

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting

May 8, 2026, 12:00-1:00 pm

Athens City Berry Conference Room (or via Zoom with ADA request)

Minutes

Call to Order

Davey called the meeting to order at 12:05.

Quorum

Present: Davey McNelly (co-Chair), John Staser, Rob Delach, Ben Ziff, Ally Hughes, Katie Franklin (co-chair), Dianne Bouvier

Guests: Joel Nadler (HAPCAP), Tisha Springer (COMCorps)

Quorum established.

Approval of Minutes

Rob Delach made a motion to accept the March meeting minutes, Dianne Bouvier seconded, motion passed.

New Business

AACD 2026 Goals

- Committee reviewed Goals 2, 5, and 7
 - Committee agreed to take on all goals
- Matrix
 - Katie Franklin will invite Gillian, Assistant Engineer from Engineering and Public Works (EPW) to July meeting (along with the Pedestrian Accessibility and Bicycle Task Force) to review matrix priorities and get updates on projects she discussed in January in order to follow up with the suggestion of quarterly check-ins
 - Optional meeting prior to June to discuss outstanding matrix items and create a plan
 - Send updated Matrix and additional comments to Gillian no later than two weeks prior to the July meeting
- Pedestrian Accessibility and Bicycle Task Force joint meeting moved to Gillian's visit in July

- Accessibility Issues move to Old Business in conjunction with “Walk, Talk & Roll” discussion

Old Business

Walk, Talk & Roll

- Committee decided to follow up with city entities (EPW staff, Andy Stone, Meghan Jennings, mayor) by providing a letter outlining feedback that arose from the WTR event
 - Transit Supportive Infrastructure
 - Improve bus stop accessibility with concrete pads that are reached through an accessible route
 - More and wider van-accessible on-street parking spaces
 - NAMI bus stop at West Union Street across from Blue Line Drive is inaccessible for vehicles with ramps
 - Garage/Parking
 - Noted improvements in egress
 - Consider offering Accessible parking at no charge
 - Crosswalks
 - Standardize stamped concrete crosswalks (as opposed to brick)
 - City already agreed and has taken no steps
 - Need for more mid-block crossing (currently only two (W. Union and across from City Building))
 - ODOT guideline is mid-block crosswalk is required for blocks 600 feet or longer
 - Two experienced chair users have lingering injuries/pain from navigating the Court/West State St intersection brick crosswalk during WTR.
 - Last year
 - 40/40 people were unable to cross
 - This year

- 20 attempted, and only two very familiar with their chairs were able to cross
- Each participant was wearing a seatbelt and escorted by at least two people to ensure safety
- Several participants would have fallen out of the chair if they were unable to catch themselves quickly with their feet
- Wheelchairs not always something the user is experienced with
- Three full-time wheelchair users unable to cross
- Additionally, Tisha, Davey, and Brian all have experienced injuries navigating the bricks in the city.
- Sidewalks
 - Ensure/invest in/support a local company who creates accessible concrete sidewalks in the area (this is a county-wide shortage)
- Including a recommendation that these items should be included in the ADA Transition Plan

ADA Transition Plan

- Provide these findings/recommendations to Sunday Creek Consulting firm and Meghan Jennings, the City's point person for the ADA transition plan, in connection to these findings
- Sunday Creek and Meghan met with Davey, Annah, and Dianne re: update on the ADA transition plan on 5/6/2026.
- Asking John Staser to check in with the City/City Council if they are overloading the Sunday Creek staff with other projects while they are working on the ADA Transition Plan
- Potential to loop in community stakeholders (e.g. participants in local organizations, college students) to provide training so they can evaluate the greater city pedestrian accessibility barriers.
 - Rob connected John with Annah and Meghan who are working on the potential for partnering with Ohio University engineering instructors/students to provide a for-credit opportunity (Other students to involve: Exercise-Physiology and/or Special Education students)
- Data from two previous sidewalk surveys is lacking in clarity regarding the severity of various concerns flagged

Announcements

Tisha and Katie will collaborate to write a letter to the City providing feedback from Walk, Talk & Roll that recommends the incorporation of feedback into the ADA Transition Plan

Katie and Ben will attend Senior Day May 15th from 9am to 1pm

Adjournment

With the meeting concluded, Davey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rob made the motion and Dianne seconded, all were in favor. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Franklin, Accessibility and Advocacy Co-Chair

May 13, 2026