection operations
  - Chair Mullings asked for clarification about bus transfer zones
  - Commissioner Schmitz asked about accessible vehicles with ramp being usable parked against curb
    - Speaker Jessup said that ramp would go over planting strip to the curb or across the bikeway
    - Speaker Scott Wikstrom (City of Alameda) described accessible street parking defined by PROWAG (Public Right of Way Accessible Guidelines)
  - Commissioner Bonsmith asked about likelihood of raised bikeways; effectiveness of speed humps
    - Speaker Jessup said that raised bikeways are 40% more expensive than road-level bikeways
    - Speaker Wikstrom said all funding is grant-based and preference is for raised bikeways
  - Commissioner Beehler asked about project timeline to include Gibbons in 2026
- Additional Public Comment

- Secretary Henry stated that bikeway needs different coloring; asked for reasoning behind pedestrian median islands; bikeway direction changing and safety for bicyclists; Bayo Vista and High neighbors upset about being rerouted by losing left turn
    - Speakers Jessup and Foster clarified that motorists will maximize right turns and minimize left turns
- Commissioner Comments
  - Commissioner Beehler thanked Transportation team for including past Commission feedback in the design
  - Commissioner Hall shared PROWAG with the Commission

#### 4. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

- Oakland-Alameda Access Project to begin soon, in collaboration with City of Oakland and Caltrans; one lane of each Tube to be shut down during construction
- Encouraged Commissioners to attend other Board meetings and events
- Share current/future vacancies on this commission, especially to recruit someone with disabilities

#### 5. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

- Warming shelter at Christ Church is being well-supported with donated meals, Amazon wish list, and volunteers
- Meeting dates set for 2025

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.