

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting

June 12, 2026, 12:00-1:00 pm

Virtual - Google Meets

Minutes

Call to Order

Katie called the meeting to order at 12:06pm.

Quorum

Members Present: John Staser, Rob Delach, Ben Ziff, Katie Franklin (co-chair), Dianne Bouvier, Stephanie Hunter

Guests: Tisha Springer (COMCorps-317 Board)

Quorum established 12:07pm.

Approval of Minutes Ben Ziff made a motion to accept the May meeting minutes, Rob Delach seconded, motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Review of Matrix
 - Matrix was shared with attendees as well as shared screen.
 - Noted addition of status options 'for review by committee' & 'for review by city'
 - Goals –
 - review and determine goals to send to Gillian
 - Dianne noted that the Accessibility and Advocacy Committee needs to determine how we want to determine high, med, low priority for the matrix. Options to consider:
 - High – location is high pedestrian traffic; location is central to high numbers of individuals with disabilities;
 - SPACE – Safety, Proximity, Accessibility, Connection, Ease (outlined in the [Athens Pedestrian Accessibility Plan, 2023](#)); and
 - Red, Yellow, Green – green accessible, red unsafe/inaccessible, yellow potentially passable, but not by all or easily (used by Engineering and Public Works [EPW] in 2017 sidewalk review).

- Determine how to make the matrix presentation less overwhelming for planners to review with EPW.
 - General concepts – IE: “we would like all alleys to be accessible if they are in the flow of pedestrian traffic” is more concise than every individual crossings, then offer specific crossings as examples
 - Consolidate priority lists, rather than offering multiple competing options.
 - Physically doable by EPW, systemic to city council.
 - Anticipate ADA Transition Plan will be a longer time-frame
- Plan to offer to City Engineer/Planner - Goal of 5 items:
 - 1. Accessible pedestrian crossing – Unmarked crosswalk on Carpenter St at corner of Grosvenor and Carpenter Hall. Many people with disabilities live in Carpenter Hall. Marking crosswalk will indicate to drivers that this is a valid crosswalk. Additional factor, right on red at Court St. introduces additional danger fact.
 - 2. Alleys are city property. Inaccessible pedestrian crossings at city alleys. Need curb cuts, tactical warnings, etc. Many need cross slopes addressed. Several examples are provided in the Matrix.
 - 3. Crosswalks on Court St. – generally aware of the issue, but important to keep in the forefront. How will EPW involve AAC in the process of addressing these issues – to ensure that things are being done well and truly accessible? – this question is for all projects. What is the process overall? If we can see the process, we can state where in the process would be most appropriate and advantageous to include AAC.
 - 4. Pedestrian crossing (Richland and South Green) – timing, button, placement/direction – relatively easy fix – problem has been identified for nearly a decade, formally in matrix in 2023
 - 5. Bikeway in flood drainage ditch, closed due to flooding regularly – also a priority to Pedestrian and Bikeway Committee
 - Overall question – what are upcoming street projects and sidewalk projects that the city is undertaking? Can we be added to the calendar for design review?
- Meeting 11 July –
 - Dianne & Katie will be in Chicago. Rob will be in Copenhagen. Stephanie is bringing pedestrian committee.

- Suggestion to move meeting to July 18th, during regularly scheduled Pedestrian Accessibility & Bicycle Taskforce? Katie will ask Davey, then Gillian.
- Recommendation to have survey of accessible parking available and needed.
 - Limited spaces available. Locations promote access?
 - Parking meters – is extending time an option? – Dianne will draft a letter to Andrew Chiki about potential for reprogramming meters for accessible spaces.
- Lack of concrete professionals –
 - Athens reported that, for four years, there were no companies willing to bid on recent project, so funding had to be returned to ODOT.
 - Sidewalk specialists minimal – this is a vocational opportunity that may need to be addressed. Potential for collaboration with Hocking College and/or TriCounty Career Center?
 - Are there any members of the city work crews specialized in laying brick? Pouring sidewalks?
 - McKee is new to the work and recently worked on curb ramp project throughout the city, did not have the capacity to bid for a large project. Logan had significant and beautiful city-wide sidewalk renovation last year. Should find out how they got it all done.
- Relaying brick streets? Needs to be done.
- Stephanie added a couple of concerns to the matrix. Truncated domes – address with Gillian. Educational component of city app to report issues. Citizen reported a concern to Stephanie and was unaware of the city app.
- Would it be helpful to talk to Gillian about projects by type? By location? Principles or exact issue? Both? – Note that projects are completed by type, so that may receive best response.
- How do they think about the pedestrian continuum? Hitting parts and pieces without an overall plan does not always result in an accessible continuity. The overall plan needs to be a consideration from the beginning, so that work in parts leads to a contiguous whole.
- Plan for joint meeting with Pedestrian Accessibility & Bikeway Task Force, July 17th (Katie will let everyone know after she connects with Davey and Gillian)

Announcements

Dianne, Tisha, & Katie collaborated to write a letter to the City providing feedback from Walk, Talk &

Roll 2026 and recommends incorporation of feedback into the ADA Transition Plan. This letter is currently in final edits and formatting and will be submitted soon.

Adjournment

Meeting concluded, Dianne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stephanie seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tisha Springer
COMCorps-317 Board Member
June 15, 2026