

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 17, 2005

2:00 P.M.



MINUTES

I. Welcome/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT	
		Excused	Unexcused
Eric Reed, Dist. 3, <i>Chairperson</i>		X	
Arne Schonberger, <i>Mayors Appointee</i>	X		
Olivia Chavez, Dist. 1	X		
Willie Padilla, Dist. 2	X		
Donald J. Seeley, Dist 4, <i>Co-Chairperson</i>	X		
Fred Gromand, Dist. 5	X		
Martin Wagner, Dist. 6		X	
Enriqueta Natividad, Dist. 7		X	
Vacant, Dist. 8			
Bill Bennett, <i>ADA Coordinator</i>	X		
Ruby B. Ransom (<i>Mr. Reed's Assistant</i>)	X		
Steve Burman, <i>Human Resources</i>		X	
Sergio Reyes, <i>Traffic Eng. Div.</i>	X		
James W. Peterson, <i>Sun Metro</i>		X	
Elaine Hengen, <i>City Attorney's Office</i>	X		
Jeff Belles, <i>General Services Director</i>	X		

Department ADA Representatives present Martha Macias, Enrique Martinez, Lorenzo Chavez, Mary Ann Gallegos, Ivonne Jimenez, Jose Ortiz, Cesar Martinez, Claudia Chavez, Suzanne Tomlinson, Stefan Happ, and Anna Luisa Benegas.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes of October 13, 2005.

III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

- A. **Audible Traffic Control Devices (update.)** Six sets of drawings have been submitted to TxDot for approval of installation of the Audible Pedestrian Signals on TxDot Roads and six sets of drawings have been submitted to the Street Department to begin construction and installation of the signals on the sites belonging to the City of El Paso. The first priority signals are complete except for the Downtown locations, which will be installed when CDB III is complete. The Audible Pedestrian Program was detailed for the ADA Representatives.
- B. **Sensitivity Training for Council Members.** The training will be scheduled in January for the Mayor and Council. The Department heads will also be present. The importance of keeping the training concise and to the point and keeping it at one hour was stressed because the Mayor and Council and Department Heads have limited time.
- C. **Subcommittee reports for Goals and Objectives.**
 - Supportive employment.** Details were presented on supportive employment and what the committee would like to see happen.
 - Taxi Ordinance.** Details were presented on how Sun Metro is working on buying accessible taxis and how they would be used by the cab companies.
 - Sidewalk Ordinance.** Still need to look at the existing ordinance.
 - Sensitivity Training.** Already discussed.
 - Transition Plan for the City.** Details were presented on what is being done and what needs to be done to complete the transition plan.
 - Put ADA Coordinator under the Mayor/City Manager.** Details were presented on having the Coordinator under the City Manager, but it will not happen for a while because of the recent changes that have occurred.

Barrier Free Construction. Barrier free construction design was discussed and the reasons for trying to get an ordinance for barrier free construction.

D. Disabled Volunteer Parking Patrol Subcommittee Report.

Reports on the funds contributed by Representative Cushing was presented.
Cameras should be in the Regional Command Centers and the vests have been distributed.
Presentations by Jim Fraser, Development Services, Gabe Grijalva, Hearing Officer Municipal Court, Carmen Lopez, Director Motor Vehicle Titling and Registration, and Betty Crump, (retired military & citizen) were presented. Questions and Answers about the laws and enforcement and enforcement of the laws were discussed.
Marlo Tena will be moving to the Crimes Against Children Division and Liz Ovalle will be handling the volunteers.
The Volunteer Banquet usually held in December will be in January.
Time for the subcommittee meeting lapsed and statistics will be presented in January.

E. Report on accessibility of Fixed Route Buses.

Lorenzo Chavez from Sun Metro answered questions about a complaint that an individual with visual impairments had been left at a stop that was not his because the driver failed to announce the stop. Mr. Chavez told the procedures and the requirements for the drivers to announce the stops and on the routes that have automatic annunciators what is involved. Three routes have been set up with the annunciators and the other routes are being worked on. The annunciators are wired into the buses system and work with a Geographical Positioning System. Mr. Chavez stressed that if a driver was not announcing the stops to call the complaint

F. Formal complaints regarding ADA/Accessibility Compliance.

Complaint about Sun Metro not announcing stops as required by the law.

G. Open Meeting Act Requirements.

The open meeting requirements were presented by the attorney's office.
Because the Advisory Committee is strictly advisory a teleconference is permitted as long as all members can hear and participate in discussion. The person on the teleconference is counted for quorum and is permitted to vote on items. Posting of all committee and sub-committee meetings requires a minimum of 72 hours in advance.

H. Plan Reviews

Airport Golf Course Club House was presented.

I. Next Meeting Agenda, Date and Location

The next meeting will be on December 15, 2005, at 2:00 p.m. in the 8th floor conference room.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a seminar at El Paso Community College on January 24, 2006, from 8:30 to 3:00 for a program "I can read" using new assistive technology for visually impaired or other print disabled individuals.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Eric Reed, Chairperson

William Bennett, Accessibility Coordinator