

Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting

October 1, 2015

Present: Sharon Campbell, Co-chair; Jeanie Benfield, Co-Chair, Don Bruestle, vice-chair; John Madrid, Ralph McPherson, Heather Norton, Dale Buterbaugh, George O'Brien, Jo Booms, Weston Burr, Earl Wilkinson, Kip Morphey, Bill Edwards, Pepper Whitliff

Report on Bike Lane Plans: Pepper Whitliff:

One of the issues that has come up is the number and placement of handicapped parking spaces that access businesses, notably the Old Federal Building, along Fifth Street. There was a space on the SW corner of 5th & Main, and the original plan was to maintain that space. Unfortunately, due to an oversight, the aisle space where vehicles let out was only 3 ft wide instead of the 5 feet it needs to be. There is no simple solution, since the roadway width was already repurposed. Instead of on-street parking for the Federal building the handicapped parking space is now on Main street's 400 block, between 4th and 5th on the west side where the mailboxes used to be. They will eventually be removing the handicapped space on 5th street because it is just too far out of compliance with width. She will be presenting on Oct 19 at the Work Session to City Council with an update, feedback recap, and the first round of data collection after the bike lanes were installed.

As to the changes at Elizabeth and Greenwood, the residents are happy about slower traffic, but traditional car users are not so happy. Some traffic volume moved west to Grand and Court, and it has slowed speed some. Pepper has an app for bikers, Strawba, that shows where bikers are actually riding. She has seen some increase in riders. Roadways that had some use but not a lot, are now showing up as a redlines. Ralph has noticed that bike traffic on Orman is up, too.

At 25th and Elizabeth where there are problems with traffic at the Milk Barn, Pepper will move the bike lane transition to the north, probably in November. The transition will be on the straightaway, not the curve.

City update:

City Park

The City Park Bathhouse upgrade will be going out to bid next week, with bids coming in the 2nd week of November.

Elevators at Azteca

Earl met with the City Manager and Fire Chief, Building Dept, and Regional Building. A new state law allows them to put elevator maintenance on high priority, and the building management now has to show that they have a contract to maintain elevators. Elevator repair people come the day they are called if they have a contract, although they may or may not be able to fix it that same day. Apparently the smoke alarms have been disconnected because they were shorting out. Earl will let the Fire Department know about that.

Access to Marijuana

Earl is look at how to ensure ADA accessibility for cannabis facilities. State law mandates it. Regional Building is the enforcer, or possibly the licensing authority. In either case, it doesn't make sense for the county to add another layer of inspection to do that in addition to Regional building. If there is a public accessibility issue, the city and county will address it. Physical building access itself is up to Regional Building.

County update: Weston Burrer

They will be upgrading the County Courthouse restrooms on the East side, which will make all of the accessible services available at the level. This is the only project underway at this point. We still need to schedule the Judicial Building tour. We are currently looking at November.

Chairpersons' Report

ADA training:

We would like to expand our training to the Sheriff and Fire Department and also AMR. An issue in Denver is the need to do careful personnel selection to avoid abusive personnel. John wants to be involved.

Access on Highway 50

On Hwy 50 and Morris going to Albertson's, drivers are not yielding. Earl will see if CDOT will look at it, and have CDOT talk directly to George.

Interpreters and Volunteer Training

Dale has been working with Meeting the Challenge to determine if the Pueblo Animal shelter has to get interpreters when training Deaf volunteers. Because the shelter has a city and county contract, Meeting the Challenge told Dale that they do need to supply interpreters for training Deaf volunteers. The contract is public information, and Earl will go through the contract with the City attorney, and will decide how to address this issue. It would set a bad precedent if the shelter simply stopped working with Deaf because it can't afford interpreters.

RTA update: We have no new information. George and Ralph will be the subcommittee to follow up with CSU-P.

Library Project: The Library has personnel training October 12, for librarians only, on the current Naturally Speaking software. George pointed out that they need to budget for maintenance, but don't

Hospitals and Deaf communications: No real progress with Corwin. Parkview is working on it.

The Meeting Adjourned 2:18 PM.

The next work session is Thursday October 22 at El Pueblo History Museum, 301 North Grand, from 1-3.

The next regular meeting is Thursday November 5 at El Pueblo History Museum, 301 North Grand, from 1-3

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