

**Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Accessibility Committee
December 10th, 2020
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Present: Davey McNelly, Tiffany Beals, Noah Trembly, Rob Delach, Jessica Adine (Acting City Engineer), Dianne Bouvier

The Meeting was called to order 12:03 pm.

Approval of November 12, 2020 meeting Minutes. Noah made a motion to approve, Dianne seconded, motion approved.

Agenda Items

Jessica Adine, Acting City Engineer, attended as a guest to the meeting. We reviewed Walk and Roll Spreadsheet with her. This could they be used as a check list for City projects.

She said that during construction, she reviews that things are done to ADA standards. The process for reviewing when project is nearing completion is to go through final punch list with the contractor. This helps to avoid future issues.

Reviewed general recommendations

- Trimming back shrubs and near building entrances - could work with Code on these.
- Specifics- Recommended elevating some curb slopes on State and Court Street by elevating the crosswalk in the street - to note as potential for during design phase. This could slow down traffic in that area, like a small speed bump. It could also help with water issues around crosswalks and move drainage away from crosswalk.
- Intersections – Add talking signals for major intersections. Add Talking when needed or talking in a way that doesn't cause too much sound noise. The City has done some research.
- When Driveways connect over pedestrian sidewalks – cross-slope should mirror the sidewalk, not the driveway.
- Discussed the importance of consistency for placement of things – especially for protruding objects.
- We've noticed that ADA spaces have been added. Some curbs are too high for safe vehicle access. Projects give opportunities to make spaces more accessible. Some spaces too narrow, miss lines for vehicle access or exit. Inconsistent markings. Make sure no other objects are in the way (meters, plants, furniture) Recommend indentations on sidewalk for exiting, when sidewalk is wide enough.
- Audit noted that 50% or less of building entrances are accessible. Option to provide a ramp along the side of building. Sidewalk, if on a slope, try a two-tiered sidewalk. Could make more buildings accessible. Shared image from Pittsburgh.
- Bikes and scooters – Access is difficult when tied to parking meters or ramps or trees. Need to add more bike and scooter parking. E-scooters are randomly left around town.

Create designated spots on the edges of uptown. Jessica will share with code enforcement.

Accountability:

Jessica – if we find something that needs additional work, the contractor doesn't receive final payment. They are adopting City of Columbus's standards for projects. ADA coordinator requirement. Jessica will send to us.

There is a year of guarantee- if something missed, they can go back to the project to correct an issue. If someone notices something that isn't done, then let Jessica know.

Current Projects:

Stimson – currently broken ground for water line on State. For Stimson, the bulk of project work is next year.

Future projects:

West Union Street – 2022 – reviewing designs now for street improvement project, sidewalk and multi-use paths. Design now through mid 2021. Add push button at crossing at bikeway, adding sections of sidewalk to make sure crossing are improved. Shaffer/union does not have crosswalk. Increase lighting.

From bridge to Shaffer street intersection. Applying for funding from West Union to State Street. Near cemetery, Hungry Howie, cider house – challenge for pedestrians. They have a block grant on Washington st near cider house which will take out steps. Hasn't started planning yet. Potential roundabout. She will send the document.

Project Goal for next year – Committee requested that concrete grinding be done on sidewalks again. Crosswalks need to also be done. Can they be scheduled, especially along court street corridor.

- Can City look at these for repair or replace? Jessica will add them for consideration. Court/union. East state and court – have drop offs. Washington where crosses Court if better. Jessica will review locations.

The committee will look at what she sends us. David Riggs – code enforcement. Committee will invite Jessica back to meet with us in April or May.

Jessica will send City of Columbus and West Union project documents. The Commission appreciates the City working with us on this.

Accessibility Committee Goals for next year

Next meeting - Jan 14, 2021, via zoom

Rob – SeeClickFix – app – being utilized now. Go over SeeClickFix at January meeting. <https://seeclickfix.com/> Education community to promote reporting.

Davey to invite David Riggs to the January or February meeting. Use readily available ADA improvements info with Code enforcement to encourage businesses to make improvements

Goals for 2021

- Recruit other members working toward diversity and inclusion within committee
- Continue with City Projects and making recommendations
- Use community engagement to get additional feedback on accessibility (surveys, SeeClickFix)
- Walk and Toll audits after pandemic is over – let people know about app.

Adjourn Meeting. Noah made a motion to adjourn, Rob seconded. Meeting ended 1:00 pm.

Thanks all and happy holidays.

Prepared by Dianne Bouvier
December 14, 2020