

**Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
July 3, 2014**

Present: June Akeo, member; Karen Ashcraft, Emergency Operations Manager; George O'Brien, co-chair; Larry Williams, member; Don Bruestle, member; Ralph McPherson, co-chair; Earl Wilkinson, City ADA Coordinator; Lisa Aragon, Human Relations Commission; Seth Berry, guest; Jean Benfield, vice-chair, Sharon Campbell, member; Kristen Castor; Secretary; Ed Brown, guest.

Minutes for June approved as submitted by consensus.

Guest Speakers

Transit Complaint: Earl Wilkinson, Brenda Broyles

A wheelchair user filed an ADA complaint because both stows on the bus were occupied and he did not want to wait for the trailer bus, which meant he had an hour wait. Pueblo Transit policy says that if the lift on the fixed route is inoperable, CitiLift is a backup for the passenger if it is possible to schedule in. In this case, the lift was working, but the stows were taken. This happened to be a two stow bus and the rider wanted CitiLift. He was told to wait for the next bus. This rider does have CitiLift eligibility and the next bus was arriving in 15 minutes. He has also chosen to transfer from his chair to a seat in similar circumstances, but the driver wasn't aware of this option and didn't offer it, nor did the rider request it. The bus was also at capacity so there was a safety issue. The real problem was probably the transfer to the Highway 50 route, which the next bus would miss. This is one of the basic shortcomings of the bus system, not a problem of access to it.

The consensus was there was no violation of the ADA. The system itself was not meeting this rider's needs at the moment.

Pueblo Transit no longer accepts checks except for organizations. When the 10 cent increase was implemented, there were change cards issued and it created a logistics nightmare, so the rule now is that unless the passenger is owed more than a quarter, there is no change card.

On April 15, the advertising company for Pueblo Transit was to begin installing 200 shelters. There have been 250 new benches installed according to request lists. They cannot put a bench in a place where there is no access. For this, Public Works has been looking for federal and state

funds to complete a transition plan for accessibility. This includes a complete survey of bus stops. It is possible that Meeting the Challenge could win the bid for the survey. Don asked if anyone could approach GCC for a donation of materials. This will wait until after the survey and will involve everything around the bus stop.

Sharon noted that many benches are no longer level and Brenda asked that she email her with those benches and some of them could be fixed through the contract with the advertiser.

Recertification for CitiLift is next year. There are over 1300 eligible passengers eligible for CitiLift. Starting in January each customer will get a phone call about the recertification process. Then there will be a letter followed by face to face interviews and a mobility test through Centura Centers for Occupational Medicine (CCOM) to demonstrate whether a passenger can access the fixed route or not. The goal is to get people on the regular bus. There are 2 organizations that do travel training and part of the test involves cognition so that people who can board, but not navigate the system will be included. Right now, Thursdays are for CitiLift accounting. In January every other Thursday will be used for this testing.

Brenda can bring the materials to the next meeting.

Ralph asked about the city policy on skateboards. Earl said they can use the bike lanes, but in places where there is no sidewalk, this is also where pedestrians and wheelchairs travel. Perhaps this is open for a community discussion.

Emergency Preparation: Karen Ashcraft

The new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) opened April 30 and conducted an exercise for the chemical stockpile with federal oversight. There is a Joint Information Center in the same building along with the Communications Center and the EOC. There is also a conference room for press conferences and an area with beds and showers for staff to stay overnight as needed. They are working on a tagging system to ID everyone who comes in. Sharon asked about the capacity for interpreters and real time captioning.

Karen promoted the special needs registry. The county also has one. To apply for the city registry you have to print out the form and mail it in because it requires a signature. The county registry does not require a signature and can be done online. It will go to the PPD database as well.

Public Works: Earl Wilkinson

There is some sidewalk work around the new East Side Library. Access to maps and drafting designs for people with low vision will be worked out with IT.

The sidewalk survey tool is in limbo.

Effective Communication

There are so many issues around effective communication that we need a workshop on it. It might be good to plan for October. Candice Alder would be good as well as Lisa. There is closed captioning of City Council meetings, but they need help figuring out what else is needed.

The town hall meetings were not too accessible. Interpreters were not well advertised as available on request and it is hard to get to an outdoor location.

Sharon recommended setting aside an accessible location specifically for people with special needs. This would also have to be open to all to avoid being discriminatory.

County Report: Not Represented

We need to alert the County Commission to the fact that no one is attending our meetings and we don't know if we will have a walk-through of the Judicial Building. Occupancy will be the first of August.

Annual Report

The Executive Committee went through the Work Plan at the Work Session. A substantial number of our goals were either fully or partially completed. There is no draft report yet.

Don brought up the idea of using retired police and firemen on the handicapped patrol

Meeting Adjourned at 2:53

The next Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee work session is on Thursday July 17 from 1-3 at El Pueblo History Museum at 301 North Union.

The next regularly scheduled Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee meeting is Thursday August 7, from 1-3 at El Pueblo History Museum at 301 North Union.

Anyone requiring accommodation should contact Earl Wilkinson at 553-2295 a week before the meeting.