



Regular Meeting Minutes

City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability

Thursday, May 21, 2026

2:00 P.M.

Edward R. Roybal Board of Public Works
Session Room 350
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Zoom Video Conference

Commissioners Present

Akiko Tagawa, President
Myrna Cabanban, Vice President
Jorge E. Acevedo, Commissioner
Robert Bitonte, Commissioner
Louis Herrera, Commissioner
Iran Hopkins, Commissioner
Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner¹
Robert Williams, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent

Mary Grace A. Barrios, Commissioner

¹ Participated remotely pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(2)(a).

City Staff Present

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability
Alison Everett, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability
Kayvon Wroten, Department on Disability
Salina Goytia, Department on Disability
Peter Soto, Department on Disability

Item One (1) - Public Comment

Public comment was provided on the following topics applicable to the Commission's scope of work:

- A community member, representing Independent Living Specialists from the Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC) noted the center's history and its role in funding home modifications and relief. He announced DCRC's expansion into Downtown L.A., adding to its sites in West Hollywood, Santa Monica, and Redondo Beach. Additionally, he expressed condolences for the passing of advocate and mentor Matan Koch.
- A community member reported that non-operational elevators and escalators on the new Metro D Line barred access for many people with disabilities due to immediate overuse. The speaker urged the Department on Disability to coordinate with Metro to ensure constant availability of vertical transportation, describing it as a baseline necessity for navigating the city.

No action taken, information purposes only.

Item Two (2) - Approval of the April 16th, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the April 16th, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Action Taken: Commissioner Cabanban moved, and President Tagawa seconded the motion to approve the April 16th, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion passed.

Item Three (3) - Mayor's Office Recognition of Former Disability Commission President, Theresa May de Vera

The Commission hosted a celebratory presentation for Teresa May de Vera, honoring her decades of disability rights advocacy and municipal service.

- Deputy Mayor of Economic Empowerment Brenda Shockley, representing Mayor Karen Bass, presented a Certificate of Recognition detailing Ms. De Vera's journey, her survival of a traumatic brain injury and coma in 1996, her leadership as a former Commission on Disability President, and her advocacy as Miss Wheelchair California.
- Derek Myrick, Director of Government and Community Relations from the Department of Building and Safety, presented a plaque celebrating her service as Vice President and Commissioner of the Disabled Access Appeals Commission from 2023 to 2026
- Karen Gilbert (Access Services) presented flowers and commended Ms. De Vera's 19 years of dedicated service on the Access Services board.
- Former Commissioner Candace Cable and Executive Director Stephen David Simon added words of gratitude for Ms. De Vera's profound local mentorship.

Ms. De Vera thanked the Commission, noting that April 20, 1996, gave her her "purpose in living" and that her advocacy will continue unabated.

Sentiments from the Commissioners followed.

Item Four (4) - Presentation about the Transportation Network Company Access for All Program by LA Metro, in its capacity as the Local Access Fund Administrator

Ann Flores (Senior Director) and Peter Cho (Principal Transportation Planner) from Los Angeles Metro presented an update on the Access for All (AFA) program, established by Senate Bill 1376 in 2018. The program leverages a \$0.10 fee on on-demand TNC rides (e.g. Uber/Lyft) to expand wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV) services and decrease response times.

Metro acts as the Local Access Fund Administrator for L.A. County. For the latest cycle (Resolution TL 19154), L.A. County received a lower-than-usual allocation of \$874,994 due to a drop in TNC ride volumes during COVID-19. Because this amount was so low, Metro decided to bypass a competitive solicitation for this cycle, opting to combine it with an anticipated \$2 million allocation to execute a larger solicitation in FY 2027. From FY 2023 to FY 2025, the program funded the acquisition of 46 WAV vehicles and supported over 44,000 completed accessible rides via providers such as Butterfly Technologies, UCLA, and the cities of Santa Clarita and Whittier.

Questions from the Commissioners followed.

Item Five (5) - Commission on Disability FY 2025-26 Work Plan Updates

The Ad Hoc Committees provided the following updates:

- Ad Hoc Committee 1 (LA28 Games Support):
 - The committee's Letter of Support for the City Council motion (CF26-0123) to designate “Wheelchair Basketball Square” and the City Council motion (26-0428) to rename a street “Paralympic Street” was transmitted to the Mayor’s Office and City Council Members on April 30th, 2026.
 - Commissioner Cabanban shared highlights from the Major Events Accessibility Advisory Committee (MEAC) regarding airport infrastructure layouts. She requested departmental assistance to bring MEAC participants—Natalie Sparrow (Accessibility Chief for Major Events) and

Philippe Fernandez (Head of Accessibility for LA28)—to present at the June LAWA Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

- Ad Hoc Committee 2 (Disability Cultural Impact):
 - The committee's Letter of Support for the City to Adopt the Atkinson Hyperlegible Font was transmitted to the Mayor's Office and City Council Members on May 18th, 2026.
 - The Betty Wilson Award Ad Hoc committee's 2026 Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award of Excellence recipient has been finalized, with the recognition scheduled for June. Coordination is underway to invite family members, community advocates, and representatives from CALIF.
- Ad Hoc Committee 3 (Healthcare and Social Security Access):
 - No updates given.
- Ad Hoc Committee 4 (Affordable and Accessible Housing):
 - No updates given.

No action taken, for information purposes only.

Item Six (6) - Discussion of Commission Elections and Candidate Messaging

Commission Liaison Kayvon Wroten outlined the upcoming FY 2026–2027 officer election timeline. Nominations for President and Vice President will be open from June 18 to July 16, with the election occurring at the July meeting. Nominees are requested to submit letters of intent and resumes by July 9 for agenda packet inclusion.

Executive Director Simon clarified that any candidate statements should be submitted at least a week prior to the meeting to ensure proper public posting; no submission is voluntary.

No action taken, for information and discussion only.

Item Seven (7) - Department on Disability Executive Director's Report

The Department on Disability (DOD) Executive Director, Stephen David Simon, provided the following information as part of his Executive Director's Report:

- DOD avoided staffing and budget cuts this cycle, and successfully gained a full-time Senior Position dedicated to major events readiness (LA28/FIFA).
- DOD received \$140,000 for localized disability accommodations during the upcoming FIFA World Cup matches. Additionally, \$100,000 was placed into the City's unappropriated balance account to retain an expert consultant to support development of an updated ADA transition plan for municipal facilities.
- The federal Department of Justice pushed the Title II web and mobile application accessibility compliance deadline back by one full year, allowing a wider window to ensure all city apps and web interfaces meet strict compliance criteria.
- DOD is collaborating on a sign-on resolution with the National Coalition of Mayor's Offices of People with Disabilities addressing best practice for the use of sign language interpreters during public press conferences.
- Teams are also being deployed to ensure the accessibility of upcoming "Kick It in the Park" World Cup watch parties.

No action taken, for information and discussion only.

Item Eight (8) - Request for Upcoming Meeting Agenda Items

Commissioner Schlesinger requested tracking confirmation for two distinct policy inquiries she had previously emailed to DOD staff. Executive Director Simon confirmed that the executive team has processed the queries and will provide updates at the June meeting.

No action taken, information purposes only.

Item Nine (9) - Announcements

Announcements from Commissioners and City staff and requested agenda items for future Commission meetings.

- Executive Director Simon commended the 31-year public service career of Assistant City Attorney Heather Aubry, Lead of the Equity and Inclusion Division

within the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, thanking her for being an invaluable legal partner and civil rights mentor to the department. Commissioners Bitonte and President Tagawa added their official gratitude.

- Executive Director Simon requested that the Commission adjourn in formal memory of Matan Koch, the City ADA Compliance Officer, who passed away last month. Executive Director Simon noted Matan's background as a Harvard Law graduate, corporate attorney, and President Obama's appointee to the National Council on Disability. Matan was recognized as a brilliant, relentless data-driven warrior for accessibility within the City of Los Angeles.

No action taken, information purposes only.

Item Ten (10) - Adjournment

Action Taken: President Tagawa moved to adjourn and Commissioner Cabanban seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 P.M. in memory of Matan Koch, City ADA Compliance Officer.